



You Shouldn't Call Me Mommy

Susan Tsui

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Orphaned by his parents and his artificial mother, and abandoned by his older brother at a young age, Jay spends most of his adulthood serving as a government therapist to those like him. He considers his own happiness proof of success in his career and life. Little does he know that his picture perfect world, occupied by his wife, Sasha, and their two children, is not as idyllic as it seems.

When Jay's older brother, Ian, returns Jay finds himself torn between the happy bubble he resides in and helping his troubled brother keep his own children out of the hands of the very institution Jay serves. Can Jay save Ian while holding onto the loving memories of his artificial mother and all that he believes in? More importantly, does he even want to?

You Shouldn't Call Me Mommy is a story about the difficult journey of self-discovery, one that explores the power of truth over illusion and the meaning of a mother's love.

You Shouldn't Call Me Mommy Details

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Author : Susan Tsui

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From Reader Review You Shouldn't Call Me Mommy for online ebook

♥Marie Gentilcore says

I enjoyed this book very much. The writing had such an easy flow and it hit a lot of emotions having to do with caring for our children and elderly. It is set in a time in the future where humaniforms also known as Nanny-bots are babysitters, caregivers for the elderly and disabled as well as surrogate parents. Jay, the main character's parents died when he was 6 and he grows emotionally attached to his nanny-bot Emmie. The story starts in his adulthood where his older brother Ian comes back into his life causing Jay to deal with the issues of his upbringing. It was told very well and I enjoyed the characters and the story.

Aryan Verma says

this a good book , I Read a online.....

Great Book.

Thanks

Aryan Verma
writer

Laurin says

This book is not something that I would normally read. Most of my time is spent reading whodunits. When I read this, I was reminded of 1984, Jay had a bit of Winston in him, especially because of his naivete. The guardians and humaniforms also reminded me of Big Brother and the telescreens. It took me a while to finally come around and really read this book. I was surprised that I enjoyed it, but I also found myself overwhelmed at some points. There was a lot going on, a lot of sub plots. This is by no means a mindless read, it took a bit of coordination (for lack of a better word) to try to remember everything that was going on between all the different characters. At points, I was confused by some things. You get thrown into a futuristic world, no explanation of when or the technological advances. Also, I'm ignorant to many chinese cultures. Overall, I liked this book. I'm just not sure that it's something that would leave me craving more, or make me want to reread.

Celia Vogel says

You Shouldn't Call Me Mommy is the story about a futuristic world where robots act as caretakers. Jay lost his parents at a young age and was raised by a humanoid. The love he felt for his robot mother was real. When his older brother comes back into his life, Jay is forced to re-evaluate his values. The story raises some very complex questions about the family unit, love and sacrifice.

Kim Gugino says

Meh.

BestChickLit.com says

If you are looking for something with family values at the forefront, but a little different to the usual then this is ideal. Jay is a devoted father, husband and therapist with a firm belief that the android carers supplied by the government and 'Guardians' have just as much humanity as the people that control them. Although he initially raises a disbelieving eyebrow at the conspiracy theories his friends and family believe in, he soon comes to realise that they aren't far from the truth. This is an interesting twist on the big-brother theme, while keeping family and moral values at the forefront.

At times I did feel like the pace could be picked up a little, but overall this is a great read that makes you appreciate the simplicity of the world we know, in comparison to the complexities of Tsui's world. At no point did I think this is clearly written by a female, as she really gets into the mind of Jay, portraying his viewpoint clearly. The ending was very lenient on him and I was expecting more serious repercussions, but ultimately that only works to make you question the purpose of the Guardians even further. This is ideal for those readers wanting a fantasy world that doesn't stray too far from our own.

Review by Elizabeth Wright on behalf of BestChickLit.com

Lindsay says

3.5 stars

The whole while I was reading, I kept thinking to myself, "Wow! This is a HUGE endeavor for an author to undertake!" There are a lot of really complex issues being toyed with, and I really appreciated that the author studiously avoided telling me what to think or feel. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions running through my head. Is artificial intelligence a viable possibility for the future, and is it something we really want to succeed in? What constitutes a family unit, and how does it affect the way we love? How far can grief follow you through life? How much political power, and inside information should one group of people have?

This story is almost purely psychological. It was also intensely personal. There were moments when I felt that I was invading someone's private life. So intrusive, but also so enlightening!

The characters were believable in their faults, and it was easy to root for them to make the right choices. But which choice is the right one?

Van says

This was an imaginative and thought provoking novel. It is an excellent debut that promises great future things from author.

Lisa Feld says

I love it when authors show all the troubling complexity that ripples out from one change in our society. When robots can serve as caretakers, what's lost and what's gained in terms of human compassion and our sense of responsibility to take real care of the people in our lives? (Especially when those relationships are painful or frustrating...) The worldbuilding here is incredibly rich.

More than that, Susan Tsui's deft touch in scene after scene made me bleed for the characters. I'm a sucker for family stories, where no one knows better how to push your buttons than the people who installed them in the first place, and Susan's writing doesn't disappoint. This is definitely worth reading... and reading again.

Kathy Cunningham says

We live in an increasingly technological age. Everywhere you look, people are glued to their laptops, tablets, iPods, and Smartphones. One can't help wonder whether all this technology is really making things easier for us. We're more connected, yes, but we're also less involved with each other on human levels. We're in constant touch, electronically, but there's a layer of distance between us that sometimes feels immense. Susan Tsui's *YOU SHOULDN'T CALL ME MOMMY* is set in a near-future America where technology has moved into a new phase. Government sponsored robots called "humaniforms" have taken over caregiving roles for most of the population. These humaniforms have silvery metallic "skin" and bald heads, but they seem to possess an uncanny ability to relate sympathetically with those in need, whether they be elderly parents in nursing homes or orphaned children needing someone to raise them. This system not only provides safe and dependable care for adults and children, but it frees up both family members and social service organizations from the duties and responsibilities of tiresome caregiving. Sounds good, right? Maybe . . . but Tsui's take on things is both eye-opening and thought provoking.

YOU SHOULDN'T CALL ME MOMMY is narrated by 32-year-old therapist Ray, who was raised by a humaniform "Mom" after the death of his parents in a car accident when he was six years old. Ray's older brother Ian, who was eighteen at the time of their parents' death, hasn't seen or spoken to Ray in fourteen years. Something happened when Ray turned eighteen that tore the brothers apart. So when Ian shows up out of the blue to ask Ray to testify for him in a custody case involving his two daughters (Ian is determined to prevent the government from assigning a humaniform "parent" to his children), Ray is understandably torn. Ian wants Ray to testify under oath that humaniforms are not valid caregivers, even though Ray is a diehard humaniform believer (he loved his humaniform mom with all his heart).

While Ray's struggle with Ian makes up a great part of the story, there's a lot more going on. Ray's wife Sasha works for an odd church that attracts an eclectic mix of people. Why do they all seem nervous whenever Ray stops by to help with church programs? Why is Ian paranoid about the government-employed Guardians, who act as supervisors for the humaniforms and overseers for therapists like Ray? Why is Sasha's elderly mother resentful of her humaniform caregiver and angry with Ray? And what do the Guardians have in mind for the future of humaniforms . . . and for Ray?

There are some very important issues in this book, and Tsui forces us to face some very uncomfortable truths. As life gets easier and easier because of more and more technological advances, we find ourselves

less and less connected with each other on an intimate, human level. Is it enough to provide safe and dependable care for our aging parents or young children . . . or is something more required of us, as human beings? Anyone who has ever dropped their kids off at a daycare center, or been forced to place an elderly parent in a nursing home, will relate to the issues facing Ray and Ian in this novel. We all want what's easy. But Tsui suggests that real caring may require more of us than we've been willing to give. Maybe being human means more about sacrifice than it does about personal happiness and freedom.

I really enjoyed reading *YOU SHOULDN'T CALL ME MOMMY*. It's beautifully written, and Ray is a complex and identifiable narrator who genuinely changes through the course of the novel. This is rare in literature these days. And it surprised me. My only real complaint (and it's a petty one, I guess) is the novel's title. I just don't think it works for the novel. Actually, the title suggests the book is a comedy, or perhaps a tell-all about someone's relationship with his mother (a la "Mommy Dearest," maybe). But please don't let that stop you from checking this one out. It's a fine read, and it will make you think. Books don't get much better than that!

Sandra says

"You Shouldn't Call Me Mommy" is an intriguing look at a not-too-distant future where the messy parts of life are handled by humaniforms--androids who are assigned to do what people are too busy, too squeamish, or too distanced to do. The Guardians provide androids to deal with loved ones in nursing homes, as babysitters and nurses, or to raise orphaned children. At first they were identifiably metallic, but now they are difficult to tell from real humans.

Tom Chen was assigned a nannybot when his parents died. He grew to love the android as a mother, and was devastated when he reached the age of 18 and his beloved "mom" was recycled. Tom thinks of it as murder.

When his older brother and his wife divorce, Ian asks Tom to help him prove to the Guardians that he doesn't need help to raise his children. Tom begins to question the existence of the androids and their affect on the human families they interact with. Who are the Guardians and how do they decide? Would his life be different if his older brother had raised him instead of Mom?

When Tom finds the answers to his questions, he is surprised.

And so was I.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

The concept of androids/robots replacing humans is nothing new, but I found the story in here unique enough

that it did not feel like some boring rehash of the genre.

Humaniforms have become caregivers in this society, rather than workers or fighters as I would usually see in other stories in this genre. They are used as foster parents for orphaned children, caretakers for the disabled and elderly, and as babysitters for children. This system is supervised by humans called Guardians, who determine if or when people need humaniforms to take care of them, and Guardians can also require people to get therapy, this is a main point of the story as the protagonist's older brother, Ian, hates humaniforms, and was also the one who got rid of Jay's humaniform, who he had a deep emotional attachment to (hence the title of this book)

The problem is deeper than it seems, and as one reads along, one realizes that the system, despite it being designed to help people, has its flaws. This leads to a few surprising twists, one of which includes Jay's own wife, and another one which involves the Guardians. No, I'm not going to say what they are. But this is a good book, and if I can be surprised by a twist, the author has done a good job. Kudos! I'd be interested in seeing more books set in the universe this author has created.

Philena says

I received a signed copy of this book from goodreads first reads.

I really enjoyed this book.

A young man was raised by a robot after the loss of his parents and had to find the humanity within himself in order to help his true family.

The only real issues I had with the book were more like editing problems than writing problems. There were several spelling and grammatical errors that should have been addressed by the editor.

Also, the ending seemed very short and choppy. The character development was great but I feel like the author may have been rushing to meet a deadline toward the end.

The plot twist with the main character's wife was completely unexpected. I wish she had played a larger role in the story itself because she could have had a much greater impact.

Over all it was a well written book with a great message about family and priorities.

R.E. Washington says

I received an advance readers copy of this book and I have to say I love it. Susan Tsui has a subtle writing style that delves into the relationships between people, especially family. Jay and Ian are estrange brothers that must suddenly deal with their past when Ian has to go to his brother for help. Throughout the story, I found myself first deeply routed on Jay's side and then as time when found myself on Ian's side. Tsui really does a great job of taking the reader through the narrow to more broaden views Jay has top open himself up to see.

I especially loved the ending, and how we're never sure exactly what decision Jay is going to make until that last moment. Great book.

Janet says

This book isn't just a 5, but I couldn't do that.

I received this book through a Goodreads Giveaway and feel that it has been an honour to read a book this good and be able to give my opinion about it.

1 - It is unlike my current reading genre. I'm more into cosy mysteries through to hard-core thrillers. Yet, there was enough suspense and questioning within the plot to make one wonder where the author was coming from and how she would develop the characters.

2 - It is set in a future time, and a bit George Orwellian. Don't get me wrong, I like George Orwell, so I enjoyed how the author used futuristic concepts and wove them in to develop the story and the personalities of the characters.

3 - The importance of family and family relationships. Although, the brothers are Chinese-American, they could be any race. Could refer to a brother-sister or sister-sister relationship. A relationship that was seemingly destroyed in the past and slowly working through a number of issues, misunderstandings and time to grow into a functional and happy relationship. This is so common in today's world, and it has been handled brilliantly.

4 - Understanding oneself and how you interact with your family, friends, work colleagues and society. So many issues are covered that are relevant today and to all people.

Yes, this is really a must read and one that I feel I will re-read in a year or so and will deliver many different feelings and responses from. No dates are given, so it makes this book futuristic but not dated.

Many thanks to Susan Tsui for this wonderful book and I will look forward to reading more of her works.
