



Pinnacle Lust

Michelle Dim-St. Pierre

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In a Tel-Aviv hospital during Operation Desert Storm, Sharon Lapidot, a beautiful young nurse, is having an affair with a married doctor. Sharon's colorful and exciting life is ultimately destroyed by powerful and eroding mistakes. But her courage and wisdom lead her to an unregretful commitment. Vividly told, this compelling journey of love and lust, honor and betrayal, loss and redemption, will move you — and perhaps even change you.

Pinnacle Lust Details

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From Reader Review Pinnacle Lust for online ebook

Katie says

Pinnacle Lust by Michelle Dim-St. Pierre is a story of love, romance, conflict, and finding oneself. In this book the readers lost themselves, as our narrator seemed to do the same. We watched her struggle at understanding who she is with and without the men in her life.

This book is gritty and sensual. It's real. Everything that plays out before us in this novel seems so real-to-life, so painful, so exciting, and so true. It's not your happily ever after romance tale. It reads like a memoir; very gripping.

I was engaged with this story from the start. The writer has a wonderful and strong voice, and she hooked me into the world of Sharon; a nurse in Israel in the early 90's falling head over heels for a married man.

The setting was eye opening, the characters were well developed, the pace flowed organically, and the dialogue was pristine and fun and witty. I was captivated the entire time. This is a very raw story. Nothing is hidden from the reader and I think that is one of the best things Michelle Dim-St. Pierre does with this book. She doesn't hide the thoughts, feelings, and desperations of a woman in love with a man she shouldn't be. I also loved how well the narrator's friends and job were wrapped into this story. Because that is real life - the little bits and pieces of life affect all aspects of our world. Her affair affected work and friends, and vice versa.

There were a few things about the book that left me slightly unfulfilled; the ending, the main character's independence, and the introduction of the daughter in the beginning of the book.

This story didn't actually end. No one received closure, in my opinion. I think the author did this on purpose, because such is in real life. But when I read fiction I want closure. I was disappointed I didn't receive it.

Our main character is supposed to be a strong and independent woman who can handle her own, and yet...she can't. She struggles to live in a world without a man; specifically, without one man. Sharon, the main character is in love and having an affair with a married man for most of this story. We know she is smart; smarter than she acts for many years of her life, and that frustrates me. Sharon knows how this will end, no matter how much hope she has for her future, but she can never leave without him. She struggles to make the first - and ultimately only - move in life. She lets others make the life moves for her. She is a pawn. Why? To show the control love has over a life? To show how weak we are when our heart is involved? When lust is involved?

The final piece of this novel that I wish had been more developed is the beginning and ending. Pinnacle Lust begins in Leigh, an 18 year old girl's, perspective. She is Sharon's daughter. Leigh receives a note from her mother with years of journaling/letters and learns the story that came before she was born, and about the man who is truly her father. This is how Sharon's story is introduced and then we dive into Sharon's story. But then we don't see Leigh again until the very end of the book. And she doesn't receive closure either. The reason I'm not sure about this choice is because if a character is introduced in that way (starting a story), then the story of her mother (which is actually the focus of the book) needs to also change the first character, Leigh. Both are the protagonists and both need to grow and change. The daughter needs to change from start to finish because this story changes her life, and the mother needs to change because her life changes and she needs to change with it. We need to see character growth. But we don't get that with the daughter and that

bugs me because it makes the choice to insert her into the novel feel superficial and undeveloped. What about her story? What about her life after this knowledge? Why introduce her to the reader and flip her world upside down to not actually show the reader her growth and ending? If there plans to be another book in the series, I guess I could see this work. But I don't think there is, and even though as I mentioned before I know real life is this way -without closure- I don't usually want my fiction to read that way.

However, those are my only caveats. I thought this was a gripping and well-written tale of love, lust, and the decisions we make when those two things are involved.

I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well-written story of love and the struggles in reality. Keep in mind this is a story of an affair, from the perspective of "the other woman". I liked reading that side of the story because it was eye-opening and engaging. It makes you wonder how you'd handle certain choices if your soul mate was already taken.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Grady says

'I never thought that my lie could be your truth.'

Israeli born author Michelle Dim-St. Pierre lived and worked in Tel-Aviv, spending more than half her life there before relocating to the United States. PINNACLE LUST is her debut novel and because of the themes conveyed in this fascinating book it is important to know the experiences she brings to the writing of this story. After graduating from nursing school with a BS in Nursing in Tel-Aviv, Michelle lived through four wars and served in the Israel Defense Forces for two years. Unlike her first year of service in an armored division in the Golan Heights, she spent her second year serving in the medical corps where she interacted directly with the injured soldiers of the Peace of Galilee war and their families. This first hand experience with war and with hospitals and their doctors and nurses provide the seeds that grew into the writing of her novel. After graduating from nursing school she practiced internationally for 32 years in various positions in the surgical field and advanced into health care administration. During her career she worked in the Operating Room, Recovery Room, and CCU - each of these arenas provided technical as well as emotional information she is now sharing not only in this, her debut novel, but also in what promises to be a Trilogy.

Michelle's novel very subtly begins at the end - and it is only after reading the novel that the description of paramedics tending to a critically ill person that we know the stimulus that launches this story. Leigh Stone at age 18 receives a note and a box from her mother who feels compelled to share a few years' worth of diary-like notes she wrote about Leigh's conception and a secret that has been withheld. From this point on the book is the story of Sharon Lapidot: 'It revealed how back in November 1990, on a cold Friday night, on her way to work at a local religious Jewish hospital, she had no reason to think that her life was about to turn upside down.' We learn from Sharon that 'I was born a kosher and a graceful Jewish girl in Israel. Still, I was not one of them. I belonged to the other Jews--the secular ones. I had no interest in a religious life and sidestepped the radical Jews--especially those who wrapped themselves with a black capote and put on a Shtreimel, that beaver hat worn by a married Hasidic man.' Sharon was the house nursing supervisor at Kol Israel Achim, discontent with her steady high security clearance military boyfriend Joel who not only failed to treat her as an equal but also failed to satisfy her sexual needs. Sharon meets a new doctor to the hospital, Dr. Sloan, a six-foot tall well built hunk and chemistry is ignited. This is all takes place during Operation

Desert Storm and Israel is bombarded with scud missiles. These are the facts revealed in a mother's writings for her daughter.

How Leigh comes to deal with this newly discovered secret is the surprising ending of the book.

Michelle Dim-St. Pierre successfully weaves together the spectrum of life in Israel, the conflict and challenges between secular Jews and Hasidic Jews, the influence of wars on a country and relationships. She creates a medical atmosphere that is palpable, a love story that is erotically related, and a main character with great innate human strength of spirit. She brings to life three-dimensional characters who span the spectrum of personal differences and somehow makes every character additive to the plot. A fascinating, sensual read!

Hillary says

I am going to start this review by saying that I won this book through a goodreads giveaway from the author.

I had not heard of this book before I saw it on the giveaways page, and although it did have many good reviews and an interesting summary, I was surprised to see how thick of a book it was. More than 350 pages. I thought it was going to be a very long read, however, when I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. I flew through the pages and finished this book in no time at all. When I got to the end, I wanted to keep reading what would have happened next and I was sad that the story was already over.

It is a very well written novel, with such a different storyline than you would not expect. I am not going to give any spoilers because you should really read the book to find out just how good it really is, but I will say that the scenes are so captivating, I found myself re-reading over some parts because I was really able to imagine what the character was going through and the surrounding that she must be in and what was going on around her.

It is a very well written, sensual, captivating, interesting read. There are not enough good things I could say about this book. You really need to read it for yourself to find out. I heard that it is the first in a trilogy.. I cannot wait for the sequel to come out because this is one story that I definitely want to keep following.

Marjorie says

Given To Me For An Honest Review

Pinnacle Lust by Michelle Dim-St. Pierre is a must read! Once you open the book it will grab you, hold you down tightly, and then you'll watch those pages turn and turn and turn some more until you get to the last page. This is the debut novel and the first of a trilogy. I can't wait for the second book. The story is very intense, emotionally charged, complexed and gripping. It tells the story of the heartbreak of forbidden love between star-crossed lovers. This is the story of love, romance, conflict and finding oneself. It is beautifully written and as you read it, it will make you feel as though you are part of the story. I gave it 5 stars but it needs many more. I highly recommend this book for everyone, especially if you enjoy reading suspense and mystery. I look for more from Michelle Dim-St. Pierre. Sequel Waiting ..

Kathleen Kelly says

Pinnacle Lust This story starts out with a young woman, Leigh Stone, who upon her 18th birthday receives a package and letter from her mother. Inside the package is a box containing her mother's journal and the letter explaining the gift.

"Dear Leigh,

Best Wishes on your eighteenth birthday. It is time for me to unveil the lie I live, and for you to face the truth. I wrapped up long pages from my life for you.

Love, Mom"..Chapter one of Pinnacle Lust

This story is not about Leigh but about her mother, Sharon Lapidot, who worked as a nurse in the labor and delivery department at a hospital, in the Hassidic are in a Jewish community in Israel in the 1990's.

While at work one day she meets a doctor, Dr.Sloan, and there is an immediate attraction between the two. Even though Sharon currently has a boyfriend who she is very disillusioned with and does not love, so she is ripe for an infatuation. The only problem is is that Dr.Sloan is a married man.

Through the journals the reader becomes more familiar with Sharon as she describes life as a girl born Jewish but who really doesn't follow the Jewish laws. We learn the customs of a woman that is not married and how they are expected to marry and never be alone anywhere with a man not her husband. So just the fact that Sharon is carrying on an affair with a married man, she is breaking many of the rules. She does not care though as her love or lust for Dr.Sloan overwhelms her and her daily life. They meet in secret at first but then their affair becomes known and found out by the wife, also named Sharon. That is when things begin to unravel for Sharon.

I am not sure how I feel about Sharon, she appeared to be very needy and dependent on Dr.Sloan and her friends, not able to really make her own decisions. Should she have continued on with the affair even when she knew that the man she loved and lusted over would never leave his wife and family? I could say of course she should have, but when the heart is involved, who can say what is right or wrong. Now Dr.Sloan, I didn't care for, mainly because he had the best of both worlds. A wife and family and a mistress, the affair went on for over three years but ultimately Sharon Lapidot, paid the price while he continued on with his life.

This story is an emotional, lusty tale of a woman duped by a man. I had been offered this book for review a few years ago and could not get into it and when I was offered again, I figured I would give it another go. I am glad I did, even though the story was about a very typical woman in love with a married man story, the way that the author wrote it had me continuing on. I really have to say that I enjoyed it.

Susan Keefe says

Secrets unfold when a mother reveals all to her daughter.

What would a girl expect to be given from her mother on her 18th birthday? A locket, or similar as a keepsake perhaps? Leigh Stone does receive something memorable on her 18th, but not quite what one would expect. Her mother Sharon decides that this is the right age for her daughter to discover secrets she has kept about her past, through necessity, until now. So bravely (or foolishly, I wonder) Sharon decides to give Leigh her own journal, which reveals the truth about her younger life.

The story begins with Leigh's stunned acceptance of her mother's unusual gift, and as she reads it the story unfolds through Sharon's own words.

The journal begins in November 1990, when the young Sharon, a kosher Jew, living a secular life, is the nurse house supervisor at the Kol Israel Achim Jewish Hospital. It is there that one day she is introduced to a new physician at the hospital Dr. Sloan, and it is love at first sight.

Despite being in a relationship, with a very eligible man, the sight of the six foot, well built and 'gorgeous' Dr. Sloan literally takes her breath away. As their eyes meet she dares to imagine that he feels the same.

Sounds like a fairy-tale, a match made in heaven. Well it would be, if it wasn't for the fact that Sloan is in fact a married man with a son. However, their joint attraction is so strong that neither can resist the temptation, and they embark on a passionate, and very intense love affair.

Leigh soon discovers in the pages that her mother's young life at this time was very traumatic. She reads of Sharon's decision to finish the relationship with boyfriend Joel, her establishment of lifelong female friendships, brief sexual encounters, and tragic loss of life. Also, she gets a glimpse of what it was like to live through the terrors of the bombing of Israel by the Iraqis during Operation Desert Storm.

As adults with a few years of life behind them, many people, myself included, can relate to the core emotions of this story, from one side or the other, wife, mistress, husband, lover, either through their experiences, or those of friends. However the reader has to remember that Leigh is only 18 and her reactions to her mother's life as they unfold are typical of someone that young.

Along with the excitement of the affair, Sharon and Sloan also have to deal with the real life issues of being together, both at work and at home. The celebratory days when the married lover is with his 'family', the snatched moments, these and so much more are situations which the lovers have to come to terms with. Very clearly the loneliness of Sharon, (the mistress') life is exposed, laid bare, emotions raw.

With her body clock ticking away, like thousands of women before her, Sharon decides she wants a baby. However, how will this affect their future? Will Sloan really leave his wife for the woman he professes to love? If he does, what will the spurned wife do, and how will she react when she discovers about the affair? So many questions run through Leigh, and the readers mind in this exciting story.

As the story concludes, Leigh's life is turned upside down by the revelations the journal contains, and she realises she doesn't know her mother at all!

Having grown up in Tel-Aviv the author, Michelle Dim-St. Pierre cleverly uses her working background to weave mystery, intrigue and many twists and turns into this her spellbinding first novel.

Mike Ball says

In many ways *Pinnacle Lust*, a first novel written by Michelle Dim-St. Pierre, is a classic, steamy romance. You have the impossibly-handsome married doctor with six-pack abs and a killer smile. You have the smart and beautiful nurse, pursued by many men, who loses her heart to him. You have lots of hot, super-erotic sexual encounters. You have the ultimate heartbreak of a forbidden love between star-crossed lovers.

You even have the teenage daughter coming to grips with the fact that she is the precious fruit of this passionate-but-doomed love (no spoiler here - this is obvious by the third page). And all of it is very well executed.

What really sets this book apart from others in this otherwise fairly predictable genre is the fact that it is set in Israel during Operation Desert Storm, and was written by an Israeli native who was a nurse with a career very much like that of the main character.

This means that you get a powerful firsthand look at what everyday life was like in Israel when most Americans were watching Shock and Awe on the 24-hour news channels. You experience what working life is like in the Israeli medical system, right down to the super-strict religious regulations in a Hasidic hospital (it is a sin and therefore illegal to be alone in a room, or even an elevator, with someone of the opposite sex for more time than it takes to boil an egg).

You get a taste of what it is like to live in a country where everyone performs military service in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), and where a SCUD missile occasionally takes out the building next door to where you work.

Romance is not my go-to genre, but I found that I really enjoyed this book. *Pinnacle Lust* more than lives up to its sexy title, with the added huge benefit that its story is written across the canvas of a culture that will be both strangely familiar and utterly foreign to most American readers.

- mike ball

Emory Daniels says

A Story of How Lust Effects the Human Spirit

Most of us have at least a vague notion that there are complications that will be endured by anyone involved in an extra-marital affair.

“Pinnacle Lust” by Michelle Dim-St. Pierre details in specific terms most of those complications and how they can impact the next generation. The main character in Dim-St. Pierre’s striking novel, Leigh, discovers in her mother’s journal the secret life of a beautiful young nurse who lusts after a married doctor, both of whom give in to temptation – often and passionately.

As Leigh reads of her mother’s affair, she also learns about love and hate, lust and anger, as well as the power of love and the resilience of the human spirit. While reading the story of this intense love affair I also

learned a great deal about the culture of Israel and how the Jewish religion influences the nation and all of its people.

The author loads the story with several surprises and twists so that just when you think you know what's coming next the plot turns elsewhere. I reached the point where I could not put the book down until finishing and was fascinated by the ending. A transforming story of romance, lust, love, intrigue and interpersonal puzzles awaiting answers – some of which never come.

“Pinnacle Lust” is well worth reading and I highly recommend you do so.

Matt Talford says

The Pinnacle Lust by Michelle Dim-St. Pierre was a very engaging story. I normally prefer non-fiction books to fiction, but had the opportunity to meet the author at a book festival and was very impressed with her and (as simple as it may sound) the cover design of her book. The story grabs your attention immediately and holds you captive right through to the end. I'm honestly not a guy who will buy romance novels, so unfortunately, I do not have another novel like this to use as a point of reference. That being said though, knowing enough about "50 Shades" (how could you not with it being in the movies and advertised worldwide?), I would have to say that if "Pinnacle Lust" were to ever become a movie, it would probably be a lot more interesting.

At any rate, Pinnacle Lust is definitely worth the read.

Marty Foss says

Sexy story poorly written

2 stars for the quality of writing. Read this for book club. Some steamy sex scenes. A very light read, and a page-turner, but an abrupt poorly fashioned ending clearly indicates the author plans a sequel.

John J. says

Sex, Lies, Betrayal And One Woman's Unyielding Faith In Life And Love

“Pinnacle Lust,” the emotionally charged, complex and gripping debut novel by Michelle Dim-St. Pierre, is an emotionally intimate, sensual, and moving novel, about the very nature of human emotion and free will. It's an unyielding woman's confession to her daughter of love, lies and betrayal; a masterfully rendered story within a story that leaves the reader stunned, and still hungry for more. Filled with intimate, sensual and sometimes comical stories of love, lies, deceit and betrayal, “Pinnacle Lust,” charts one woman's discovery of the depth of her own heart and the inherent danger we face each day in deciding whether or not to trust each other with our hearts and souls. Michelle Dim St-Pierre's triumphant, daring debut heralds an ambitious talent and welcomes a new voice to contemporary fiction.

From the opening paragraphs of “Pinnacle Lust,” one feels the gravity of what is to come, as well as a

colorful, emotional palate of the author's wide, brilliant canvas. Paramedics in Israel race to save a life, the victim of some horrible trauma. "The gates of Heaven appeared to Leigh in a dramatic picture. It was a mixture of Heaven and Hell. Unique colors of the sunset dipped into the horizon—reds, blacks, golds and pinks, changing their shades rapidly." Against this backdrop, Leigh drifts into a memory of the shocking discovery of long-held secrets and lies. On the day she turned 18, her mother finally told the truth behind so many lies, in the form of an "elegantly" handwritten journal; an intricately woven and deeply detailed explanation of her past. As Leigh reflects on reading the journal, we, too, are transported into the past and the life of Sharon Lapidot, the details of which begin to peel away like the skin of an onion, tears and all.

Sharon writes that she was a "kosher and graceful Jewish girl in Israel," working as the House Nursing Supervisor at a brand new hospital, set in a Hassidic area in Israel around the start of the first Gulf War. Sharon admits she did not practice the traditions of more "radical" members of her faith and neighborhood, and because of this she often felt like an "outsider." Even worse, she's unhappily trapped in an unfulfilling, sexually unsatisfying relationship with a career officer in the "top secret" IDF, Israel Defense Force.

Longing for real love and passion in her life, it's not surprising when she's instantly attracted to a new face at the hospital, the tall, dark, handsome and flirtatious Dr. Sloan, who also happens to be married with children. Still, the heart wants what the heart wants and it's not long before Sharon and Dr. Sloan begin a steamy, albeit adulterous affair, which lasts three years. At first, Sharon's new paramour seems ambivalent about his lackluster marriage, but it isn't long before he is staying with Sharon and expressing his undying love for her. Neither is able to resist the temptations of the flesh and her journal entries are filled with detailed accounts of red-hot lovemaking. At one point, a half-naked Sloan says to Sharon:

"We're not going to talk. I have to love you here and now," he said and let his body rub against mine. "I don't want any clever conversation. I really don't care why and when. All I want is you." The choice was mine. I could refuse him or give in. But I couldn't resist him."

And that's just a small PG-rated sample of the love and lust that Sharon and Sloan shared and is recounted in the journal. It may seem slightly salacious, but the sex scenes are vital to the plot in showing the depth of affection at this particular stage. Something like: 50 Shades of Sloan.

Sharon repeatedly describes in this journal presented to her daughter, this daring mother's wild and ecstatic romance with Dr. Sloan as a "fairy tale." But like all fairy tales, it also includes several monsters and daunting challenges that eventually lead to the novel's exciting and shocking climax.

In the final chapter, Dim-St. Pierre takes us back to where we began (and beyond), and, ultimately, we are left with more questions than answers about the very essence of this love affair. The author brings us full circle, back to the journal, with Sharon eloquently writing to Leigh:

Life is a chain of endless, different loves. One love cannot resemble another. They each uniquely serve you in some way...I have no doubt that you are the result of a supreme, impossible love. You are the testimony of your father's statement that our love would never die.

Michelle Dim-St. Pierre's debut is a masterpiece both because the detailed and intimate details that make us feel one with Sharon and her brave decisions, and because "Pinnacle Lust" has the audacity to speak of the absolute necessity of love and courage in our increasingly complex, dangerous world; a world still craving love.

"Pinnacle Lust" is truly transcendent and highly recommended.

Susan says

A quick and enjoyable read but a very disappointing end.

Louise Wardell says

I won this book on Goodreads. Pinnacle Lust is challenges your morals. It is very thought provoking as to what would you do if you were in Sharon's situation.

Sharon gives her journal she wrote while in Tel-Aviv during Desert Storm to Leigh, her daughter, for Leigh's 18th birthday.

Diane says

Pinnacle Lust is an unexpected story that tells of a 'kosher good girl' born in Israel who happens to be a secular Jew with no religious interests or desires to be radical. One might expect from the novel's title and cover art that this is to be a story of sexual discovery; but it also is a story of a daughter discovering her mother's deepest secret, which began before Leigh was born and is steeped in stories of relationships that break boundaries, religious roots, and heritage alike.

Yes, readers can expect a lusty story; but that doesn't mean it's packed with steamy sex scenes: it also comes filled with cultural observation, psychological revelations, and accounts of military training discussing the finer lines between bravery and stupidity.

Will her mother's lies repeat in her daughter's life? Will erotic choice translate to the ability to overcome adversity and betrayal to reach new pinnacles of achievement? Be forewarned: there are affairs between professionals, discussions of the positive and negative forces of love, Israeli culture and Jewish religion, and everyday life in an Israeli young woman's world: multifaceted matters that weave a satisfyingly complex yarn of passion, redemption, and exploration against the backdrop of a nation at war.

Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

Pinnacle Lust is an amalgamation of action, romance, eroticism, drama and suspense. It has a strong plot and a very vivid description of how life is in Tel Aviv. A mind opener, actually, and all those spine-tingling & poignant scenes had me turning the pages until the end. When she had come of age, Leigh learned about her mother's lies and secrets through a journal of sorts. Such a discovery it was. Her mother, Sharon was actually a strong character, but she also had her share of weaknesses – mostly that of being unable to live in a world without men. In this case, Dr. Sloan was that man. Her struggles were significant in a world where she couldn't find contentment in the arms of her husband, hence the betrayal and deceptions that lasted for a

number of years.

The grueling scenes, plus the breathtaking descriptions by author Michelle Dim St-Pierre was astounding and a real eye opener. And don't let me start with the erotic scenes; oh my, my mind was seriously blown away into bits I had to chastise myself. The author was magnificent. I also liked how she have covered almost all of the basics we need to know about Israel and its traditions, cultures and beliefs. Plus the medical practices and terminologies were brilliantly depicted in a way that the reader could understand without having to scratch one's head. The twist in the latter part of the book was intense. All in all, I'd say, this had been really an engrossing and captivating read!
