



Skinnydipping

Bethenny Frankel, January LaVoy (Narrator)

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Two-time *New York Times* bestselling author and one of TV's biggest reality stars, Bethenny Frankel presents a sexy, hilarious, and romantic novel about a struggling actress and aspiring businesswoman's pursuit of the female trifecta: a wildly successful career, the perfect man, and an amazing body.

Bestselling author, successful businesswoman, popular reality TV star, natural foods chef, and devoted mom Bethenny Frankel pens the perfect guilty pleasure novel—the sexy, hilarious, and romantic misadventures of a struggling actress and aspiring businesswoman burning through Hollywood and New York in determined pursuit of the female trifecta: the perfect man, job, and body. This outrageously entertaining and bawdy roman à clef follows a business-savvy, would-be actress as she burns through men like she burns through calories—our sexy, loud-mouthed heroine grasps at any opportunity that might take her to the top.

Listeners will jump at the chance to hear about the thrilling highs and cringe-worthy lows of Bethenny's first shaky steps into adulthood, told here in a fictional format. Fans know Bethenny won't shy away from the nitty gritty details of her career failures, romantic faux pas, and wild stories of "only needing a Tic Tac and a coochie" to have a good time on the town—and she will deliver them all with the biting wit her fans have come to love through her TV shows and bestselling nonfiction. While it may be a novel, there is no doubt that this is Bethenny, spilling her funniest stories and juiciest secrets over a few cocktails, with, as always, her trademark honesty: straight from the hip.

Skinnydipping Details

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Author : Bethenny Frankel , January LaVoy (Narrator)

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From Reader Review Skinnydipping for online ebook

Belinda says

Let me start this review by outing myself: I am a Bethenny Frankel fan. I think it is very likely she is absolutely wackadoo crazy and I definitely wouldn't want her as a flat-mate but she is ridiculously entertaining to watch on television. She personifies the paradox of stardom in that at the same time she is both ordinary and extraordinary: funny, rich, successful but that the same time just like us. I like that she's determined and ambitious and that's she's been successful as a woman in arenas that are traditionally dominated by men – television and liquor. However, I have read her previous three books and, while I did enjoy them and have made many of the recipes from The Skinnygirl Dish (I recommend the white bean and spinach soup and the chocolate cake with peanut butter glaze – both delicious and, when combined, provide a perfectly balanced guilt-free dinner and dessert), the typesetting and editing were awful. So, while I tried to approach this book from a place of yes (see what I did there?), my expectations were not very high.

And I was right to be nervous - this book is really terrible. For starters, I think that Skinnydipping needs to assert itself as a novel in the title is in recognition of the fact that not much of this book is fiction. It's very clearly a fictionalised representation of Bethenny's own life. Here's the plot: wannabe actress Faith Brightstone (what a name!) moves to LA after graduation for NYU (like Bethenny did). She moves in with her emotionally distant father (like Bethenny did) and works as an assistant for the wife of an incredibly successful movie director Josh Kameron (really?), helping look after their two daughters (Bethenny worked for Cathy Hilton and helped look after Paris and Nicki). Faith finds a dog and names it Muffin (Bethenny's dog is called Cookie), appeared in a soft porn film (like Bethenny did) and then decides that she's not cut out to be an actress, so she moved back to New York (like Bethenny did). You get the picture. For the rest of the plot, please see Bethenny's life.

I really have no problem with fictionalising true events. Every author draws on some inspiration from their own life for their work. F. Scott Fitzgerald immortalised versions of Zelda in three of his novels. Helen Garner scandalously did the same thing as Bethenny in her book The First Stone. But the difference is (apart from the fact the Fitzgerald and Frankel will never feature in the literary canon alongside each other!) is that those books were entertaining. The fictional worlds, though based at least partially on reality, were real of themselves and the stories that were dramatised had things to say that were worth saying. All Skinnydipping says is that Bethenny either thinks her audience is too dumb to recognise the story as hers if she changes one little detail or thinks that her life is so entertaining that it should be the subject of both non-fiction and fiction. Bethenny, I heart you and will watch your weekly TV show for as long as it is on the air but really, it isn't.

The other things I hated about the book were the characters, style and structure. For starters, I had to google 'swamp crotch' in the first three pages. That is a bad sign (fyi – it's gross). The LA Bethenny – sorry, the LA Faith – is just an awful person. She's selfish, self-involved, narcissistic, inconsiderate, caustic and has a fairly severe eating disorder. Then she moves to New York and all of a sudden the eating disorder disappears and is not mentioned again. What? One-dimensional friends vanish and then new ones appear without explanation. There's a huge rush to cram the full amount of Bethenny's life into the last 50 pages (She gets pregnant! She comes second in a reality competition show! She gets engaged! She gets a liquor company to sell her Skinnygirl Margaritas, sorry I mean Pink Lemonade Mojitos! She gets a talk show!), resulting in the pacing of the book becoming very uneven. All of these are major flaws that point to the biggest problem for me with this book. I just cannot understand why, with the amount of revenue that her books generate, Bethenny's publisher cannot hire a decent editor!

I read this book with a fairly good idea of what kind of book it was going to be, so I have no-one to blame but myself. If you're like me and you can't control your morbid curiosity, then at least borrow it from the library. If you can, get a hardcover copy so if you feel the need to hurl it at the wall, you won't cause any lasting damage to the book. I can't vouch for the wall though.

Skinnydipping: A Novel gets two stars.

Allyson says

Couldn't finish this book. Rubbish is the word that comes to mind.

C T says

Faith graduated from college in New York and moved to LA to fulfill her dream of becoming a famous actress. Some of the things she does while there she isn't proud of but she does feel it will get her noticed. She eventually winds up in a reality show and things really get crazy then. I don't want to give away the end but I couldn't put this book down.

John Amory says

How stupid. If you're going to fictionalize your life, at least be creative about it. But everything was so thinly veiled, so blandly referential that I was speed-reading my way to the end just to move on to something else. If this were satire, or a Saturday Night Live skit, it might be forgivable. But as it stands, Part One is like a poorly done Jackie Collins rip-off and Part Two amounts to little more than reading a transcript of a reality show.

It's packed to the gills with one scene after another where almost nothing happens; this story could have easily been told in a book half this length. Instead of streamlining her story, Bethenny (and her ghost/co-writer) blather on endlessly about the challenges on the *Martha Stewart* Sybil Hunter show, how many guys Faith can cocktease, dieting, baking, and BLAH BLAH KILL ME. It's not even well written, which I find shocking considering how well-spoken Bethenny seems to be. Just one example: when Faith's reality show debuts, she gets a bunch of texts from her friends who are watching in New York and LA. Except the show wouldn't be airing in LA yet because it's in a different time zone. Stupid mistakes like that irk me, and since there isn't much else here to challenge my mind, they took over.

Insufferable at times and never more than mildly entertaining.... so disappointing.

IrenesBookReviews says

I want to start by saying I usually only read Christian fiction books but I saw what this book was about and could not wait to read it. The personality of the author, Bethenny Frankel, is found on every page of this

story. The book follows the fictional character Faith Brightstone as she navigates through different careers till she finds her perfect fit.

I loved how the character reacted to obstacles in her way. Her phone call with a creditor is one a lot of people will connect with. That is one of the best things about this book, how relatable the main character is! As you follow Faith and her encounters with different people, you can't help but wonder if these interesting characters are based on real people the author knew!

I really enjoyed the main character being a strong woman with dreams and the gumption to follow through with them. I liked how the character grew as the story progressed. You find her more assure of herself and more open to the people and circumstances she encounters.

I do have a few negatives. The strong language of the character, especially at the beginning of the book, was distracting. I do not think it needed to be there as the story was strong enough to stand on its own without it. I also felt like the story lost its way in the middle but it did quickly come back to an interesting story line. Personally I did not like the sexual content but that is just a personal opinion not something that made the book unworthy of reading. I gave this book 4/5 stars because although the character was interesting and the story flowed well I think it could have had some parts edited out and still been a great book.

I would like to thank NetGalley and the publisher for the copy of this book I enjoyed reading. I gave an honest review based on my opinion of what I read.

Meichler says

Disclaimer - I'm a big fan of Bethenny. I respect the hell out of her, I think she's a phenomenal business woman, I think she pioneered using reality TV for business exposure, and I love her personality (which a lot of people don't - I think she's crass and hysterical). I also happen to love most of her products as well.

So - is writing her strongest attribute? Probably not. But this is a fun, quick read, guilty pleasure book. Not the most well written thing on the shelves, and not for everyone, but if you like Bethenny, you'll like it. The main character, Faith, is, basically, Bethenny. If you know her story you'll know that it's pretty autobiographical in the outline, as far as the details go, I'm curious what's real and what's fiction. Regardless, it's fun. Faith moves to LA to make it as an actress, has a few boyfriends, has a few adventures, returns to NYC and gets cast on an Apprentice-like show. She meets friends and foes, and the style of talking - well - it's Bethenny.

I'd probably give this 3.5 stars if I could because the ending, frankly, was kind of ridiculous (she sort of combines her Apprentice experience with her Housewives experience). Like I said - it's not going to win any prizes, but for a fun summer beach book - I loved it. If I weren't a fan of Bethenny, am not sure I'd feel the same way, but I am, so I did.

Lisa says

I almost put this book down when I started it but than I read the goodreads reviews and had to figure out why everyone rated it so high. I am still not sure. It was entertaining and if you like Bethany Frankel than read it

otherwise skip it!

Chelsea says

Considering it's basically a fictional version of Bethenny's life, I liked the book. However, the contest section was extremely long, which is understandable since that's what most of the book is about, but on the other hand, did we really need to know what type of dessert she decided to put on the menu? The one big flaw of the book (for me), and the reason I didn't give it a higher rating was because of how obsessive the character is about her weight. As someone in recovery of an eating disorder, this was not the best thing to read, and in fact, took a lot of willpower for me to continue reading. Fortunately, she eventually eases off the, "Wow, I just won't eat for a week!" binge later in the book which made for a much better read.

If you're looking for something as witty as Bethenny Frankel, with details about her life mixed into a pot of fiction, this would be a good book to read. I particularly loved the ending, and the very last sentence gave me goosebumps.

Tara says

I checked the publication date several times as the story seemed to be set over 15 years ago complete with answering machines and one of the first ever reality shows. The main character goes through several scrappy transformations but it is all very silly. The main character also has a bottled alcoholic drink much like the author.

Chris says

I loved this "fictional" book. I couldn't put it down. It is a fictional version of the life of Bethenny Frankel, a reality star, who made millions selling her Skinny Girl Margarita. This book concentrates on her time on "Sybil Burton's" show "Domestic Goddess", which is really Martha Stewart's "The Apprentice". I watched that series, but didn't remember Bethenny until she became a "Real Housewife of New York City". It's a fun book.

Shans O'Rourke-Hudson says

Is this the next great American novel? No. Will I read it again? No. Did I buy it? Nope, library. Was I able to turn my brain off to enjoy the mediocrity all while still loving Bethenny Frankel? Yup. That's why it gets 3 stars.

Michele says

A Skinny Line Between Fiction and Reality

Reading this book felt like being immersed in a Bethenny Frankel marathon of her reality television world, including the Martha Stewart Apprentice, The Real Housewives of New York and Bravo's spinoffs, Bethenny Getting Married? and Bethenny Everafter. If you find the quick wit and at times foul mouth of this self-made star entertaining, you--like me--won't be able to put down this book.

Bethenny as a writer, along with her writing partner Eve Adamson, use her personal experiences during her rise to fame to create an alter ego named Faith Brightstone. The story about a young New Yorker moving to L.A. to try to make it as an actress, only to return to New York to find fame in reality television is a thinly veiled fun romp into her past. She has license to pick and choose facts and fiction and mix them into a cocktail named the "pink lemonade mojito" rather than the Skinnygirl margarita. It's a refreshing summer beach read, and the juicy stuff is not left out.

She serves up a tasty platter of what can only be called just desserts by creating highly unlikeable characters based on Martha Stewart and Jill Zarin, and she even adds a zesty little barb aimed at Kelly Bensimon (with a "I'm up here, you're down there" type comment). Her creativity in rewriting the past, including making up new challenges for the television contest named "Domestic Goddess," and her knack for witty/truly funny dialog prove once again why this woman is a star.

I had to deduct a review star, however, due to a critical fiction-writing error at the beginning of Part II, when she lapses into a classic tell rather than show technique, and what I felt was an anti-climactic and cliché conclusion of having the whole thing culminate in the life-lesson of "there are no certainties in life."

But that conclusion was NOT what I took away from this reading experience. Reading this book for me was just plain FUN--as fun as it's been watching Bethenny on TV.

Good for you Skinnygirl, and thanks for the laughs.

Michele says

Initially Faith made my eyes roll and she was a bit pathetic, but there was something about her that made me sympathetic and I totally rooted for her in the end. My perfect kind of book: light, a little drama, love story, and happy ending!

Lena Hackler Head says

The book needed more work. Not enough depth in characters or relationships between characters. At times it was hard to keep track of who all the characters were, too many. I still don't understand the correlation between Part 1 and Part 2. I'm a Bethenny Frankel fan and this book was just a basic story of her life with name changes. Had high hopes for this book because of Frankel's sense of humor but it didn't have hardly any of that here. Disappointed!

Bobbi says

Pre-ordered it today and hope it is here no later than next Wednesday! After Watergate, I could use something fun. Am interested to see how she does as a fiction writer.
