



You Were Made for This

Michelle Sacks

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A gripping page-turner for fans of *THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW* and *THE PERFECT NANNY*, Michelle Sacks's *You Were Made For This* provocatively explores the darkest sides of marriage, motherhood, and friendship.

Doting wife, devoted husband, cherished child. Merry, Sam, and Conor are the perfect family in the perfect place. Merry adores the domestic life: baking, gardening, caring for her infant son. Sam, formerly an academic, is pursuing a new career as a filmmaker. Sometimes they can hardly believe how lucky they are. What perfect new lives they've built.

When Merry's childhood friend Frank visits their Swedish paradise, she immediately becomes part of the family. She bonds with Conor. And with Sam. She befriends the neighbors, and even finds herself embracing the domesticity she's always seemed to scorn.

All their lives, Frank and Merry have been more like sisters than best friends. And that's why Frank soon sees the things others might miss. Treacherous things, which are almost impossible to believe when looking at this perfect family. But Frank, of all people, knows that the truth is rarely what you want the world to see.

You Were Made for This Details

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Author : Michelle Sacks

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From Reader Review You Were Made for This for online ebook

Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

4 “life is not always a bowl of cherries” stars to You Were Made for This! ????

This was a book I had to read based on reviews from my friends, including Jewels, Kendall, and Michelle. And of course they were right- this one was good!

Merry, Sam, and baby Conor are living in the idyllic countryside of Sweden after a leap of faith move from NYC. This is a shiny, new life for them, and it's almost too good to be true. Merry is fulfilled taking care of the household, while Sam has started filmmaking.

Frank is Merry's childhood best friend; they are as close as sisters. She visits Merry in Sweden and instantly adds to the family becoming quite domestic at once. And it is Frank who recognizes that things are not as perfect as they appear. Frank also has her own share of deceit.

There was a lot to love about You Were Made for This! The chapters were quick, and I heard from Mary, Frank, and Sam. Multiple points of view hold my interest, especially in suspenseful novels. None of the characters are likable once the truth comes to light, and it does not matter. Because once the layers started peeling away, I was on board entirely with this shocking, sick, perfectly-paced, original, extra dark thriller. There was no turning away even as my stomach flip-flopped. It was hard to believe this was a debut!

ETA Triggers: hunting scene and elements of abuse.

Thank you to Michelle Sacks, Little, Brown and Company, and Netgalley for the copy. We Were Made for This will be published on June 19, 2018.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: www.jennifertarheelreader.com

Michelle says

Wow!!!

It's books like this that make my cold black heart happy. I'm astonished that this is Michelle Sacks debut novel.

If you want to meet a cast of unsavory characters then this is a book for YOU!!!

Sam & Merry are married and madly in love. They recently moved from New York City to live in idyllic Sweden. Here is where they plan to raise their new son Conor.

Merry loves their beautiful cottage. She spends her days with Conor, tending the garden, and cooking up lavish meals. Sam travels a lot for work so he cherishes his time with his family when he has it.

They've been in Sweden for just over a year when Merry's best friend Frank decides it's time for a visit.

Frank is a successful business woman that travels the world. She's had many lovers over the years but has never settled down. She's curious to see Merry's new life. She never imagined she'd become so domesticated.

Does anyone truly have the perfect life?

I know the above is incredibly vague but I really can't say much more about the plot without giving away spoilers. This book is so juicy. Seriously! My jaw was hanging open as I turned page after page. This book is the definition of a page turner!

If you like shiny happy people with feel good endings then do not even attempt to crack the cover of this one. You will be horrified. Alternately, if you like to toe the murky waters of the dark side then this is one I'm sure you'll devour. ALL THE STARS!!!

I would like to thank Little, Brown, and Company for sending me an ARC in exchange for my honest review.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

I really only have one reaction to share with you all regarding this book . . .

I have never read something that made me so uncomfortable. If you know me, you know that's saying a lot. You should also know that means I might maybe want to marry or at least be best friends with Michelle Sacks now. I just can't NOT love an author who is so willing to commit to going balls out into crazyville like she has done here.

Allow me to introduce you to Merry, Sam and their baby Conor . . .

“If you saw us you’d probably hate us. We look like the cast of an insurance commercial: shiny, happy us. The perfect little family, living the perfect little life. Wasn’t that another perfect day? is what we always say at the end of days like these. A confirmation. A promise. A warding-off of any days that might be anything less.”

My Kindle note: “OH YOU **KNOW** THESE PEOPLE ARE ASSHOLES!” <<< Quite the wordsmith, aren't I?

You Were Made For This is the story of what happens when Merry's lifelong friend Frank comes to visit, and the truth about Merry's "perfect" life starts to come out.

I'm pretty sure I read at least half of the book like this . . .

I'm not a big believer in posting spoilers (because I myself have no self-control and tend to click the reveal button only to kick myself for ruining everything) so I'm not going to post one here. However, I will say that

this book features 100% vile, irredeemable characters engaging in deplorable acts. If you don't think you can handle reading something like that, stay far far away because you will want to bleach your brain.

4.5 Stars and really the half star deduction is because that cover is F.U.G.L.Y.

Denied this ARC which goes to show that the powers that be don't know me too well, because THIS mah fah was a squicky trainwreck that I absolutely could not put down. My librarian always got my back, though ;)

j e w e l s [Books Bejeweled] says

4.5 STARS

When Sam inherits a cottage in the Sweden countryside, he and his wife, Merry, pack up their hectic lives in NYC and begin a brand new life in an cold, isolated country with their infant baby.

In Sweden, they are the very picture of domestic contentment. Merry gardens and bakes with a fervor that would put Martha Stewart to shame. Sam begins working at his dream career as a film documentarian. Their adorable baby is a fat little cherub, at the family's center of adoration and devotion.

Sounds so beautiful and la-dee-da perfect. However, after this setup, we are in for a shock as Merry and Sam take turns narrating their own short chapters. Buckle up. What you are about to learn becomes more alarming with each page. (This may be a good time to warn you there are definite triggers throughout for a sensitive reader.) Dark, twisted, painfully disturbing.

Just as we are learning about Sam and Merry's shaky foundation, Merry's best friend from childhood arrives for a visit with the young family in Sweden. Her name is Frank (Frances) and she knows Merry better than anyone else in the world. She immediately sees right through Merry's phony happy homemaker act. At this point, Frank joins in the narration with her own chapters and we start to see that Frank has her own ugly secrets. These three characters are positively nasty and the perfect storm is set into motion. **AS THE UNRELENTING SUSPENSE BEGINS, YOU CANNOT TURN YOUR EYES AWAY FROM THE PAGE. I LOVE IT!**

Michelle Sacks has written an almost perfect psychological thriller. She writes in a fluid, spare manner- the kind of dialogue without quotation marks, yet it is absolutely cloaked in a haunting, dread-filled mood. Sacks is an intelligent writer and I have great appreciation for her sophisticated style. **You know how I love to go deep in these sicko character profiles, and Sacks boldly goes to the deepest corruptions possible. And she doesn't even blink.**

If what I've told you hasn't scared you away-- then you, my friend, are in for a treat!!! Highly recommended for lovers of books like The Perfect Nanny, Unraveling Oliver, The Visitors and White Bodies.

YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS hits the shelves June 19, 2018. Thanks so much to Little, Brown Publishers for my gorgeous copy! All opinions are my own.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

3.5 stars.

Nope, I think my idea of a good time is to find characters who are even worse than I am. And these suckers in this book totally fit that bill.

You have happy little family Merry, Sam and baby Conor all living the dream life in Sweden. Merry is that perfect mom who makes all her own baby food and gardens and all the crap. I hated her from the first second. I'm totally judgey like that.

Sam the husband is just wonderful..until you scratch beneath the surface and realize that the whole reason they are living the "dream" is because he couldn't keep his weiner in his pants. *not a spoiler*

Then you start getting to know them. And realize....

Merry's lonely and so her friend Frank decides to come visit and soak up all the wonderful living. Once there she starts to realize that those smiles are pasted on like super glue between your teeth.

So ask yourself. Do you like poking your head into someone's window who has a heart as black as coal? These are your characters if so...and it's pretty decent.

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review

Paromjit says

Michelle Sacks writes an intense claustrophobic and harrowing psychological thriller that treads disturbing and sickening territory with protagonists that have little in the way of redeeming qualities. New York university professor, Sam, is married to set decorator, Merry, with a infant son, Connor. Sam comes into an inheritance, a remote cottage in a rural part of Sweden. They move from their frenetic and busy lives in Manhattan to Sweden, shedding their old lives with Sam aspiring to be a documentary maker. Sam is the type of man who has clear ideas of what a wife and mother should be like, and Merry is seemingly happy to pander to them. They settle down, a picture of domestic bliss, with Merry the ultimate domestic goddess. As so often with the appearance of perfection, this is barely skin deep, poke around a little and its paper thin surface cracks to reveal all is not as it seems. This is a story of marriage, friendship, betrayal, treachery, abuse, lies, secrets and deception.

This tale is told through the perspective of Sam, Merry and her childhood best friend, Frances aka Frank. Frank comes to Sweden to visit Merry, a woman she knows so well. She finds Merry's persona as the perfect wife and mother rather hard to swallow and it does not take her long to see through it. The women have a competitive relationship, Frank has had unsuccessful relationships in the past and Merry can't help but feel superior to her, with her marriage and son. Frank herself is a woman with her own darkness and secrets that festers inside her. The unlikeable trio of characters embark on an unpalatable course of actions and behaviours that you can just feel is going to end up as an almighty car crash. This is an atmospherically

compelling and entertaining read with strong undercurrents of menace pervading the narrative, with rich descriptions of the Swedish countryside. This might not be a book for everyone with its elements of abuse and the characters that might not appeal. Otherwise, it is a novel that quickly claws its way into your psyche leaving you horrified, but unable to stop reading, waiting with bated breath to see exactly how things will unfold. Many thanks to Harlequin for an ARC.

Kendall says

Oh my GAWD... what a crazy ride this was!! I LOVED IT!!!!

Michelle Sacks delivers a stunning debut filled with lies, sex, jealousy, greed, and suspense that will leave you on the edge of your seat. BUCKLE UP.. this is a definitely a ride that you want to experience.

There were so many things that I loved about this book. Multiple POV's from our three main characters: Mary, Frank, and Sam.

Let's meet Sam and Mary. They appear to be a loving and happy couple with their new beautiful baby boy. Sam and Mary have recently moved to Sweden from New York City... definitely a different setting from New York. Sweden appears to fit perfectly for the couple... Mary is a picture perfect wifey with new baking skills that give Martha Stewart some competition ;).

But, of course not everything is as it seems in Mary and Sam's perfect world of marriage and motherhood. The seams start to unfold fast in this dark web of deceit... and it just continues to fall... fall... fall.. But OH Sacks you make it so beautiful to be part of this dark web of deceit... I can't get enough of this addicting book.

Be prepared..there are some scenes that may make you uncomfortable (don't want to get into too much detail for spoilers).

But, oh you ask who is Frank? Frank is Merry's lifetime friend since she was a little girl. Just as we think it can't get any darker with this tale... oh be prepared my friends when Frank comes into this picture perfect marriage. Frank visits Merry in Sweden for some quality "girlfriend time". No ONE knows Merry better than Frank.

Let me tell you something... you will not like any of these characters and this is a perfect storm that plays out beautifully! I could not get enough of this nasty little gem of a tale.

HUGE fan of this author! Pre-order this one!! I can't wait to see what she comes out with next! :)

4.5 strong stars for this brilliant debut!

Thank you so much to Little Brown and Company and Netgalley for an advanced arc in exchange for my honest review.

Published to GR: 5/28/18

Publication date: 6/19/18

Nazanin says

4 Stars

Merry has a perfect life with her perfect family, her husband and the baby. They are happy and enjoying their life. Her husband is proactive and she admired it and in return, she is the exact woman he wants. After so many years not seeing each other, Frank, Merry's childhood friend decided to see her and her life. They've grown up with each other and more like sisters. When Frank came to their life, she feels at home, she is so intimate with the husband and like a second mother to the baby. But Frank is the only one who sees the cracks in Merry's life and tries to help her. But what if her help hasn't needed!? What if her help ruin/worsen everything!? Or maybe Frank is what Merry needed in her life!?!

I had an idea in mind about the plot but it wasn't completely right and the story went beyond that! The story was a bit disturbing and somehow made me uncomfortable. I'm not a big fan of the writing and yet I couldn't read it faster. It was a page-turner and yet again the short chapters were in my favore! Told in multiple POV, 1st person. It's a standalone novel. My only problem was the ending with Frank! I didn't like that! Overall, it was as good as its cover but not as delicious and hope you like it as well!

sue says

Merry, Sam and their baby, Connor. A perfect little family in the perfect little setting.

Sam who has the perfect little wife, Merry bakes blueberry pies, cooks well, cleans and sees to the garden.

The Mother who loves and adores her baby. Sam who wanted nothing else but to have a homely wife and a child of his own in the most idyllic of settings.

They have it all.

But is Merry all that she appears to be?

Then along comes Frank, she is a long standing friend of Merry's from her past. They used to be like sisters.

The plot thickens really well, the characters are well developed and driven.

Easy story to follow at the same time keeps you on your toes.

The ending was most unusual and something that I would have have guessed in a million years.

My thanks to HQ for my early copy and Net Galley

(Bern) Mom to 2 Posh Lil Divas says

This dark & disturbing psychological thriller is not for the faint of heart!

I found *You Were Made for This* to be both enthralling and difficult to read. I don't think I have ever read a book where every character was so psychologically damaged, wretched and despicable. The story is told in

3 alternating point of views and there was no respite - not one of them had any redeeming qualities. Page after page, things went from bad to worse.

The book was like a train wreck that I couldn't pull myself away from. I literally read pages with a feeling of revulsion in the pit of the stomach. Yet, I continued turning the pages. Drawn to the sadistic world these people had created for themselves.

There wasn't much backstory here and I feel like that was deliberate. I don't think we are meant to fully understand why Merry, Sam and Frank are the way they are. Sacks drops hints here and there into the story and we know they were damaged in their childhoods but that's not the emphasis for this story. The story is deeply rooted in the tragic present. In the tangled web that is their current lives. There is almost a sadistic dependency on each other between Merry & Frank and Merry & Sam. So much hate intertwined with their dark need for each other. It's as if they fed off each other - for better or worse. Unfortunately, these relationships were nothing but destructive, taking the one good thing between them and ultimately destroying it.

My momma heart could not bare to see how baby Connor was treated by these people. That poor innocent child did not stand a chance with these cruel sociopaths. The parts involving the baby left me feeling repulsed, angered and heartbroken.

The fact that Michelle Sacks was able to evoke so many emotions from me make this an unforgettable read. I was pulled in from the onset and the story never let up. ***The last line - it will haunt me for a long time to come.***

Thank you to Michelle Sacks, Little Brown and Company, and Netgalley for the copy to review in exchange for my honest opinion.

Berit??? says

4.5 Dark and Disturbing Stars ????.5

from the blurb... a dark look at marriage, motherhood, And friendship... don't always agree with the blurb, but this one is spot on! Michelle Sacks did a fabulous job of painting a disturbing picture.... this book will make you look twice at the closest people in your life...

Sam and Mary have moved to Sweden from New York, and appear to be loving a quieter lifestyle... Mary is the picture of domesticity... baking, cooking, gardening, cleaning, and taking care of her adorable infant son Connor... Sam is taking on A new career and seems more than pleased to have Mary at home playing the loving wife...

This book was told from three different points of view... Mary, Sam, and Mary's longtime friend Frank who comes for a visit... wow! Looking back my first impressions of these characters sure did change by the end... don't want to say too much, but none of these characters were terribly likeable.... and a lot of their actions were down right despicable..... One minute I'd be feeling sympathy for a character and then they'd do something and all sympathy went out the window.... and the friendship between Mary and Frank? With friends like that who needs enemies? This book left me feeling as though I needed to take a shower (and not a cold shower)...

This book made you realize things are never quite as they seem.... you only know somebody as well as they allow you to know them.... and everybody has some kind of secret.... A very well done dark and disturbing thriller filled with plenty of characters to dislike!*Warning* some of the content in this book might be a little hard for a more sensitive reader....

Absolutely recommend to fans of a strong psychological/domestic thriller with a darker side....

*** Many thanks to Little Brown for a copy of my book ***

Susanne Strong says

4 Stars.

Weird, Wild, Intriguing and Full of Suspense!

Merry and Sam live quite the life. The best life, the happiest life. They couldn't ask for more. They left their pasts behind: everything, bad, horrible and sinful and made their great escape to Sweden. To a new life, filled with light, love and new possibilities. Merry life's work has become building a home for her family. She wakes every morning, making baby food and homemade jam and bread and she keeps a perfect home, all while her husband Sam goes off to find work each day. (Does a Stepford Wife come to mind? That's what I thought of too!)

They are just so lucky. It seems too good to be true doesn't it?

When Merry's best friend Frank visits from America, everything becomes even more blissful. Frank sees everything that has been missing from life. Yet Frank notices things about Sam and Merry's relationship that others wouldn't: cracks. To be healed or split wide open?! The truth is not pretty, but then it never is, is it? Everyone has secrets and Frank is determined to unearth them, friendship be damned.

Demented and dark, intriguing and harrowing, shocking and suspenseful, "You Were Made For This" is a thriller that is multi-layered and out there. The characters are despicable and dastardly, yet I was drawn in regardless - it happens rarely but it happens. I was hooked from the start and I think you will be too.

Disclaimer: "You Were Made For This" is a novel that I recommend with caution due to the extreme content.

Thank you to NetGalley, Little Brown and Company and Michelle Sacks for a complimentary copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on NetGalley, Goodreads, Twitter and Amazon on 7.6.18.

Shirley Revill says

Warning. Please take seriously.

I would like to issue a warning should you chance to read this book. You won't be able to put this book down. Nothing will get done and your family will either starve or live on fast food.

Suggested reading after would be books on how to unclutter, Tips on cleaning and was the cleaning fairy a figment of my imagination.

I have been listening for most of the day and it's too good to put down but please remember you have been warned. ?

Melissa says

This utterly addictive and downright disturbing domestic thriller is impossible to set down for any length of time. The author's unique writing style and the unsettling reality of living life through the eyes of this cast, sparks a page-turning frenzy. **Don't say I didn't warn you.**

If you saw us you'd probably hate us. We look like the cast of an insurance commercial: shiny, happy us. The perfect little family, living the perfect little life.

In search of a fresh start and a simpler life, Merry and Sam relocate from the hustle and bustle of New York City to a remote cottage in the Swedish countryside. Merry is the quintessential stay-at-home mom and loving wife—maintaining an abundant garden, preparing her own baby food, whipping up chef-style cuisine, and all while doting on her infant son, Conor. A proud papa bear and husband full of compliments, Sam has struck out on a new career path, leaving behind the life of a professor and pursuing filmmaking. It's domestic bliss at its finest—or is it?

A spur-of-the-moment visit from Merry's best friend starts to chip away at the veneer of the perfect little family. Frank is, after all, the one person who truly sees Merry. Having grown up together, as self-proclaimed sisters, they've taken rivalry to a dark place. Using one another as a barometer of sorts, jealousy has been known to rear its ugly head. This is a jarring tale, one riddled with lies and tightly held secrets, that serves as a reminder: *things aren't always what they seem.*

For me, it wasn't so much the twists, I actually saw quite a few of them coming, but the execution of the story that made this unputdownable. Michelle Sacks has an interesting style, one that I think will divide readers. There will be those, like me, who appreciate the delivery and others that I predict will be turned off by the chopiness of her writing and lack of frilly overtures. Thrusting the reader headfirst into the minds of these three characters, doesn't always equate to linear thoughts and extensively crafted sentences. It's often messy, blunt and at times even frighteningly honest. You have to ask yourself though, isn't that *why* we all read—to experience life through someone else, even if it does prove to be unnerving?

Thank you to Little, Brown and Company for providing my copy.

Lou says

Although this is apparently a debut, I could've sworn I've heard the name Michelle Sacks in reading circles before this. Maybe it's just me, must be. One of the aspects that drew me to the book was the setting - the Swedish countryside, somewhere I would love to visit, sets the scene for this dark and disturbing read.

Merry and her husband and young baby, are creating their dream life in Sweden, far from the events that clouded their lives whilst living in New York. Then Merry's childhood friend, Frances, comes to stay but Frances finds that she hardly recognises her friend. Soon cracks begin to appear in Merry's carefully constructed fairy tale. And Frances starts seeing things that may not be so apparent to others, treacherous things. And then a terrible tragedy unfolds.

"You Were Made For This" is a difficult book to rate as there were both good and bad parts to it. It is slow to build, exploring the relationships between the three main characters - Sam, Merry and Frances - and is told from those three points-of-view. The synopsis really only gives you a slight glimpse of what might be involved in the novel, you are in for a shock! If you don't like disturbing, dark, and oppressive stories then I would advise you to avoid this one. I also found the writing style pretty hard going, it was sometimes hard to follow, something I don't usually have an issue with. The characters are incredibly unlikable, but I don't mind that if it adds to the narrative, as here.

If you enjoy thrillers overflowing with lies, secrets, murder, abuse, and unhealthy relationships, you'll likely appreciate this. But be warned - this is far more chilling than the blurb indicates!

Many thanks to HQ for an ARC. I was not required to post a review and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.
