



Evelyn, After

Victoria Helen Stone

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Evelyn Tester is sleepwalking through her suburban life—until a late-night phone call startles her awake. Her husband, a prestigious psychiatrist, has been in an accident. And he isn't alone.

Suddenly Evelyn's world isn't as tidy as she thought. And in the midst of it all is Juliette, not only her husband's secret lover but also his patient. If news of the affair were to get out, it would ruin more than just Evelyn's marriage. Although it's a bitter pill for Evelyn to swallow, protecting her family means staying silent—even if, as she begins to discover, the night of the accident has consequences far more dangerous than the unmasking of an affair.

But the more Evelyn learns about Juliette's picture-perfect life—complete with a handsome, unsuspecting husband—the more she yearns for revenge...and satisfaction. Her growing obsession fuels her rage, burning away her complacency. What will be left of her after it flames out?

Evelyn, After Details

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Author : Victoria Helen Stone

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From Reader Review Evelyn, After for online ebook

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

Brilliantly written, enthralling fiction!

I found this book whilst browsing Amazon and had not heard of this author before. I absolutely loved this book from start to finish and it's taken position in my short list for my Top 17 Reads of 2017.

The plot is intriguing and wonderfully delivered. A wife discovers a secret, a secret that influences everything she does going forward. I loved being right inside Evelyn's head and life. What would I do? The pace is solid and fluid and I loved each page. I wanted to know what was coming next.

Its very character driven and they are done so well. If you like imperfect, flawed people this will win you over. With the story moving fluently from before and after it keeps you eager for more.

Others who enjoy a realistic novel with some twisty twists will enjoy this a lot. I was excited as we built to the end outcomes and found the book both empowering and very entertaining! Honestly, there was nothing I did not like. This one pulled me out of a big reading slump.

I'm going to read the authors other published novel and I'm a new fan. This is a psychological novel with plenty of good reasons to turn the pages. Highly recommended and five stars from me. I'd love to hear your comments on this book if you read it too.

Update 11/11/17. I've devoured this authors novel Half Past and also loved it so check out my review!

Laura says

When a book is marketed as suspense, mystery or psychological thriller there are certain expectations. You expect your heart to race a little at the tension, don't you? In fact, this book borders heavily on the romantic literature side; perhaps the furrow into infidelity are what the author hoped would bring the intensity.

The storyline is just okay. I wasn't shocked by any parts of it, although I did warm to Evelyn who despite the watered down plot, is a fairly engaging character. The writing paints a good picture of its settings although there are at least two characters I felt were under used and under developed.

I felt the ending to be almost slapdash, which was a bit disappointing. Everyone loves a happy ending, but when you are reading a "thriller" is that always a necessity? As a reader, I like to be left a little slack jawed sometimes. This book finished too neat and tidy for my liking.

The author shows promise in her work but I felt let down by the bold promises made in the synopsis. The episode with the young girl is merely a backlight in the overall story.

I wish there were a better word for this book other than 'okay' but that's exactly what it was.

Katr?na Biele says

To be honest, the more the story revealed itself, the more I disliked it. I was hooked by the book description (and got it for free from Kindle First), however it wasn't played out nearly as good as it could have been. The structure of the chapters was highly annoying, as the reader is forced to read one chapter of past events, then another from the most recent ones, mainly getting the feeling that the story is disturbed by unrelevancy. This is not the kind of book that's a good fit for mixed time frames.

The main character Evelyn was presented as a generally weak person. Her behaviour didn't earn any respect for her as an intelligent woman, and I didn't gain anything from her trivial, predictable and quite cowardly adventures. It's obvious why nobody wanted to be with her.

Unfortunately, the ending of this book didn't bring any closure either. It's oh so classic, I can't help but wonder why it was even written down.

The Just-About-Cocky Ms M says

Psychological suspense is often difficult to carry off well. Sometimes an author dwells far too much on the inner twists and turns in a character's head, leaving little of this character for us to identify and perhaps and empathize with. Sometimes an author will artificially inflate the tension just to keep us turning the pages all the way to the finale. And sometimes an author will succumb to the unfortunate tendency to overwrite nearly every scene, every paragraph, even—why use one adjective, a single simile, when three or four are better? If I'd seen any of these issues early on in this novel, I would have clicked "Delete" and moved on with my lovely Saturday

But no. Folks, I began early this morning with my first cup of coffee, and with little regard for chores—other than feeding my dogs and pouring more coffee—I just finished. What a ride.

I see that a couple of other reviewers have already provided plot details, so as I always do, I'll refer you to those synopses and move on to the substance of the novel, and what impressed me about it.

I adored the main character named Evelyn who had lank brown hair and some surplus poundage, an affinity for yoga pants, and endless volunteering, homemaking, nurturing, and every mindless suburban wife trope we've ever seen. I loathed her husband, Gary, the successful, adulterous psychiatrist with his penchant for \$1200 uncomfortable leather chairs, \$400 shoes, and endless workouts to fuel his smug self-esteem. And Juliette, the will-o-the-wispy blonde who captured Gary's lust with her needy and fragile manner. Hard to dislike her, because she really was that ethereal. But my goodness, what about Noah, Juliette's heretofore boringly faithful spouse, with his nice brown eyes, slight paunch beneath a blue cambric shirt, and an art gallery? Now there's a bit of unconventionality for you. Excellent characters, well-drawn, fully developed even among the few stereotypes, so that you can see them, feel them, and know them. A couple of them may even live down the street...

There is plenty of psychology here to justify the genre, I think, but it's displayed best in Evelyn's metamorphosis from dull gray suburban matron who mummified her talents and true persona for security

into a woman literally scorched by anger. Evelyn apparently never heard the maxim that “Revenge is a dish best eaten cold,” because she goes after it with a white-hot determination. And good for her. There is also the more reserved psychology of Gary the philandering psychiatrist, whose instinct for self-preservation is amazingly well-developed, and quite naturally dictates his choices. Noah, too, with his almost touching naiveté and rather earnest fidelity, and the fey Juliette, wracked by anxieties too numerous to catalog. This is how it begins, folks. It’s up to you to see how it ends for these characters.

The writing throughout is nearly invisible, a quality far too many writers lack. The writing is smooth, effortless, presenting the story without distraction, without bumps in the road, or silly literary hiccups. It’s a personal thing, of course, but I enjoyed the chapters, all of which are firmly in Evelyn’s point of view, set alternately in the “Before” and “After” mode, the event delineating the two being Gary’s affair and Evelyn’s unconventional discovery of it. I also didn’t think the back-and-forth gave away anything in the plot, nor did I get anything approaching mental whiplash from this convention.

One last thing: after all that frantic page-turning I did today, I was not let down at the end, with one of those somewhat bewildered “Is that all there is?” moments.

I haven’t hunkered down with a book like this in ages. Now that I’m done, and facing all those dull gray suburban chores I ignored today, I might just tell them to take a hike, borrowing a bit of Evelyn’s newly-acquired chutzpah.

Berit??? says

This book should have been called Evelyn Throws Herself an Extremely Long Pity Party....

Before you pick this book up, please understand this is not a psychological thriller...it is a book about an extremely unhappy housewife, she is not fulfilled by being a wife and mother, and blames this on everyone else, rather than trying to improve her situation... truly finding out her husband was cheating on her, was the best thing to ever happen to her, she finally woke up.... although it took her some stalking and bad decision making for her to get to that point, but thankfully she did.... not sure if I like this book, because it was definitely not what it was advertised to be, so things I was expecting to happen never did, probably not the authors fault, it should have probably been marketed differently...

Angie says

I really enjoyed this book (I almost hate to admit it...), in a weird sort of way. I know it has gotten a lot of bad and mixed reviews, but I don't think it deserves all the negativity. I do agree that marketing this as a psychological thriller was not a good idea, because it really isn't that. But, it IS a really good look into the mind of a middle-aged woman in crisis. As I read the things Evelyn said and did, both Before and After, I could sympathize. In a parallel universe, it could have been me. I wouldn't make the choices she did in this life, but it's not too far fetched to see where she is coming from. I found that I can't stop thinking about it, so I have upped it to a solid 4 *s. I think it would make a good discussion book among friends or in a book club. To avoid spoilers, I can't say more. Just take a chance on it, if you can think of it more as a Women's fiction than psychological thriller:)

Many thanks to NetGalley and Lake Union Publishers for an ARC to read and honestly review!

Candace says

I'm not exactly sure that I'd categorize this story as a Psychological Thriller, but 'Evelyn, After' definitely had a few twists and turns along the way. It managed to hold my attention somewhat, but I never felt a strong connection to any of the characters. I listened to the Audible version, and while it was very well-narrated, I couldn't help but feel that it was missing something.

This is the story of Evelyn, a woman that has traded the better part of her life to do "what's expected" of her. She's the wife of a prominent psychiatrist and the mother of their teenage son. Somewhere along the way, she lost her own identity. Her entire being is defined by the interests of her husband and son. She does everything a dutiful wife should do, volunteering at the school and helping with PTA fundraisers. She is living a cliché.

To the surprise of no one except Evelyn, her husband is having an affair. Gary, the prestigious psychiatrist, is involved in an accident one night...but he isn't alone. It seems that Evelyn's douchebag husband has been sleeping with one of his patients.

To make matters worse, Gary has the audacity to call his wife out to help him on the side of the road while he has his patient/mistress with him! Then, when Evelyn confronts him about it, he has the nerve to get indignant with her like she's imagining things. To say the least, Gary was easy to hate right from the start.

Eventually, Evelyn gets pieces of the truth from Gary. It doesn't take long for Evelyn to discover that the "accident" was far more than it seemed at first glance. Gary's actions have thrown her entire world into chaos. Evelyn is faced with a huge ethical dilemma as she weighs the risk of losing her comfortable lifestyle against the merits of telling the truth.

Meanwhile, Evelyn becomes obsessed with the pretty blonde patient that warmed her husband's bed. What begins as a little online stalking, quickly gets out of hand. Before long, Evelyn has interjected herself into the life of Juliette Whitman.

While I wanted to feel a connection with Evelyn, it never happened. Mostly, I just pitied her. Here was a woman that was stuck in a trap of her own making, more concerned with her country club image than doing anything to change her circumstances. She was perfectly content to play the victim, all while turning a blind eye to everything going on around her. As a heroine, she came off as weak and rather pathetic.

In the end, there was a twist or two that I didn't see coming. That being said, they weren't particularly shocking or exciting. This ended up being an "okay" story for me. It wasn't terrible, but it lacked that special something that makes a story stand out.

Check out more of my reviews at www.bookaddictshaven.com

Bea Sneed says

This is not a psychological thriller. None of the characters are likable.

Jamie ?? submits to books ?? says

******* 5 "Cheaters Never Win" Stars *******

Evelyn's marriage is good. Better than good, it is great. Her life is great. She has a great teenage son, a devoted husband who is a doctor, a great job at her son's high school, and a past time filled with volunteer work that she excels at.

Then she gets a phone call one night from her husband. He's ok but he's been in a car accident. An accident that is about to forever change her life.

Nothing is what Evelyn thought it was. The life she was leading is not the life she was destined for. Everything she has worked for is shattered and she is forced to take on a new Evelyn. An Evelyn that is very different to the one that existed before receiving that phone call.

As the new Evelyn sets forth a plan, everything she thought she had figured is not what it really is. The new Evelyn is now faced with a truth she can't live with. The destruction this truth has caused must be made right even though the price will be paid by several.

This book was awesome!! If you have a hard time with cheating, this book is not for you but I can say, this is a very well written adultery book!

Selene says

The demise of forty-one year-old Evelyn Tester's twenty-year marriage to her husband is the focus of this story. Their relationship is severely wounded by his infidelity and Evelyn becomes obsessed with the *other* woman and infiltrating the other woman's life. While letting her feelings of betrayal fester, Evelyn becomes just as callous, conniving, and deceptive as her husband.

This story features:

Drama ✓

Suspense ✓

Highly unlikable characters ✓

Very realistic feel ✓

I was in the mood to read some messy, outlandish drama and gravitated towards this book. Sadly, this story painted a very depressing view of a middle-aged woman's life, but when Evelyn became increasingly angry and bitter, I warmed up to her. *Slightly*. She found her backbone and it gave her character some edge, but she used her feminine charms in a way that ultimately backfired, and I mostly just had unlimited disdain for her

and **ALL** the other characters in this book.

The first quarter of this book provided an eyeful into Evelyn's psyche. It showed just how jealous, insecure, and emotionally fragile she was becoming. She slowly began to understand how much of her identity was wrapped up in being a wife and keeping up with appearances, all the while remaining an arm's length away from her husband and his carefully constructed psychiatrist image.

Issues?

This story twists back and forth: *before* Evelyn learned of her husband's affair, and *after*, highlighting just how she and Gary became so disconnected. Essentially, every other chapter alternated between the past and present, and it frustrated me to no end! For me, this style of storytelling was mostly jarring and I would've enjoyed this book more without all that flip-flopping! The alternating transitions made me feel confused at times and I had to flip to the previous chapter to know whether I was reading about before the affair, or after the affair.

→ Snippets of Evelyn's unstable but entertaining thoughts concerning her nemesis/ the other woman?

Evelyn growled in fury. This was her life now. Hers. For better or worse. She wasn't going to let some dirty blond bitch take that away from her. As stupid, boring, and steady as this life might be, it was hers.

This whore. This home-wrecker. Every molecule of her was a lie, and no one could see it.

Did every male love her? Was it that petite, golden helplessness they couldn't resist? Maybe they'd all love her more if Evelyn ran up and punched her in her cute little nose.

Even though I didn't care for any of the characters in this story, some of Evelyn's devious thoughts were highly entertaining and I couldn't help but laugh! I also wouldn't be opposed to reading more of this author's work.

ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for a review.

Cynthia Corral says

This book is so many things, and I loved them all.

It's about a woman struggling to come to terms with her husband's betrayal.

Or it's about a woman's descent into madness as she tries to make sense of a no-win situation.

Or it's Fatal Attraction told from Alex Forrest's point of view.

It's a horrific tragedy as a woman loses everything after making endless mistakes in an attempt to fix things.

But no, it's a story of a woman picking up the pieces of her life and Winning. The last pages of the book turned the whole thing around from a deliciously terrible story about a sort of awful woman, into, honestly, a kind of inspiring story. I think it's easy to blame Evelyn for all the terrible choices she makes – and yes, she makes some really awful ones - but let's not forget what started her on this path, WHO started her on this path. Absolutely none of this would have happened if not for the one truly terrible character in this story. Each character in this story makes their own choices and they all pay for them, Evelyn included. But the really unexpected (to me) situation at the end brings a lot of hope and comfort and... well, *hope*.

This story could only have been told this well by a female author. We all have a bit of Evelyn in us. You can disagree with everything Evelyn does in this book, but don't judge this woman until you've walked a mile in her shoes. There truly is a little Evelyn in us all.

Melissa says

3.5 stars

I think this is another case of a book being marketed all wrong. Doesn't that only lead to disappointed readers in the long run?

Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed this book and there are some suspenseful aspects to the story, but I think **it's a bit of a stretch to categorize this as a psychological thriller**. I would consider this to be more of a darker women's fiction novel. So if that's not your thing or if cheating is a trigger, I would definitely steer clear of this one.

I connected with Evelyn immediately because she's living my worst fear. This might sound selfish, but I don't want to be a woman that loses her whole identity trying to raise a family. Evelyn was once a painter with dreams and aspirations and now her days are filled volunteering at her son's high school, getting dinner on the table and watching her husband pursue his career. There's no balance. She's completely let herself go and allowed her husband to take full control of everything. It's complacency and monotony at its best.

Evelyn is forced to face a harsh reality when her husband calls her in the middle of the night demanding that she come and meet him on a desolate road. I guess his other option was worse than letting his wife find out the truth.

Evelyn's existence is completely shattered. Can you imagine? Everything she held true was tarnished in one single moment. No more living in oblivion for her. What she does isn't what I would have done. Sure, I might have been curious, but stalker status? No way. Doing exactly what was done to me? Absolutely not. When it all comes to a head it's honestly sad. Sad that Evelyn felt like she lost in both situations. I'm not sure how she thought things would turn out any differently though, but that's just me.

"Aren't you embarrassed to be so damn typical?"

I like that Evelyn found her voice along the way and started standing up for herself, but the resolution was kind of flat and lifeless. It felt like a missed opportunity in some ways. **While there was the potential for a way more interesting and unexpected ending, the story was wrapped up with a limp bow instead.** A great story overall - diminished by a lackluster ending.

I listened to the audio version and was hooked almost all the way through. Tanya Eby does a phenomenal job narrating, once again.

Jean says

What did I think? What did I think? I COULD NOT STAND ANY OF THE CHARACTERS IN THIS BOOK, NOT ONE! ESPECIALLY EVELYN!

I really should have known better. I hate cheating, but the blurb had me curious.

Evelyn is married to Gary, a psychiatrist. She is the typical wife and mom, involved in school events and basically leading a humdrum life. Then, an accident turns her world upside down. She became obsessed with finding out the truth.

All of the characters were ugly on the inside and I pretty much guessed what really happened.

Anticlimactic ending. Blah!

Linda Strong says

A call in the middle of the night usually always means bad news. For Evelyn Tester, it's her husband. Evidently he has had a small accident and needs her to come help him. She can't help but wonder why he was way out in the boondocks and in the opposite direction of home.

When she spots the blonde woman, she gets her first inkling of what's going on. Of course, her husband, a psychiatrist, says the blonde is one of his patients .. he was taking her home ... in the middle of the night?

Evelyn decides to deal with it later, until the next day when she hears the news. A teenage girl has been killed by a hit and run driver just a very short distance from where her husband and his 'patient' was.

When the husband admits the affair, she becomes obsessed by this woman who slept with her husband. She stalks the blonde's Facebook pages and then she hits upon a plan to make her pay she also has a husband and since the blonde took her husband, maybe she should take hers in retaliation. Rage, obsession, and depression take over Evelyn's life.

The characters, even though a couple of them are unlikable, are well-rounded and defined. There are several twists and turns that keeps the plot running smoothly. Only one area seemed to be not entirely credible, but not enough that I did not enjoy the story being told.

Zoeytron says

Though touted as a novel of psychological suspense in the Kindle-First selections for the month of October, there was an utter dearth of it during the first half of this book. Perhaps it makes an appearance during the

latter half but at 52%, I was not interested enough to even skim the remainder to find out. I gave it a fair shake, just not my flavor, I suppose.
