



Bathing and the Single Girl

Christine Elise McCarthy

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BATHING & THE SINGLE GIRL is the smutty, mercilessly irreverent and laugh-out-loud funny debut novel by actress Christine Elise McCarthy. Inspired by her one-woman short film of the same name, it's the kind of novel Jonathan Ames might write if he'd dropped out of college and had been working as an actress in Hollywood for the last 20 years.

The life of an actress in LA isn't all glamour, money, and bedding rock stars. Sometimes it's more about humiliation, red wine hangovers, and the bad decisions they fuel. Ruby Fitzgerald has barely worked in years, not that anyone remembers her for anything but her short stint on a long-canceled but iconic TV show. But that was back when her career prospects seemed on the upswing -- longer ago than Ruby cares to admit, and awkward sex with regrettable partners is doing nothing to take the edge off. Everything once functional in her house is going on strike, but the unemployment checks barely cover the mortgage, and a self-respecting girl needs to be able to pay her bar tab -- so repairs are on hold. One more bubble bath and a few more cocktails. A gal can always get responsible tomorrow.

With everything mounting against her, a cranky and increasingly despairing Ruby will have to find out if her life's larger indignities are the result of bad luck, or a chronically bad attitude. What follows is a walking tour of the hilarious depths you can sink to if you stop exercising your best judgment.

Bathing and the Single Girl Details

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ISBN : 9780991304653

Author : Christine Elise McCarthy

Format : Paperback 372 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review Bathing and the Single Girl for online ebook

Terri Rowe says

After seeing the short film a few years back-I have eagerly anticipated this book-and it is well worth the anticipation!

Carriemcook says

I loved this book. It was witty, charming and there was an emotional arc. The main character was so self aware that it made me wish she was one of my best friends. If you want a fun read pick this up!

Cheryl Van Allen says

I'm not gonna lie - I read this book because an old friend is the author. I was worried. "What if I don't like it? I can't give a false review - but if I don't like it, I don't want to wreck her ratings." At first, I found it tough to get into. That made my fear worse. "Oh God - what if..."

Then, she found her groove and HOLY SHIT this is some WAY funny, SUPER brave stuff. Irreverent, inappropriate, piss your pants, snort your wine out your nose (yes, I did) funny stuff!! Intelligent without being snotty. And it gives life to SO many experiences we, as women of ANY age, have had to deal with and emotionally digest.

I'm so proud of you Christine - GREAT job!! I hope this blows up the charts!!

Jenny says

Ugh. Full disclosure: I only got about a third of the way through this book. I'm not a big fan of giving up on books, because I always wonder if the VERY NEXT PAGE is where it will all turn around. I read enough of this book to be confident that there is no turning around. Bad.

Jason Squire Fluck says

Raunchy, wildly revealing, and loaded with female arcanum, I'm relatively sure I blushed multiple times while reading Bathing & The Single Girl. Based on her one woman short film of the same name, Christine Elise McCarthy provides a painfully hilarious inside look at dating in the Hollywood trenches while trying to eke out a living in The Business. Ruby Fitzgerald considers herself a professional actor. She's never done anything else in her life. Acting is in her blood. Her friends agree. But she hasn't had a fulfilling, and financially rewarding, acting gig in more years than she can remember. She gets called for less auditions than there are months in the year. She's paying her bills, barely. To add insult to injury, she hasn't had a

boyfriend—or sex—in almost as many years as her last lucrative acting gig. Unemployment leads to boredom. Boredom leads to depression. Depression leads to bad choices. So when Ruby breaks her dry spell, bad choices seem to be all she makes. First, she can't find a guy who actually wants to seal the deal. Then she finds a guy who may not be able to seal the deal—literally! As she stumbles through the dating world trying to find a man she wants to sleep with—and talk to—she grudgingly admits that her career may be over. Between her bouts of self-doubt and man hunting, her small coterie of loyal friends help her keep her chin up and her eyes on the prize. Can Ruby find a man who gets her off intellectually while getting it on physically? Will Ruby be able to revive her career from the depths of unemployed irrelevance? Told with shock-jock irreverence, *Bathing & The Single Girl* upends long held misconceptions about how easy it can be for a single woman to get laid.

Angie says

Synopsis: *"BATHING & THE SINGLE GIRL is the smutty, mercilessly irreverent and laugh-out-loud funny debut novel by actress Christine Elise McCarthy. Inspired by her one-woman short film of the same name, it's the kind of novel Jonathan Ames might write if he'd dropped out of college and had been working as an actress in Hollywood for the last 20 years.*

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My Review: I guess I am missing something here because I did not click with this book. I was envisioning a comedy along the lines of what you get with a long awaited girls night. There was definitely some comedy but there were a lot of pages to slog through to get to it. I did not connect with the character at all, in fact I found her to be very judgmental and cruel. There were several great sub-characters though, I thoroughly enjoyed Eliza and Kate. I guess it was really up and down for me throughout the book and was difficult for me to pick up again each time.

Andrea says

Oh my gosh, where do I even begin with *Bathing and the Single Girl*? This is a book that is really hard to review because honestly, I think it's best to experience first-hand. This is not my way of writing a lazy review, but it's true! In fact, I have a friend, Amanda, who appreciates the funny as much as I do. I kept telling Amanda how funny *BatSG* was, and she was interested, for sure. But, when I began sending her

screen caps of the hilarious moments in the story, she immediately bought a copy.

There are a few ways I internally categorize humor. There's SALTS, which means Smiled A Little Then Stopped. Those books have funny moments, but nothing that really stands out. The highest level of funny is Holy Shit, Did Amanda Write This? Obviously, this is the level of funny Bathing and the Single Girl achieved. This book had me highlighting entire pages, texting the funny to my friend, reading the passages to my husband while crying tears of hysterics.

Oooh, I should probably throw out a couple of qualifications. One, my idea of funny is different from some. This book could get pretty crude sometimes, and by pretty, I mean a lot. Nothing is safe from the characters' snark, be it age, sex, religion or politics. And speaking of politics, that's my second point. Towards the end, Ruby begins dating someone with very different ideas of politics and religion. There's no mistaking that Ruby thinks he is ridiculous, her friends think he's ridiculous. I happen to share a lot of the Ruby's ideas on politics and religion, so it didn't bother me. But for those who don't, that could be annoying.

Bathing and the Single Girl is the story of an actress, written by the actress. It reads as part women's fiction and part memoir. I can only imagine that the author drew on her own life experiences to write the story, but it doesn't really matter if she did or she didn't. A lot of the fun was the wondering, imagining who could be the real-life counterparts to the story.

Regardless of my speculation, Bathing and the Single Girl was great. It read as honest, totally unflinching, and remarkably funny. I really enjoyed it and do highly recommend.

Favorite Quotes

"Fuck Justin Timberlake."

"You love Justin Timberlake."

"Until I found out his mother is--like--my age. It's one level of wrong to have a crush on a teenager with a Jew fro but it is a whole new level of yuck when he could be your son. I don't need Chris Hanson showing up with Perverted Justice while I'm trying to seduce Justin with chocolate chip cookies and sweet tea."

"I'm sorry, baby..."

Oh God, I thought as I curled my fingers around his mini gherkin. I felt like a pedophile. I tried to think of something, anything, to say in response to this apology. Then I realized he had something else to say.

"You probably already noticed, but..."

A suicide pact seemed like the only way out of what was going to be the most uncomfortable situation of our lives.

"Anyway, I'm sorry. But I have really small balls."

I actually did a slow-mo head turn and "Can you believe this shit?" look over my shoulder to a non-existent witness.

"I'm sorry, baby. You probably noticed that I have really small balls," he says? Guess what? No! No, I didn't. As a matter of fact, I didn't notice your balls at all.

"Eliza, I'm not sure you have thought this thing through properly. You do realize that, right? That as a lesbian, you don't just walk around having Samantha Ronson lookalikes munch your box. I'm guessing that,

at some point, some chick with pubic sideburns is going to expect a reach-around. And by reach-around I mean they are going to expect you to go ears-deep in their ham wallet. Are you ready for that?

Matt says

I wanted to love this book, as the author has played some wonderful characters in Child's Play and Beverly Hills 90210 and has such charm on podcast interviews. But the book is devoid of that charm, following a woman who refuses to grow up, spending money she doesn't have to cook for men she doesn't like in the hopes of taking a bath but not having sex with them, all while stubbornly refusing to take even part-time work to offset the multiple pages detailing her crushing debt. Not to mention the casual, "fun" way she has eight glasses of wine instead of dinner with only jokes about consequences. I have no problem following books where I don't like the protagonist, but this was aggressive and off-putting. And maybe just as bad, McCarthy seems to lose her talent when the quotes come up, with most lines of dialogue having a clunky refusal to use contractions. "I am" as the default just sounds bad, and I want better, and I wish I'd gotten better. This was a heartbreak.

Tracy says

This actually deserved a 3.5. This book was not challenging, didn't cause me to reflect on life, or cause me to be a more informed person.....but it did cause me to snicker and laugh out loud many times. An entertaining read, for sure!

Cindy Wright says

Great, fun, laugh out loud read. I really enjoyed it!!

Candace says

Great read! Absolutely hilarious! Can't wait for her next book!

?LEAH? says

The lifelong struggle of a virtually unknown actress...hitting rock bottom and coming full circle

Book Title: Bathing & Single Girl

Author: Christine Elise McCarthy

Series: Stand Alone
Genre: Chic-Lit, Humorous
Source: Kindle E-Book (Library)

?My Pick for Book Theme Song: Work Bitch by Britney Spears --this chic just needs a job.

Ratings Breakdown

Plot: 3.5/5
Characters: 3.8/5
The Feels: 3.5/5
Theme: 4.2/5
Flow: 3/5
Backdrop (World Building): 4/5
Originality: 4/5
Book Cover: 4/5
Ending: 5/5 Cliffhanger: No, Stand Alone

Will I read more from this Author???

Overall Rating: 3.7/5 STARS

My Thoughts

I almost dnf'd this a couple of different times. It really seemed to lack substance and a clear picture of where it was going, and it stayed that way until the last quarter of the book, maybe less. I only kept going because it was hilarious, seriously funny. I also didn't want to let Emily Valentine down, she always got screwed over (It's a 90210 thing --the OG version).

Yeah, so this is by the chic that played Emily Valentine in 90210, Christine Elise McCarthy. It's an opinionated and humorous depiction of her life, maybe, with some alterations; I'm not sure. If you're a staunch republican or a born-again Christian; you probably will not like this. Overall, the ending is what saved this, because she gets her wake up call and finally, seriously finally, gets her act together. There are some situations in this book, where I seriously thought...TMI...way too much information. She really wasn't afraid to go there...like anywhere.

Sex Factor: Yes, all of them are rather uncomfortable...not necessarily badly written...just weird and kind of gross. She also has an unhealthy obsession with getting guys into a bathtub with her.

Jackie says

Book Info

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

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My Thoughts

From the clever chapter titles to the in depth honest look into the day to day life that Ruby Fitzgerald finds herself flailing through this one will grip you and pull you in despite any misgivings that it may be too close to reality that many people have faced at one time or another in their lives. Awesome laugh out loud bawdy humor mixed with a strong dose of sarcastic honesty combine to create a read that will fly by too quickly and a female lead character that we all would love to have every dream come true.

You really cannot help but like Ruby, she is so focused on a goal she made so many years ago she does not seem to realize that maybe it is really time to rethink what she needs to be happy. Acting was and is her dream career, however in a world that reveres youth more than talent she does not seem to have a place anymore. For the past 10 years of her life jobs have been getting fewer and fewer until what is offered her is

so absurd that even as desperate for cash flow as Ruby has become there is no way she can in good conscience associate with the production her agent wishes her to try out for.

Ruby grows on you, even as you wish there were a way to tell her that the bad judgment she seems determined to keep succumbing to is only going to make things worse for her not better in the long run.

Funny with a clear cut message of hope at the end, Ruby Fitzgerald embodies many women and her path to self discovery as well as her path to overcoming self destruction is cluttered but realistic.

[Digital copy from author in exchange for honest review]

Star says

BATHING & THE SINGLE GIRL stars Ruby, a down-on-her-luck actress with bad taste in men and a non-existent bank account. Somehow she manages to make things work...for a while. As Ruby searches for Mr. Right and the next role, she does a bit of soul searching. BATHING & THE SINGLE GIRL is irreverently hilarious and poignant. As Ruby goes to audition after audition, dates Mr. Wrong after Mr. Wrong, and her house is breaking down around her she still thinks the next big thing is around the corner. Until so much goes wrong she can't help but stare the truth in the face. Even though she's a strong woman, loyal friend, and very intelligent, Ruby does her best to stick her head in the sand. Witnessing Ruby's bad (yet outrageously funny) decisions and her journey to reclaim success, you'll laugh, cry, and cringe right along with her. I definitely laughed out loud (which got me strange looks) and felt for Ruby as she went through all her trials and tribulations. BATHING & THE SINGLE GIRL packs a powerful punch and many laughs.

Wendy Grant says

A must read! This book is witty, hysterical, and will most likely give you many "OMG, I can totally relate" moments. A few parts seemed a little unbelievable but overall I really enjoyed it and it was such an easy, don't need to think much kind of read too.
