

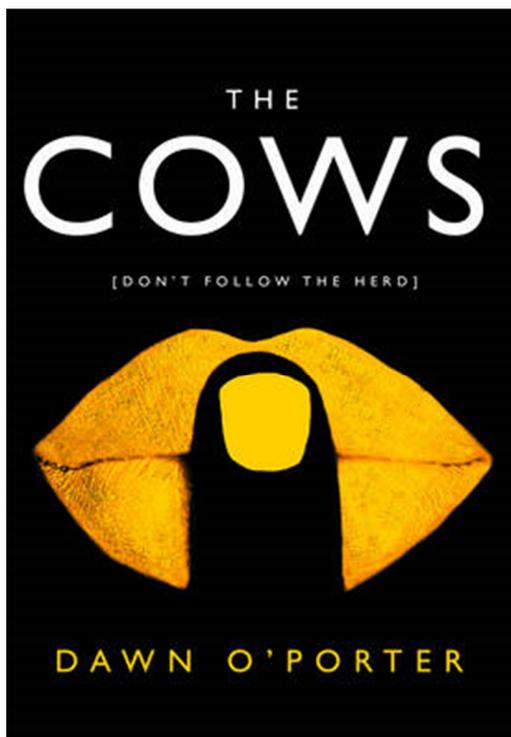


Helping you choose
your next book

HarperCollinsPublishers

LoveReading Reader reviews of **The Cows** by Dawn O'Porter

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Edel Waugh

*This was **an extraordinary story** about three women. Stella, Tara and Cam, they have very different lives and dreams for themselves yet they have a lot in common. Humiliation, loss, and freedom are some of the topics brought up in the story. Throughout it really made me think about the way we perceive the news we read every day and the consequences for doing things without thinking them through properly and the damage it can do. Each woman was going through her own life difficulties, and it was terrific seeing how they coped with each of the situations they found themselves in.*

***This was a deeply thought provoking and inspiring book with three strong women at the centre of it doing their best with what life dealt them.** Read this with a box of tissues and your best friend's number on speed dial.*

Sabine Little

What starts out as a chick-lit quick read turns out to be quite thought-provoking - a book that takes you through the full emotional spectrum.

For a while, I wasn't sure about this book - I found the change in narrator and perspective confusing, and I wasn't sure where it was headed. As I carried on reading, I suddenly found myself caring, and caring a lot. It began with Tara, who's one mistake leads to a world of trouble, and I almost read through my

fingers, willing things to work out for her. Then Cam, who is so out to live the life she wants, without judgement. I found Stella hardest to care about, and I was fickle in the way I felt invested in her story.

I did not feel represented by any of these women, and, intriguingly, "representativeness" is one of the themes. I also don't buy into "female solidarity", but, for me, this book was about neither - not the need to feel connected to others like oneself, nor the idea of the "sisterhood". Instead, for me, the book is about respecting the life choices of others, to try to understand, be aware of others' stories, histories, hurts and triumphs - even if they don't resonate with you personally.'

Carneika Washbrook

'The Cows' has to be one of the best books out there for modern women - no stereotypes here! It's is that kind of funny where you are laughing out loud, but shaking your head at the same time.

The Cows has to be one of the best books out there for modern women. There are no stereotypes here, it feels like you're reading about real people. Even with three different main characters, this novel flows, intertwining the stories perfectly. You go through so many emotions when reading this book – you love the women, then you hate them; you envy them, then your heart breaks for them.

This is a novel about modern women just trying to get on with their lives. But you can learn so much from reading it. With all this so-called feminist and shaming going around, we could all do with looking at things from another woman's perspective. Whatever kind of woman you are, you'll relate to one of these characters and learn from the others.

Dawn o' Porter writes in a way that makes it almost impossible to put this novel down. I could just pick it back up and read it again straight away. The Cows is that kind of funny where you are laughing out loud, but shaking your head at the same time. I can't wait to see what else she has for us!

Suz Beney

I loved this book from the first page to the last. I couldn't put it down.

Dawn O'Porter has written a story that feels really current and topical. Although it probably falls in to 'chick-lit' genre, it's fresh and relevant.

The 3 main characters are all so different and at different stages of their lives, but they were all easy to relate to which helps you get involved in the story and not want to put the book down.

Light-hearted and entertaining throughout, it raises some interesting issues, but none of these feel like they are being imposed. They are built into the story in a sensitive and believable way, which gives you some food for thought about how you might react.

I was really looking forward to reading this book, and it did not disappoint. In fact my only disappointment was when I turned the last page.

This is the perfect book for a summer holiday read. I can't recommend it highly enough.

Julie Watkin

This book is engaging, uplifting and emotional. It follows the lives of three women who cross paths in their quest to find real happiness.

This book is an enthralling journey following the interwoven lives of 3 women all with their own personal struggles. It is modern and lively and easy to relate to. In each woman you can't help but recognise real life problems and the funny, crazy way in which each woman handles it rings clear bells with all of us i'm sure.

This book is very emotional - one minute it's silly and funny, then next heart wrenching. I would happily recommend this book to all of my girlfriends.

Melanie Chadwick

Interlinked stories of three women and their obsessions about sex and image.

Three women each with their own problems, hang-ups and relationships. Each very different, but each similar in their self-absorption and selfishness. Each also suffering their own pain. Contains lots of vulgar scenes and language. I didn't warm to any of the characters particularly, so wasn't particularly upset or shocked at the denouement when the woman who provides the link between the stories suffers a catastrophe.

Julie Bickerdyke

Tales of humiliation and personal ordeals related with humour and compassion for an inspiring read.

I loved this book. Very different in the style of storytelling and in the portrayal of some very personal, excruciatingly painful and humiliating ordeals.

I got off to a bit of a slow start with the switching between the main characters, especially as there was no connection between them but I'm glad I stuck with it as the book is inspirational at showing how resilient women can be in adversity.

A great reminder that little is as it seems on the surface and everyone has issues that they would prefer to keep private. When your private life becomes public knowledge the world can be a cruel place. How you deal with that could be the making of you and a whole new way of life.

Told with compassion and humour. A riveting read.

You can follow Julie on Twitter: @JulesBickerdyke

Vicky-Leigh Sayer

If I'm brutally honest I rarely pay attention to the back cover blurb on books, other than a quick cursory glance. 'The Cows' back cover blurb is perfect, and true. It is bold, it is brilliant, and I'm pretty sure that everyone is going to be talking about it.

Three brilliant females, who don't know each other at all...

Tara is a single Mother with a great job, but her Male bosses don't give her the recognition she deserves. After meeting a man on a night out, (but not the one she was supposed to be on a date with) Tara feels like she is worth something again, and gives into a moment of madness that will have disastrous consequences.

Cam is a brilliant blogger, but she doesn't want kids, and her Mother despairs of her. Her online audience is torn after a radio interview where her views are made crystal clear. Suddenly her popularity soars, but the online trolls are quick to attack where others are quick to praise and admire.

Stella is still grieving the loss of her twin sister, but struggling to find her own identity, ever fearful of the cancer that seems to come after the females in her family. She is desperate to have a baby, but her boyfriend seems to be distancing himself from her just when she needs him most.

These three women's lives are about to become intertwined, even though they seemingly have nothing in common.

'The Cows' is an important novel that showcases the society we live in, how we can all be oh so quick to judge others, yet expect people to have our backs when the world has turned against us.

www.thewelshlibrarian.blogspot.co.uk

Val Rowe

A bitter-sweet, tragicomedy. Naughty but nice and such fun! I loved it!

Tara, Cam and Stella are three eclectic and modern young women, each living her own individual and, at times challenging lifestyle. An unimaginable occurrence serves to link their lives together, each woman endeavouring to pursue her own needs, instincts and convictions.

Written in a casual and seemingly relaxed style, I had not anticipated that this novel would have such an impact upon me. How do I describe the genre? Amusing? Deeply moving? Risque? Full of twists? All of these and so much more.

I especially enjoyed the author's focus upon the uniqueness of being female and her encouragement to develop the confidence to write, think, feel and act upon our thoughts, feelings and opinions. Her chosen title is simply perfect!

The conclusion was totally unexpected but left me satisfied.

I am delighted to have read a novel outside of my usual range and hope that Dawn O'Porter is inspired to produce further adult literature.

Katie Hoare

'The Cows' is a funny and amusing book about three women. Tara who is a mum, Stella who is single and Cam who runs her own blog. The story is told in the interwoven stories of the three women, who originally lead very separate lives, until incidents make their paths cross, such as one that is caught on the CCTV cameras and causes great embarrassment.

This incident makes the reader feel rather uncomfortable, but shows the best and worst of what can happen for people. Tara and Stella share their views with family and friends, and Cam is very honest about her opinions which may

be seen as to what might be seen as not as supporting what society expects for people. This is due to that fact that she does not want marriage and a family.

This is a good book if you want to see three different cow-ish perspectives on modern society, from three different women who become friends, seen through three different perspectives, and also blogs that is meant for public consumption.

Emma Caddick

'The Cow's' is a storm of a debut novel. It is so enjoyable, an easy, un-put-down-able read, which I imagine will be adorning many a sun lounger this summer. That said, it is a story with brains. The story follows three women as they navigate their way through relationships, work, loss, and children. It is hilariously funny, moving and challengingly uncomfortable at times. A frank, raw and honest take on life as a modern woman that makes us think deeply about what our society and indeed we ourselves think of women. With a completely unexpected twist Dawn O'Porter delivers a gripping plot with an ending that doesn't disappoint. I'd go as far as to say it is #ditchtheboxset worthy. Highly recommend.

Emily Wright

'The Cows' is everything a modern woman has the power to be: sassy and smart, intelligent and individual, big hearted and brave, full of verve and vulnerability.

The lives of three very different women are about to collide. After a hot date, Tara Thomas is devastated that a very private act has turned her into an internet sensation. When the video footage goes viral, lifestyle blogger Camilla Stacey steps in to champion Tara. Meanwhile, Stella Davies is desperate to keep her boss away from the internet and to distract him from a certain woman who is the talk of the media. In a world where it takes seconds to 'like' and 'share' on social media and reactions are instant, what happens when our judgement of each other is also so quick and so superficial? The author doesn't shy away from difficult subjects; this is definitely a no holds barred novel. The three main characters all have very different stances on motherhood and the author gives each of them a strong voice. O' Porter's tale of female solidarity is packed with heartfelt, down to earth humour which made me laugh out loud. It is only now I've finished the book that I realise just how much emotion and poignancy is

nestled in amongst the wit. A book you'll want to share with your friends and which might make us all think a little longer before we laugh at the latest funny video on YouTube...

Annette Woolfson

*Not quite sure about this one, I think it is a good premise for a story, people judging one another over perceived personality weaknesses whilst ignoring their own. I should say though that I was quite shocked by some of the scenes. I have for quite some time been worried by the increasing dominance of phones and social media in our lives and this novel shows just how quickly someone's life can be destroyed by a misplaced photo or tweet. However, it is also **a novel about empowerment and women finding their own way in the world, about the love and support of family and friends and about holding your head high and doing what is right for you and the ones you love.***

Farah Alam

Overall, this book was enjoyable read. It raises important questions of the how women are perceived in society, the judgement that comes with going against the stereotype and how it is important to change that.