



Wifey / Smart Women

Judy Blume

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Offers two novels featuring women, men, marriage, divorce, sex, love, identity, and romance.

Wifey / Smart Women Details

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Author : Judy Blume

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Brenna says

I stumbled upon this one at the bookstore by my house, lying on its side in between two shelves. I picked it up to find its home on the shelf, the right way up- an instinct I inherited from my librarian mother, I suppose. Then I saw it was Judy Blume.

Memories of my childhood bookshelf stuffed with her books, staying up late with the flashlight under my covers so I could read a few more chapters, the calm that I got in realizing there at least were other (however fictional) kids out there who were incessantly awkward in the world they were thrown into.

But wait, I'm not in young adult fiction! That's all the way upstairs. Wifey? Smart Women? Those aren't titles to go alongside Freckle Juice and Super Fudge.

Then somewhere in the back recesses of a memory I remembered something about my beloved Judy Blume also writing books for adults. Having completely forgotten about that tidbit, I'd never thought about seeking them out. So I bought the book, walked across the street for some Thai food and dove in.

Wifey is an uncomfortably honest illustration of marriage through the eyes of a woman who is shaking herself awake for the first time. The tremors from that not only affect her picture perfect life, her social circle and standing but, challenge the very foundations of her decisions thus far.

Smart Women follows three women who have each divorced their husbands and started a new life in Boulder, Colorado. We witness the weaving of their friendship, relationships with their children who are growing up in their own right, their exes and of course, the pasts which were abandoned that refuse to be silenced.

It was surreal to have Judy Blume's comforting voice from my childhood speaking the language of adults. She fearlessly charges into the scary world that every adolescent (with her young adult characters) fears and craves.

She asks the questions that every adult tries to find answers to with the tentative bravery of one who doesn't know how to grow up. And allows us the question 'Do we ever, really?'

Gerald says

I have read only Wifey, I have a paperback copy of Wifey from 1979. Goodreads does not list Wifey as a stand alone book, so this review is for Wifey only.

Wifey is tired of chicken on Wednesdays and sex on Saturdays.

This morning the mysterious motorcycle flasher revealed himself to Wifey and brought her frustrations into rigid focus!

Wifey sees her wildest fantasies taking flight and has an itchy - and uncontrollable urge to catch up to them!

Wifey is a very likeable heroine, a nice, upper middle class housewife with a very dirty mind!

I really enjoyed this book. It's funny, it's sexy, and it's a great look back at the roles that married people were still expected to squeeze into in the early 70's. If you like Judy Blume, you will enjoy this book.

Carol says

I enjoyed re-reading these novels. I liked 'Smart Wommen' a little more. 'Wifey' is somewhat dated and evocative of the 1970's scene. I see from Judy Blume's Bio that we are the same age!

I bought the book for ten cents on the Friends of the Library used book shelf. Days of the real dime novel were even before my time!

Kelly says

awful, tedious

77mswoods says

Fun, fun, fun. I only read Wifey this time around.

Robyn says

To be honest, I really thought this book deserved 3.5 stars--3 was too little though, so alas, you'll read it as four.

First of all, these adult novels of famed young-adult novelist Judy Blume are definitely adult novels. To those who grew up with Judy, you'll almost feel like you're reading the scandalous books Judy wished that teens could read. That said, expect lots of talk about sex, lots of sex, and lots of foul language. Like rated-R Judy (versus PG-13).

Of the two books, I preferred Wifey, the first book. It was funny, the plot moved, and the ending was satisfactory. As for Smart Women--I didn't find it as engaging as Wifey until the last 100 pages. Ironically, I liked the ending more than I liked the rest of the book.

For Judy Blume lovers, these are a 'must read'. Take note though that they were originally written in the late 70s/early 80s, so they are a little dated in that regard.

Sarah says

It was a good, easy read. I got to the end of the book, though, and kind of wondered what the point of the story was? I felt like it was a bit of a lackluster ending to a fairly interesting story. It was, of course, classic Judy Blume writing though, so I did enjoy reading it a good bit.

Emilee says

An interesting read but also kind of weird, she didn't accomplish anything!

Jen Joas says

Wifey should prob only get 2 stars...the husband in it is a real jerk and the wife has no backbone. Smart Women has a bunch of really bratty entitled children and deserves maybe 3 stars.

Ama says

I liked Smart Women much better than Wifey. Too bad they were combined into one book. If I really could, I would give Wifey 3 stars, and give Smart Women 3 1/2 stars.

Michelle Mendoza-Aguilar says

I have always enjoyed Judy Blume's book, mostly because they are so easy to read and you can get engrossed in a good story. However, I have to say that these two stories were mediocre at best. Easy read but nothing spectacular to talk about.

Becca Aune says

Wow. I read this at 14. The librarian asked me curtly, "Does your mother know you're reading this???" It forever taught me about the intricacies of, let's just say, sexual relationships.

Eva says

Judy Blume was one of my favorite authors growing up so I was excited to read *Wifey* and *Smart Woman*. I have to warn you that it's not quite what you'd expect if you've only read Blume's young adult novels. It's a bit more risque and of course the subject matter more adult. But none the less, Blume is still worth reading.

Kym says

As it has been a few years, since high school, that I read "*Wifey*", I plan on rereading after I finish rereading "*Summer Sisters*". Always loved Judy's books as a tween, teen and through adulthood. Wish she would continue with adult titles. Always a great summer read!

Lisa Greer says

This novel is shocking and delightful. What happens when a mom and wife who is bored with life looks out her bedroom one window and is flashed by a mysterious motorcyclist? Read it and find out... *wifey* has some wild adventures.
