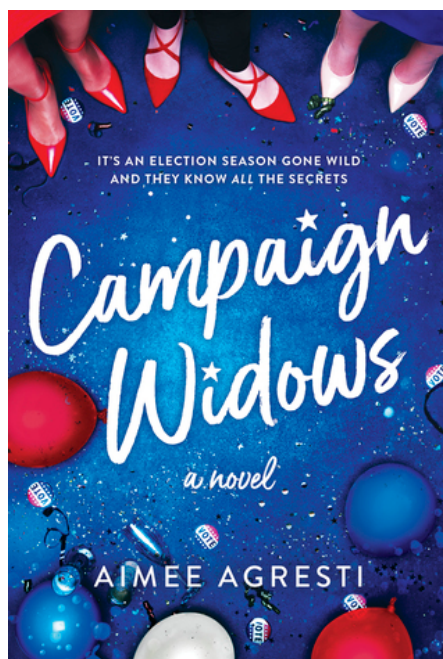




Campaign Widows

Aimee Agresti

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It's an election season gone wild in this "irresistible" (*Cosmopolitan*) and "whip-smart" (*Us Weekly*) novel about a delicious cast of characters who forge an unlikely friendship while their significant others are out on the campaign trail.

Cady Davenport is living the American dream...

At least she's supposed to be. She's in a new city, with a new job and even a new fiancé . But when her husband-to-be hits the road for the upcoming presidential election, Cady realizes she's on her own--and that her dream life might not be all she'd imagined.

Until she finds herself thrust straight into the heart of the most influential inner circle in Washington, DC: the campaign widows. As friends, they're an unlikely group--a fabulous Georgetown doyenne, a speechwriter turned mommy blogger, an artsy website editor and a First Lady hopeful who's not convinced she wants the job. But they share one undeniable bond: their spouses are all out on the trail during a hotly contested election season.

Cady is unsure of her place in their illustrious group, but with the pressures of the unprecedented election mounting, the widows' worlds keep turning, faster than ever, as they hold down the fort while running companies, raising babies, racking up page views and even reinventing themselves. And their friendship might be just what Cady needs to find the strength to pursue her own happiness.

Campaign Widows Details

Date : Published May 22nd 2018 by Graydon House

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Author : Aimee Agresti

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Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Adult, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Campaign Widows for online ebook

BookGypsy says

Washington, DC during a presidential election. A fictional look inside the campaign drama. The women aren't actually widows. Their husbands are just married to their campaign trail. These women form a friendship that I loved. It was like a political housewives. Funny, smart and entertaining.

Dawnny

Novels N Latte

Book Blog

Dianna says

This story revolves around the wives/significant others who are "widowed" while the 'politicians' go on the road campaigning in a hot presidential race.

These four women bond over their relationship and parenting troubles, giving advice and shoulders to lean on. I enjoyed their interactions and love the humor. Gotta love these feisty women!

A fast and entertaining read. 3.5 stars

I won this from Book-Trib, sent by Harper-Collins Publishing. Thank you!

Janelle says

Thank you so much Wunderkind PR and Harlequin Books for providing my free copy of CAMPAIGN WIDOWS by Aimee Agresti - all opinions are my own.

I don't usually go for the light read, but I absolutely loved this "Sex and the City goes to Washington DC" story! It's fun, smart, sassy, full of characters I adore, and of course, political intrigue!

The primary cast of characters, Cady, Birdie, Jay, Reagan, and Madison, are wonderfully written and I enjoyed all of them. They each have significant others involved in a presidential election and are therefore called the campaign widows. Cady recently moved to DC with her boyfriend so he could work on a campaign; Jay is the editor of an online magazine who's partner was sent to cover a political candidate; Birdie is a political party planner extraordinaire; Madison is a possible soon-to-be First Lady; and Reagan is a former speech writer turned blogger with a husband also working on a campaign. Reagan, Jay, and Madison are favorites!

Besides the five main characters, there are a ton of other characters to keep track of, but don't let that deter you. This book made me laugh out loud with witty and sharp dialogue and a realistic portrayal of what it's like to be in the midst of a political campaign. I love that each character is genuine, has their own unique perspective, and offers insight to the political world that you wouldn't normally see. CAMPAIGN WIDOWS is about the loved ones left behind (or in the shadows) while their counterparts work the tireless campaign trail. Definitely a must read for anyone looking for a laugh with a new take on politics.

Lorilin says

Campaign Widows almost needs two different summaries, since it's basically two different stories shoved together...

The first 100+ pages of the book give a glimpse of a wild election season in Washington, DC---all told in fast-paced *Newsroom*-style vignettes from the viewpoints of different groups of people.

---Rocky Haze is a wildly popular hiphop singer who's surprised everyone by becoming a frontrunner in the presidential election.

---Hank Goodfellow is a billionaire philanthropist who's decided the presidency is his next ungettable get (and his wife, Madison, isn't too happy about it).

---Birdie Brandywine is a party planner for the DC political elite, but, as fabulous as she is, she really just wants to get over her hotshot husband's affair.

---Reagan is a speech writer turned mommy blogger trying to balance work and parenthood while her husband runs the current Vice President's presidential campaign.

---Jay is an editor at a popular, local entertainment magazine, and is thrust into the middle of election drama when his boyfriend starts covering Rocky Haze's campaign from the campaign trail.

---Finally, Cady Davenport is a young, up-and-coming news reporter who just moved to DC for her boyfriend and is aching to report on something more important than the inconsequential fluff her boss forces her to cover.

Confused yet? Me, too. And those are just the main players, yikes. Honestly, I was 120 pages into *Campaign Widows* before I even fully knew who every character was---especially since, btw, each of these characters has a boyfriend, wife, lover, child, or sidekick (etc.) to keep track of, too. It's insanity.

The good news is that after those first 150 pages, the book changes and focuses almost exclusively on Cady. Her relationship issues with her new fiancé, Jackson, as well as an unexpected love interest, Parker, take center stage. The other characters essentially exist to support her drama, but their romantic relationships are explored, as well. The book takes on a lighter tone at this point and becomes a lot more fun. Even though the switch is a little abrupt, because it makes the story exponentially easier to follow, I didn't mind.

Ultimately, I enjoyed *Campaign Widows* and would recommend it to readers looking for a light read with just a touch of substance. Just prepare yourself for a slow start and a little character confusion, but know that the last two thirds of the book will make up for it.

Big thanks to Amazon Vine and Graydon House for the ARC!

See more of my reviews at www.bugbugbooks.com!

Amy says

I'm not one to get too wrapped up with politics and I rarely read books based on the subject, but I knew just from reading the blurb of this one that it would be a fun read and I was right! While politicians and a crazy presidential race is the basis for the plot, this is also a super light and juicy look at the women behind the men in office.

This follows a group of women who are all campaign widows who bond over their relationship and parenting woes. While I enjoyed them all Reagan was my favorite, she's a former speech writer turned advice columnist/blogger raising twins and I loved her brand of humor. There's a little something for everyone here, between this eclectic cast of characters you would be hard pressed to not find one to love.

This was a fast and entertaining read with dishy gossip and diverse enough for readers from any political party. Fans of women's fiction set in a different world from the norm will enjoy this one!

Campaign Widows in three words: Juicy, Light and Breezy.

Kate Olson says

Thanks to the publisher for this review copy!

What a dishy political read! I spent the entire book comparing characters to real politicians and celebrities and getting lost in the drama. The group of friends is so diverse, but they fit together perfectly once all of the pieces are revealed, and I truly did not guess what was going to happen throughout the book. Highly recommended for political junkies wanting something a little lighter and for romance and women's fiction fans wanting something a little meatier. All in all, CAMPAIGN WIDOWS is an engrossing look at modern politics and pop culture.

Kate Vocke says

If I've learned anything from this book it's that I totally would not fit in with the the DC crowd... although I do have to say I think the characters are definitely on the nicer spectrum of the 'political wives' club - and in all honesty I have a hard time believing people this nice exist in the politician bubble!

It's election season and Cady has just moved to DC. She's excited. It's all coming together for her: the gorgeous fiancé, a new city, and a smart new TV job. But as Jackson embarks on the campaign trail to follow his boss, a presidential nominee hopeful, Cady starts to realize how alone she is: in this new empty home, in a new strange city, with no friends. She finds herself rubbing elbows with the DC elite's wives... the "campaign widows" ...all missing their better halves off on the trail, and all anxious and alone as this crazy, insane election season gets nuttier, and nuttier.

Along with Cady a morning news TV producer, we meet Reagan the ex-speechwriter mommy blogger, Jay an artsy news website writer/editor, Birdie the fundraising socialite election-season-expert, and Madison the ex-NFL cheerleader turned potential nominee wife, who's not so happy about the spotlight and hubbub. I found Cady and some of the other characters a bit dull and uninteresting, but Reagan was a definite favorite for me - she seemed the most real, and the least DC!

Full disclosure, this was my first audiobook. I was worried my mind would wander, because - well, that's what my mind likes to do! But I just went back if I missed anything and got through it ok.. I don't know how much I like women narrators doing male voices though, cause they all came across as doofy and unlikeable.. so I may have been swayed a bit by that. Although I'm pretty sure most of the guys in the book I wouldn't have liked much anyway! Will try another again soon and see if it's the same for all audiobooks (I'm not looking forward to hearing a man do a woman's voice.. um really? lol)

All that being said - it was quick, and I breezed through it. Not too much heavy substance or plot stuff, and a bit of trouble keeping all the characters straight - but I think it's a great book to read or listen to when you have attention issues like I do! It's an easy light read and doesn't take itself too seriously - a good, silly fun story.

Jessica says

I received this book for free from the publisher (Harlequin) as part of their bookstagram publicity campaign.

I give this book 3.5 stars which rounds up to 4.

This book and I got off to a rocky start. In the beginning, I had a hard time connecting with the book and the characters. I typically get sucked into chick lit, but I didn't with this one. To me, it felt a bit like fan fiction in the beginning. It kind of felt like I was reading someone's fantasy election season. Like the 2016 election was so bad that they just created their own.

Once I hit the halfway mark, things got a whole lot better. The story finally seemed to be picking up and I was able to connect more with the characters. The friendship between the widows also started to blossom at this point and that's when the book actually started to work for me. However, their friendship never reached its full potential. I would loved to have seen more of them together. A lot of the times two or three of them would be hanging out but not all four of them.

Out of all the widows, I loved Cady and her storyline the most. She had the most development and was really the glue that brought everyone together.

As much as I loved Cady, my favorite character was Parker. I loved his sense of humor and his bar was such a genius idea.

Overall, this was your average chick lit novel, just with an election backdrop.

Jamie Rosenblit says

4.5 Red White & Blue Stars!

I was really impressed with this novel from Aimee Agresti - to write a political themed novel in today's tumultuous climate and write a book focused around election season that appeals to all readers regardless of affiliation and manages to make the key players all likable is quite a feat. Told from various perspectives of women all connected to the presidential election in various ways was fresh and interesting and kept me hooked the entire time. Highly recommend!

Thank you to Harlequin Books/Graydon House for a free advance copy. All opinions are my own.

Meredith B. (readingwithmere) says

4.5 American Stars!

Thank you to Wunderland PR for sending me a copy of this book!

I started this book on the 4th of July because it seemed appropriate. I mean, look at that cover, isn't it GORGEOUS?

Cady has just moved for her fiancé who is part of a political team for the upcoming presidency. She finds herself in a place where she knows no one but landed a pretty sweet job on a news program: Best Day DC. Through her interviews she starts to meet the ladies (and men) around town who refer to themselves as "campaign widows". No, they're not actual widows but if you know anything about American campaign trails it means that people's lives are devoted to the campaign and nothing else for a good 6-9 months. All these ladies (and Jay) form a bond through being these so called widows and are there for each other when needed. Even if it means doing the dirty work no one else wants to do.

YES! This book was giving me SOOOO many Real housewives vibes. If you know me, you know that I love me some real housewives (any city)! This was Real housewives + a splash or two of political theme. The women weren't really catty within themselves but they definitely looked out for each other and enjoyed watching the drama unfold within the different political campaigns, sometimes even their own husbands.

I loved loved LOVED the character Madison in this book. She was incredible. She portrayed the innocent wife and woman on the outside but was so smart and mischievous on the inside. Girlfriend was not going down without winning and boy did she win. You'll have to read to find out more!

This book has it all: Drama, Political themes, friendships, relationships, marriage, children, etc. So if you're into any of that (or reality TV) I think you would really enjoy this and recommend picking it up!

Taylor (shihtzus.and.book.reviews) says

FULL REVIEW: <https://shihtzusandbookreviews.com/ca...>

This is a story of A Girl Who Judged A Book By It's Cover. I was browsing Netgalley and voting on book covers and saw a beautiful red, white and blue book that caught my eye. Once I read the synopsis, I was sold.

Now, I know absolutely nothing about the campaign process. Politics aren't really my "thing" so I was a little skeptical about that part of the premise BUT the Widows' "undeniable bond" sounded promising. I love love LOVE a book about female friendships and unlikely bonds, so obviously this was an enjoyable read for me! Politics were present, but only adding to the story by impacting the characters. There was never anything supporting or bashing any particular party.

Mainly told from Cady's perspective, the author provides excellent character development of the other 4 widows. The point of view switches between the 5 characters but I didn't find it hard at all to keep up. I liked seeing how the election campaign and life in DC was different for each one of them but they were still able to bond and support each other through their struggles. The characters in this book were so realistic and genuine that I felt like I could hop on a plane and go have drinks with them after work. I could definitely see this book being made into a TV show (AHM, REESE...AHM!) so I've picked the actor/actress that I think

goes best with each character.

First, Birdie..what a spitfire! I loved this woman and her boss bitch attitude, not to mention her insane fundraising/party planning talents. You WANT Birdie on your side.

Reagan is a stay-at-home-mom who keeps her sanity by writing an advice column for a newspaper. Her husband is usually out of town for work so she has her hands full with young hell-raising twin girls. Reagan has a hilarious attitude towards parenting..instead of complaining about wild kids, she knows they will grow to be strong-minded, independent women.

Madison is a true Southern Belle. She's kind-hearted, sweet and caring, and you just know she'd do anything for her friends. She's got sass, smarts and independence and isn't sure she wants to be the future FLOTUS. She's working on that ;)

Then we have Jay, whose reporter boyfriend has just become the personal reporter for one of the presidential candidates. Jay is easy-going but will also stand up for what and who he believes in.

Cady is the new-comer to this group of unlikely friends. She is new to DC, moving from NYC to be closer to her boyfriend. She has given up a lot for their relationship and it's wonderful to watch her come into her own and grow as a woman.

Overall, I really enjoyed Campaign Widows and would give it 4.5 stars! It was fun and fluffy and made me happy. I looked forward to reading it and would definitely recommend it for a book to read after something heavy! You can pre-order here and it's out on shelves tomorrow!

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Graydon House Publishing for providing me with an advanced copy in exchange for my honest review.

Susan Johnson says

3.5 stars

This is the perfect book for a hot summer day while lounging by the pool drinking cool drinks. The political angle keeps it entertaining along with the interesting characters. This is about a group of friends who are bound by their loneliness while their husbands/partners are out working on the presidential campaign. They are campaign widows.

This is an exciting campaign. One candidate's wife is actively working behind the scenes to ensure he loses the election. She does a fire baton routine at a rally and a TV cooking spot by opening refrigerated cookie dough and popping it in the oven. One relocates to DC and a new TV show where her partner flubs his marriage proposal by dropping the ring off a tall building. One has a partner who joins the grassroots campaign of a female rapper. The antics are quite fun.

If you want to read a funny, light-hearted book that has a little bite, this could be the book for you.

Thanks to Carol from Bookreporter.com for a copy of this book and the publisher, too. Bookreporter.com is a great site for book information and contests. Check them out.

Karen Foster says

“Sex and the City meets The West Wing” said the blurb....I’m not sure the dialogue is quite as whip-smart as the Aaron Sorkin’s but I definitely had a similarly huge amount of affection for all of this book’s characters as I did with these two shows. This is more accurately “SATC in DC” with sassy, smart and endearing characters, true friendships and lots of fluff, set against a back drop of an all too familiar crazy election cycle. A proper feel good romantic comedy.

Ashley Gallegos says

This book is brilliant and hilarious! It is full of vibrant and relatable characters that will steal your heart and make you laugh out loud. The plot explores heart ache, motherhood, career/life balance, and so much more with the perfect injection of laughter and fun. I can’t recommend it enough!

Sarah Elizabeth says

I really enjoyed this book, and think the comparison to a cross between Sex and the City and West Wing is accurate. I like that the "campaign widows" become friends, and I enjoyed the variety of careers and roles in the campaign cycle each character had. I also have a deep love for Washington D.C., so I loved the setting of the book and could easily picture the scenes being described.

I first heard this book recommended by Annie B. Jones on either her Instagram stories or the podcast for her bookstore and knew right away that I needed to read this. I was not disappointed!

This fictionalized version of the 2016 election cycle felt endearing and humorous and tame compared to the way that election actually played out. Even the outrageous characterizations and claims made by candidates felt small by comparison! There were however some similarities that made it feel a little too close to how things actually played out.

I loved that some of the characters felt based on real people, and others just felt like friends I've known or acquaintances I have that live and work in the beltway. Cady is endearing and I want to be her friend. Birdie is a force to be reckoned with. Reagan felt like so many of my friends and I loved her sharp sense of humor; add to that her role of speechwriter and she had the job I thought I wanted in college! Jay was willing to fight for what he believed in at work and Madison came across as a sincere and true friend, someone who unconventional, would make an amazing first lady, even if she didn't want the job. These characters were one of my favorite ensembles I've read about recently, and I genuinely enjoyed all of them!

If you enjoy books about friendship, complicated relationships, and that read like a great scripted show on HBO or the CW, then this is the book for you. Yes, politics is it's own character, but while it is the backdrop for this book, it isn't divisive or distracting.

I received a digital ARC of this book from the publisher and NetGalley in exchange for my review.
