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Preschooled



Synopsis

Behind the toddler-proof gate of Santa Monica's exclusive Garden of Happiness, it's the grown-ups who are getting schooled. When new preschool parent Justine discovers that the man who broke her heart back in grad school is a dad in her daughter's class, she tells herself she's immune to the superficial charms of the ex she calls "the crapwizard." But when his presence opens a time tunnel of potent memories from her life before motherhood, she must find a way to defuse her old attraction to him before it undermines her marriage. Then there's Ruben, rookie stay-at-home dad and standup comic who quits his day job to pursue his TV-writing dream on his wife's condition that he take her place among the "power mommies" on the school committees. And ruling the sand box with an iron fist is Margaret, whose ongoing divorce from her dentist-turned-New Age-surfer husband forces her to rely on her dubious people skills in order to keep the school that has become the cornerstone of her identity. When the new school year kicks off with a flight-risk rabbit named Ozone, a school secretary in desperate need of a social filter, and some double-barreled committee recruiting tactics, it's not all juice and cookies for Justine, Ruben, and Margaret as they struggle to play nice. Praise for *Preschooled*: "This book is like a warning. A terribly funny and entertaining warning." —Jenny Lawson, *The Bloggess*, New York Times bestselling author of *Let's Pretend This Never Happened* and *Furiously Happy* "Listen, I grew up in a tough neighborhood, but these parents in Anna Lefler's hilarious preschool novel scare the hell out of me." —Steve Schirripa, New York Times bestselling author and co-star of *"The Sopranos"* "With hilarity and compassion, Anna Lefler examines the juice box from all angles—how do a group of well-meaning parents end up cowed by a preschool that's stricter than Harvard? Read to find out and wince with recognition." —Nicola Kraus and Emma McLaughlin, bestselling authors of *The Nanny Diaries* and *Nanny Returns* "Anna Lefler's book is so goddamn funny it made me want to ditch my life so I could read it. Damn you, obligations!" —Laraine Newman, original cast member of *Saturday Night Live* and the *Groundlings*, Voiceover Goddess "Captivating and relentlessly funny, *Preschooled* is a brilliant, sublime romp through today's Pre-K jungle. With a fresh, wry wit, Anna Lefler skewers the ridiculous pretense of the preschool scene while weaving a hilarious and satisfying story that will have you turning pages well past pick-up time." —Jenna McCarthy, author of *Pretty Much Screwed*

Book Information

File Size: 2785 KB

Print Length: 336 pages

Publisher: Full Fathom Five Digital (October 1, 2015)

Publication Date: October 1, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00ZAX43OQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #385,944 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #110

in Amazon Books > Parenting & Relationships > Babysitting, Day Care & Child Care #1109

in Amazon Kindle Store > Whispersync for Voice > Parenting & Relationships #2561 in Amazon Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Humor

Customer Reviews

Being a mom is certainly a journey and few of us take our first steps with confidence. Once we sort of have it together we are hit with preschool. A whole new ballgame, where our little one starts her own social circle, birthday parties, friends, plus the business of school itself. Painting, singing running around with other children. And now its not just your child's social circle, as a parent you expected to be on board as well...for those who have walked through the "valley of the stay at home moms," you will laugh out loud as you read... Lefler takes us on a hilarious journey that anyone who has spent time in the mommy trenches will appreciate. What really set this book apart is that, though I laughed out loud at times, I also was deeply engaged with the characters. Their struggles and the realization that with their small children, the choices they make become more complicated, even dangerous...all of this with the backdrop of preschool. I'm still on my mommy journey these days, but with a little more confidence and certainty. Thank you so much for this book...it was delightful.

A delightfully funny, cleverly written story whose grown up reactions are very akin to childlike

emotions. Vulnerability can exist at all age levels and we continue to learn about the similarities of emotions at any age. In reading the story, one realizes how fragile words and actions can affect others. Let's hope that the characters all become smarter by "high school".

Of the many things to love about Anna Lefler's new novel, *Preschooled*, about life in the preschool fast lane in Santa Monica, one of the most enjoyable is her ear for dialog, particularly for the character Justine. She was the kind of fictional character I'd like to take out for a coffee so we could give each other a reality check that it's the helicopter Alpha moms who are crazy, not us. Lefler's sharp and funny and illustrates a corner of parenting that I am so, so very glad to be past....

Anna captures all the fear a mom goes through when sending her child to preschool in a Hillarious way! She really captures the way it starts off so cleverly with all the excitement and anticipation of our child's first experience and we all want to make sure that they will be alright, it's all about them. Yet oh boy reality hits when it becomes all about us and the way Anna peels the layers to reveal the frantic way we navigate through the volunteering, scheduling, "those moms" etc. I found myself having my laugh out loud moments. Right back there reliving that time looking back and realizing I was getting "Preschooled"

This was such a fun book to read! I enjoyed the characters and think Anna's writing is outstanding. I snorted and laughed out loud over numerous pages while on the treadmill at the gym and had people asking me what I was reading. I think this book would make a perfect movie on the big screen and look forward to more books by this talented writer.

Yes, Anna Lefler is funny. She's hilarious. But she's also insightful, intelligent, and a mighty fine writer, with a deep understanding of craft and characterization. It's easy to recommend *Preschooled* -- it's a satisfying and hugely entertaining read.

A hilarious read that's strangely engrossing. It feels absurd at times, until you realize that it reads like non-fic for some people. The ending feels hasty at some parts, especially with Margaret's storyline, but it's satisfying to some extent.

Brought me back to my Kiddo's days in preschool! Five stars and an unauthorized juice box. A must read for any parent.

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