



Family Affair

Saxon Bennett

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Oops...is an understatement.

Chase Banter thought her life couldn't get any weirder. Her mother has taken up private investigating, her writer's group's helpful suggestions have led to severe writer's block, and her girlfriend's family is genuinely nuts. Growing up isn't high on her list of priorities.

What grip Chase has on her life is severely challenged when her girlfriend tells her about the little oops at the gynecologist. Seems the doctor mixed up the rooms and now Gitana is expecting.

The reality of Gitana's radiant glow—and growing waistline—finally convinces Chase to accept that she's about to become a parent. There's only one thing to do: Chase embarks on a nine-month plan to grow up, once and for all.

Only Saxon Bennett can bring to life the humorous and touching soul searching of a woman trying to become more than she ever thought she could be. Family Affair joins Saxon's many novels about the unique choices lesbians make as they define family for themselves. Winner, Golden Crown Literary Award.

Family Affair Details

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Author : Saxon Bennett

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From Reader Review Family Affair for online ebook

Loek Krancher says

I loved it!

A great start of this series and as always it was hilarious. These two authors know how to make you laugh.

Tinything says

This is a fun read. I really enjoy this. I dont know why, most of the book i read i mostly came to like or love the second main character alots. Which is, in this one, Gintana. I really enjoy her character for reason. Oh and i do like Chase too. She's such a funny woman. And yeah like the book title, this book is about families, friends, love and some random weird thing. There are parts that made me smile too :) i enjoy this alots.

Jean Marie Angelo says

I try to be kind to writers. I consider myself one, even though I have yet to complete a novel. I admire anyone who is disciplined enough to invent a story, write the outline, and create compelling characters. I have a nascent book project on file in my MacBook Pro, which is why I approach every novel in the way that I hope someone will someday approach mine. I really hate to say that I disliked Family Affair. The outline of the story is fun: lesbian couple — who never expected to be parents — find themselves expecting a baby. They befriend a young girl and her mom, who, in turn, teach them how to be good parents and better people. Their whacky friends and family members eventually all come around and support their new life chapter.

The protagonist is Chase, a writer, who lives in New Mexico with her partner Gitana. Chase is moody and self-indulgent. Gitana is a nurturing owner of a greenhouse that grows orchids. Chase's mom is a blue-blood, country club member who becomes a private eye and radical senior. These are the aspects I like about this story. Some phrases and descriptions are great. A ninth grade teacher is called, "bitchi extremus." Chase is described later in the story as a woman who has become "eccentric without savagery."

I am told on the book jacket that Saxon Bennett has written 15 novels! I hope the others were better than this. The narrative is riddled with holes and actions that make no sense. Major life changes beg more description and explanation. Yet, paragraphs and pages are dedicated to humor that falls flat. Ah well, on to the next book.

Canders5 says

Spoilers ahead, I cannot explain the reason for my rating without describing parts of the book.

This book was disappointing. The authors clearly did minimal research on Bipolar Disorder, as they described it as a woman simply being moody and making bad choices. In deference to the above, I simply did not like how the main character was punching bag of every single character in the book.

The final straw that broke the camel's back was how poorly Chase's 'friends' treated her, despite her mental illness. To give a clear picture, (view spoiler)

In summary, instead of trying to understand her behavior, her family and friends make jokes and poke fun at Chase's expense and well-being.

I've mainly enjoyed Bennet's books, but the comedy and characters in this one simply fell short. I appreciate the diverse addition of mental illness, but it wasn't portrayed or handled well. If the characters actually loved Chase, they'd try to understand her mental illness, not call her crazy, make fun of her, or physically bind her to a chair. The fact that the authors, instead of portraying Bipolar Disorder in a positive way, used it as a comedic crutch and victimized Chase makes this book so much more disappointing.

Elizabeth Tanner says

Good light reading and I love the main character.

W. Gregory Kett says

I had a little bit of a rocky start, had trouble keeping the characters straight. A few chapters in and I was thoroughly hooked. Supposed to be sleeping and I kept reading one-more-chapter...
Humorous and quirky. Enough zaniness to keep the humor going without going into ridiculousness. Well Done!

Lexxi Kitty says

My first book by Saxon Bennett and . . .um . . . hmms. All editions that have covers have Saxon Bennett on the cover. And only Saxon Bennett. Yet the book page says Saxon Bennett and Laycee Gardner. I'm not sure if this is a co written book or a solo work. Whichever it is/was, let's move on to the book.

I've been adding and removing Bennett books to my possibilities pile for a longish while now. I kept adding because they both looked interesting and were part of the Kindle Unlimited program. I kept removing them because they were humor books. Books that out and out say they are hugely funny tend to go two directions. Be entirely about the humor, or have other things. And if the humor is flat; and or just not my type of humor, I'm stuck with nothing – if it's one of those that rests entirely on humor. So, yeah, I was reluctant to try a Bennett & Gardner book. And now I don't even know if I did. Since the cover only has one of their names.

The book opens with Chase Bennett in her writer's room moodily editing. She's been estranged from her long time girlfriend/partner for several miserable days. Well, they are both lesbians in a long term relationship, and they both had just learned that Gitana is pregnant. One of those things that seems unlikely to happen by accident when the people involved in a relationship are both lesbians (or both gay men, but that'd be an even weirder book).

Fairly quickly everyone learns that there actually had been an accident. Gitana went in to the doctor's office to have one thing done at the same time someone with the same last name went in to be artificially inseminated. So, it was all a mix-up. They decide to keep the kid.

This means that Chase, here-to-for a grouchy, hermit-like person with borderline insane issues, and deep hatred of other humans, has to, as the book description puts it, grow up.

Oddly enough two things occurred while I was reading this humor book – I found the humor to actually be humorous, and I found a rather compelling, riveting, good story. Now I don't know if I'd have still liked it if the humor part had hit me wrong, and/or didn't work for me, but the strong story line that doesn't rest on humor indicates that I just might have.

Re: riveting – This is one of those books that I found hard to stop reading. I just kept reading and reading and . . . book done. I purposely started a book by a different author this morning so that I'd not be distracted by knowledge of the second book in this series before I had had a chance to write a review. I even read 25% of that book. This seems like an odd thing to be mentioning in a paragraph about 'riveting' books. No, that's coming up – the book I'd read 25% of just wasn't doing it for me, so I switched to the second book in the Chase series to glance at over lunch. And I just couldn't stop reading. And am now 19% through that one in a really short batch of time.

So, humor that is actually fun, a good solid story – an interesting intriguing story, good solid supporting cast of characters and actual genuine character growth. Plus, the main character being a writer, and the writer's group was quite fun to read about.

So, I had fun, I liked the book, and apparently it won some award I'd never heard of before. The "Golden Crown Literary Award for Dramatic/General Fiction (2010)". Hmm. That sounds like an award for a television program. Drama. Or a play. Or an acting performance. I'm not sure how that corresponds to this specific book. I don't recall drama, or melodrama. Confusing. Weird. Three books win each year for the same category? Along with 'Family Affair', 'Detours' by Jane Vollbrecht, and 'Gemini' by Geonn Cannon also won this award in 2010.

I just spent way too much time trying to figure out this 'Golden Crown Literary Award for Dramatic/General Fiction' – it's the catch-all category for fiction that doesn't fall into any other category. It's not erotica/historical fiction/mystery/thriller/romance/etc. And there were three winners because at least . . . um . . . ah, 8 or more books were nominated. If there had been less, say 5-7, 2 winners, 2-4 books, 1 award.

I'd originally awarded . . . bah, I got too distracted with awards. I originally rated this book 4 stars last night immediately after finishing the book. Thinking more about the book as time has passed, and I've upped the rating to 5 stars. Why? The only negative I can think of associated with the book is the confusion over whether this is a solo or two author work. This isn't really a negative one way or another. Therefore I can't think of any negatives, only positives. And it was a good solid humorous book that brought me much joy. So, 5 stars.

Erin says

I totally read this series out of order but I still truly enjoyed Chase Banner's story in each and every installment. In Family Affair, Saxon Bennett displays her talent at having characters wiggle their way into the hearts of the readers. Chase's ability to logically, though crazy logic, explain and justify herself and her actions carry the story as Chase prepares to become a parent. Of course those actions are over the top and crazy funny but that is where Bennett's talent for comedy is highlighted. I definitely recommend Family Affair and all the Chase Banner stories.

Linda says

loved it, and read the second in the series immediately following...

Margaret L. Hedman says

Great!

Thanks for writing a funny entertaining book. Thank you for introducing me to Chase, Gitana, Lacey, and Bud. Thoroughly enjoyed this book. On to the next.

Laura C says

I read the first 50 pages but found it too boring to continue.

Bobbi says

I love the dialogue in this book. My face hurt after finishing this from having a goofy grin on my face all the time. I love the author's sense of humor and Chase's dysfunctional quirkiness along with all the other unique characters is fun to read, though I think Addison really steals the show.

Ginger Smith says

I really liked the story and the main character of Chase Banter. She reminded me of an author friend. I was kind of annoyed by the lack of editing though and I thought it skipped a lot of parts that might have been fun and interesting to read.

Death says

LOVED IT . imma read read this series till it is seeped into my bones and nerves. :D

Simply Melz says

Absolutely love this book. Saxon Bennett is an amazingly talented author, and every book I have read of her's I have loved hands down! This is the first in a 3 part series, and I devoured all three in the manner of days. Saxon's ability to develop quirky and fun to read character's make all of her books a pleasure to consume!
