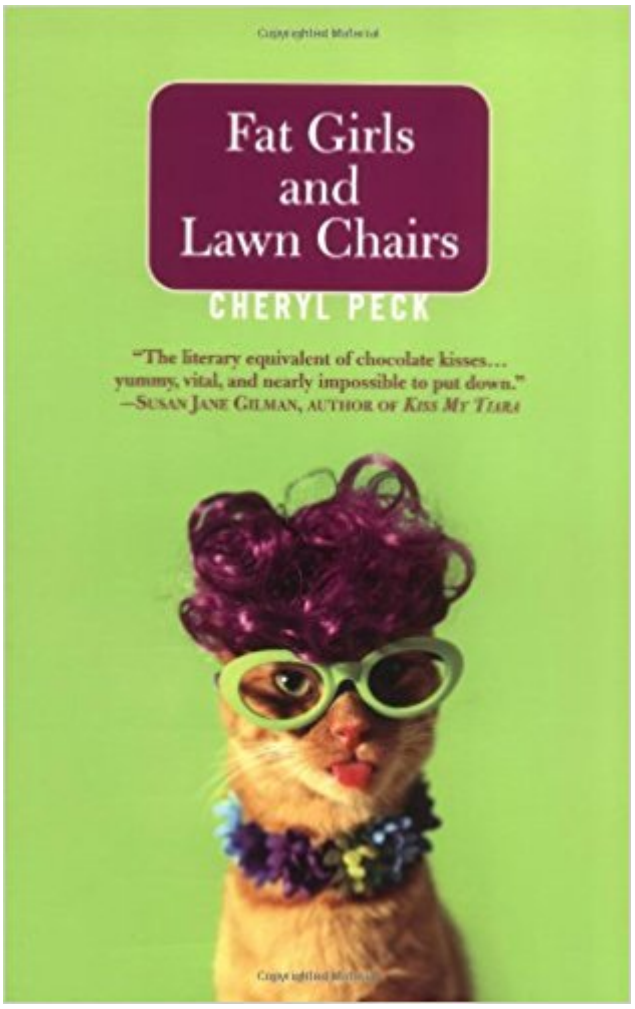
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Fat Girls And Lawn Chairs



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Synopsis

Cheryl Peck has many stories to tell-of her naughty cat, her quirky family, and her experiences as a large gay woman in the American heartland. Now in a potpourri of real tales by turns poignant and laugh-out-loud funny, Cheryl talks about family and growing up, love and loss. With self-deprecating humor and compassionate insight, she remembers the time she hit her baby sister in the head with a rock, how her father taught her to swim by throwing her into deep water, and the day when-while weighing in at 300 pounds-she became an inspirational goddess at her local gym. Filled with universal stories about a daughter’s love for her parents and the eternal quest for finding meaning in it all, this book reveals many seemingly unremarkable moments that make a life-the weighty events that, like fat girls sitting on lawn chairs, just won’t let go.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As is evident from this book’s cover-featuring a cat in lime-green glasses and purple wig, posing with its tongue sticking out-Peck’s debut collection of humorous personal essays and poems is nothing if not irreverent. Originally self-published for the benefit of her friends, family and cat, these warmhearted reminiscences cover everything from Peck’s childhood (when she was driven to be the "first, fastest, loudest and best" and therefore hated by her peers and feared by her four younger siblings) to her experiences as a gay woman of size. In the title story, the 50-something Peck explains how she came to conclude that "no self-respecting fat girl ever really trusts a lawn chair," and in "Wounded in Action," the most hilarious and dramatic entry, she describes her misadventures on the softball field: "I gathered every fiber of my being-and there are many, many fibers in my

being-and I pointed them all toward first base, and I leaned in that direction, hoping to add speed at a later date...." A few of her essays fall flat-such as "Does a bear...?" a tale of her inability to pee outside-but her many witticisms ("Women were never asked to fight in the war in Vietnam or any other war. But if they had been, girls would have won. Girls would have felt guilty for not winning it sooner, and girls would have restored all of the roads...") compensate for these low points. Cat lovers will appreciate the goofy narratives ostensibly told by Peck's cat, Babycakes, but the author's self-deprecating wit and ability to see the drama in everyday situations make this collection so inviting.Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Peck's short essays are, for the most part, tongue-in-cheek and ironic. Some, however, are serious and even moving, such as the one sincerely noting the miracle of her niece's birth, and they relieve and point up her more usual mode of self-deprecation in pieces on, for instance, being so fat that she becomes imprisoned in lawn chairs and is a reverse role model of effort to others at the gym. She also ruefully recounts her adventures in softball, which forced her to run, an action the 46-year-old hadn't taken since 1962. More drifting than running, "with the grace and delicacy of perhaps a hippopotamus," toward first base in 94-degree weather, it occurred to her, when miraculously safe on base, that advancing to second was more likely via ambulance than on foot. Whether reading Peck on the lure of gardening (an occasion signaled by pet cat Babycakes' shedding each spring) or on building a boat with her father, most readers will find this enjoyable first book worth their attention. Whitney ScottCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

When i started this book, i never figured it for a "5-star" book. I read tons of books...if you love to read - especially non-fiction - i say read it. And especially if youre a woman.The writing is personal, and from the heart. It's not necessarily life-changing, but as her first work - i think it's great; and entertaining. I love reading about people's lives, backgrounds, and childhoods - i'd love to read a book like this about SOOO many people i know. I really, really enjoyed it. Yayyy Cheryl!

Great read for a short story and a laugh

A great book to read when you want to put a smile on your face. I admire the Cheryl Peck's talent at being able to make common, everyday experiences seem comical. Its a good way to look at life. A friend of mine borrowed the book to read while on the elliptical at the gym, and embarrassed herself

by laughing out loud!

I read the second book first, finding it on a bookstore discount table. Enjoy first person stories of rural families. Didn’t realize until I read first book that it is a collection of articles written for a small publication over time. So, a lot of facts are repeated throughout both books that if written as a book, would not need repeating. Still found the childhood stories relatable and the cat stories very funny.

Awesome!

Great book!

Great summer read! Highly recommended and strongly urged to those who love this style of writing. Give it a grouse!

I read revenge of the paste eaters first and it was hillarious. This one is O.K. Less laughting but still O.K.

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