



The Artichoke Queen

Owen Duffy

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Very few know the role women played in the early years of car racing. THE ARTICHOKE QUEEN tells the story of a beautiful driver and her dizzying career and relationships. It combines 1950's Americana and the thrill of racing with a groundbreaking woman's struggle for identity, love, and ultimately, redemption

The Artichoke Queen Details

Date : Published November 20th 2015 by Livingston Press (AL)

ISBN : 9781604891591

Author : Owen Duffy

Format : Hardcover

Genre : Fiction

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From Reader Review The Artchoke Queen for online ebook

Lydia says

A vision and a voice. The conquest of fear in a world of uncertainties...close-up observations of situations and realistic character portrayals. Duffy's prose is like poetry. "It seemed like the room had flooded and they were swimming in warm water, being washed together into a deep, clear pool." A master storyteller who doesn't waste words...resonant of O'Connor and Steinbeck. This story makes me nostalgic and homesick for a time I never knew. An admirable debut novel. A pleasant surprise.

Geri says

I received this book free through a goodreads giveaway.

Good book.

Love Prudence.

She experiences a lot of life in her first year in San Francisco.

She meets Charles who discovers she can handle a car as well as some of the best race car drivers. He encourages her to give it a try which is quite unusual for a woman in the early '50s.

She definitely marches to the beat of a different drum.

Susan Moore says

Really good

Paul Vidich says

Owen Duffy has given us a wonderful portrait of a young woman, Prudence, challenged by a disability, whose courage and ambition help her accomplish remarkable things. Poignant, sensitively written, a moving story.

Laune says

While being an assertive female is still difficult, back in the 1950's this must have been exceptionally difficult. I found it interesting to follow Prudence, in this mainly male occupation, through the races and romance with all its highs and lows.

Cheryl says

I won a copy of this book through a Goodreads Giveaway. Wasn't sure it was my "type" of read and I was pleasantly surprised. Here's to Women who were pioneers in their fields. Prudence leaves home, finds a job as a waitress in a jazz club and then goes on to racing, after working as an assistant in a car dealership. All this in just one year! Fairly quick read and I enjoyed it!!!

Martin says

Full disclosure – I'm a colleague of the author's wife, and I'm a sucker for literary fiction. More than a mere romance, the book is a period piece with an assertive female protagonist that wants to live her life under her own terms. In addition to being a sucker for literary fiction, I'm a sucker for motor sports and 1950s sports car racing is a vehicle employed by Duffy telling the story. The cameo appearance by James Dean is also a nice touch.

Mika says

A very well written first novel with an engaging plot and well-developed characters. I pretty much read the book in one sitting! Looking forward to reading more from this author!

L.C. Fiore says

What's not to love about a fast-paced story featuring a red-headed female race-car driver who takes the circuit by storm in the 1950s? It's not often you find this kind of excellent writing combined with a story you never want to end. Also, this publisher (Livingston Press) does great stuff: add "The Artichoke Queen" to their quality list of carefully curated titles.
