

Drama Queens
CALL OFF YOUR DOGS
A NOVEL



L.U. ANN

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Gertie knows she doesn't have a picture perfect life, but feels blessed with what she does have. So what if love left her heart shattered and broken? She has a great job at Simple Luxury, an apartment in Houston with her sister, Mabel, and an outspoken, no-filter, church-going Gram back in Eufaula, Oklahoma where she was raised after her parents died.

Things are going well for Gertie until the man who broke her heart shows up in Houston. Tyler knew he had made the biggest mistake of his life the night he lost Gertie, but now he is back to reclaim the woman who owns his heart. It won't be easy though, but he is going to have to make Gertie accept the life he has now and want to be part of it. As the owner of a successful construction company, he is devoted to making Eufaula the place Gertie will want to return and to forgive him for his mistakes.

With Gram being so outspoken in her column Drama Mama in the Eufaula's Daily Indian Journal, she doesn't hold back with her opinions about books and the nonsense drama among authors in the book world. Gram isn't afraid to give her opinion to Mabel and Gertie when it comes to life, either.

Will events out of their control change their future plans for everyone involved?

By the way, the dog on the cover is named Cujo. What is a small town full of secrets and gossip without a dog named Cujo?

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From Reader Review Drama Queens: Call Off Your Dogs for online ebook

Casey says

Thank you to the author and Netgalley for providing a copy for an honest review.

Drama Queens: Call Off Your Dogs was a very cute book equivalent of a chick flick. It has the big five: love, laughter, heartache, friends and family. I loved the characters, they are beyond fun. Cujo (the bulldog), has hilarious isms shared at the beginning of each chapter, and some are 5 star worthy. I was a little irritated by the rapid recovery from the “stay away from me’s” to the “I love you’s” where Tyler and Gertie are concerned. Overall, this was a feel good fun time.

Ajs Book Reviews says

Gertie and Tyler have been in a relationship for years. One night, Ty makes a mistake that has Gert leaving him and running in the other direction.

3 years later and Ty still loves Gert. She loves him but won't give him the time of day, he broke her heart. After strict planning and a few resources, Ty is able to get her to listen. She still loves him and finally gives in. What she doesn't know, is he has a secret he needs her to see.

I love these characters but Cujo is definitely my favorite. Every time I read something about him, I couldn't stop laughing! And Gram, haha, that woman is pushy, persistent and sneaky. But she does it for the ones she loves. Her articles aren't far from the truth either.

This novel is completely different from the other ones LU has written, but it's definitely worth the read!! I laughed and I teared up! This book is very refreshing! Everyone needs to read this, you'll get a kick out of it that's for sure!

5 out of 5 stars.

Yodamom says

1.5

The author is obviously a dog lover. She starts the book with quotes from Cujo, one of the characters furry friend. I wanted to love this book after reading the first pages, I loved the authors thoughts on dogs. Unfortunately, that did not work out so well.

Gert is an Editor int he big city. She is emotionally damaged thanks to a horrible event that happened 3 years earlier. She found the love of her life in bed with another woman. She doesn't date, doesn't fall in love and doesn't come one to visit her much loved Gran.

Tyler the man who did the shameful thing is a broken man. He doesn't even remember doing it. After three years he shows up at her door with a lot of I love you and I'm sorry. He is rejected, he keeps coming back.

He has something to tell her, wait something to show her. He must get her home to show her this thing. What went wrong ? They said I love you, I love you so much, so many times it was like the author needed a word count filler so she threw that in to the point I was sick of it. The story was interrupted with weird breaks of hair blowing, thin tendrils of hair, slight breeze blows wisps of hair or stroking some hair. Then there was this really weird new boss who stepped into the picture who wanted a threesome. That is not the most ridiculous thing. The bosses boyfriend, just happened to be the same guy that was the only guy Gertie had "wanted" for 3 years at this honkie tonk bar a couple nights before ??

Lines like this fill the whole book, Ridiculous lines, broken dialogs, out of nowhere side stories, a total failure for me.

" Wrapping the flying wisps of hair behind my ear, he says, " My heart is burring so f*\$^ing bright with you here, Gert." I smile just before our mouths collide. Passion erupts. Before we know it, we're laying on the blanket, clothes gone....."

I rounded it up to 1.5 stars for her love of dogs

Tbird London says

This author is taking off in a new direction with her career. Her first three books were based on her private life and dealt with some pretty serious issues. With Drama Queens, she is exploring her romantic yet comical side, introducing us to Gertie and Tyler. No, they aren't the comical part, for that role we have Grams, Gertie's grandma and let's just say she is the ultimate example of a church going, no filter, and opinionated woman, known in Oklahoma. Now I know there is a dog on the cover and you are wondering if this story is about it, well to answer your question.....NO but he sure does play a huge part in this story. Cujo belongs to Gertie's friend Rick, the gay flamboyant man who rescues her once in the beginning of the book and just never goes home after that.

Lu Ann shows us how one bad choice can steal years of happiness from you. That same mistake can also bring you a great blessing in life. Tyler knows he is going to have to tell Gertie what happen following that night she walked in on him hung over. What she witness was only the tip of the iceberg that he would have to explain away. He puts the plan in place and goes to Houston to win his Gertie back.

By now Gertie has tried to move on. She has a great job as an editor at a well know establishment, she lives with her sister Mabel in a comfortable apartment. She still misses her parents that died when she was young but finds comfort knowing she has her Grams to go to for support and advice. What more could she want in life? Maybe Tyler, but she isn't willing to risk her heart to him again. It is like someone changed the script for her the day he showed up. What was going well, all of a sudden fell apart. What plans she made for her future didn't seem to materialize any more. Finally she was broken down enough that she had to seriously consider her option of going back to Oklahoma, if not for just a visit, this could be long term.

The rest of the story will expose the secrets that Tyler has been carrying all this time. It will also show you the courage Gertie has when backed in a corner. The author did a wonderful job giving you a story of passion, loyalty and love that can only come from the heart. One point I haven't mentioned is another message that the author is trying to convey in this style of writing. This is where Cujo becomes a major player in this book. Lu Ann uses dogs as an example of how we should treat other people. She has a vast knowledge of dog's behaviors in her own personal life. Cujo not only breaks up the seriousness of the story, she has quotes from him at the beginning of each chapter, spelling out to the reader how things could be so much better in society if we would only learned from animals. I found myself giggling at times when I would read Cujo's quotes and other times I was silent because it came across rather profound. Humans make things

so difficult, we assume too much at times and we lose our way in helping others. If we all paid more attention to how animals relate to life and others we might actually find a solution to many of societies issues.

I would recommend this book to everyone. It is clearly a case of don't judge a book by its cover. If you expect to find a cute story about a dog, you will be wrong. What you will find is well developed characters facing some of life's most difficult challenges and proof that in every situation there is always room for laughter.

Discrete Divas says

This book is one that I would say to people READ! It has everything you could ask for in a story. Love, friendship, hurt and betrayal, forgiveness, laughter and tears. I loved the quotes by Cujo in every chapter... Some had me laughing so much my kids thought I was nuts. Comparing people to dogs was surprisingly hilarious in fact I think I'm converted lol. Gram is one of those older ladies who doesn't care what anyone else thinks, a free spirit with the gumption to back it up. Her columns will make you think as well as chuckle. Trust me nothing and no-one is sacred when she gets hold haha. Gertie is shy and majorly work orientated. Her sister Mabel is definitely more outgoing.

What do you do when your ex comes by out of the blue? You kick his butt right back out the door!

Tyler knows he messed up and would do anything to get Gertie back. And Rick lol oh dear me... Wait till you see his texts and Cujo's thoughts on Rick, I laughed so much!

It's a story to remember with Gram, Mabel and Rick all playing a part in getting Gertie and Tyler back together with some unexpected surprises. Be prepared for a tear or two (I wasn't prepared) so make sure you have the tissues close by. You'll be smiling at the end so don't worry. All in all a great new book :)

Katarina says

Love the cover, the main reason I wanted to read this book. I figured, with a 5 star cover like that, the book had to be amazing.

It wasn't amazing, it was meh.... To me, it seemed to try to hard to be funny and breezy, and by trying too hard, failed.

Catherine says

Three years ago Gertie had her heart broken when she walked into the love of her life's house to surprise him and finds him in bed with someone else. She ran away without waiting for explanations and cut all ties to her home town except those of her family. Now after three years she wakes up to him at her front door asking for forgiveness stating he never stopped loving her.

Three years ago Tyler made the biggest mistake of his life getting so drunk he took someone home with him and waking up to the love of his life finding him that way. After his dad passed away he found that life is too short and determines to win her back. But he is still keeping secrets and when she finds out will it be the thing that makes her leave him for good with no second chance?

This was an amazing book. It made me laugh out loud one minute and cry the next. I loved these characters and I believe you will too.

Reviewed for Renee Entress's blog

Marisa says

I enjoyed this as a quick fun read. Each chapter started out with a quote from Cujo the dog, which were surprisingly insightful at times. I also loved getting to read Gram's columns. She's a no-nonsense tell it like it is kind of woman, but she also seems to enjoy meddling a little TOO much.

I liked Gertie in that she had an interesting job and great healthy relationships with her family. I was disappointed in how easily she was persuaded to give it all up for Tyler and that she didn't fight more for doing what she loves, which seems to be writing. I understand that Tyler and THINGS (avoiding a spoiler) intervene, but I feel like writing is something she could have continued part time, freelance or at least expressed interest in getting back into it later? I also don't know if I would be able to handle the level of meddling she and Mabel seem to manage.

My only complaints are my feminist tendencies coming out, the level of meddling and what seemed like an awful lot of crying. Overall I enjoyed this as a fun fairy tale that still had a dash of realistic events in it.

Please note: I received a free copy of this book in exchange of an honest review courtesy of the author.

Who should read it? Dog fans and fans of love conquering all.

See all my reviews and more at www.ReadingToDistraction.com or @Read2Distract

Renee says

Having read the Destructive series and loved it, I will say this was SO different! This is a story centering around a force named Gram. All the characters were so genuine. I absolutely loved the Drama Queens Drama Mama column LU Ann you created the most likeable and trouble causing mother since Endora. A must read!!

As I previously reviewed the Destructive Series and YES, I am a LU Ann fan, this book was totally different! Gertie is one of the main characters and she is just that a character. She is very focused on her job and always looks for the greater good even when she is sort of dumped on by people. She has some wonderfully dialogue with her sister, whom she lives with. I think their personalities are very similar and they play well off of each other. Gertie would be as loose and free as Mabel if certain events happened at a different time. Right now though, Gertie is just coasting. The author created a character that was going through the motions, not really aware that she was being used at work like a door mat. So the sisters share an apartment, a love of Eufaula, Oklahoma and their Gram, along with her column. Gram writes a weekly column about books and gossip. Gram, for me anyways is amazing. She does and says things that only she can say and get away with.

There are a few secondary characters worth an honorable mention, such as Tyler the one who broke her

heart. He was very enjoyable especially because he realized he messed up and I love a man who grovels. Also, Penny the bubble headed secretary and Jennifer the one who exploits her children's illness. I couldn't help but get a few big belly laughs out of them. The beginning of each chapter belongs to Cujo who says things like "It's like shit, you don't eat it!" and "It's so much work marking where others have rudely peed" I just loved that dog. "Why can't I pee inside? The cat does!"

Now the delightful Rick; he is almost as remarkable as Mabel. I liked Mabel simply because she was real. She had a unique personality and never apologized for being who she was. She worked hard, partied harder and had loose lips. But...nobody expected anything different. I loved her. I liked Rick because he was bold, he made me stop a few times, think, smile and continue to read.

If you want something that is a spicy romantic comedy then PLEASE read this one. Grams and Cujo alone are worth the price of admission!
