

### **“The Bridesmaid” (Vic P. Victory)**

After the spectacular debut of Vic's crime novel, I approached this new work of his with high expectations. And I shouldn't be disappointed.

Drowning in depths of empty boxes of ice cream and bags of chips, Emma's life is far from easy. Men keep her on her toes, especially, her ex-boyfriend Christian, who, shortly after their break-up, is already dating another woman. Luckily, Emma's got her best friend Marie who is not afraid to speak her mind and whose dry comments keep Emma grounded. However, when Emma receives the 'great news' from their friend Olga that she was going to be her bridesmaid the chaos seems to be perfect; mainly, because this task turns out to be anything but easy.

When I read this novel I immediately thought 'Welcome in the world of Bridget Jones'. Stuffing your face with food, crying your eyes out, letting yourself go, having a general crisis with men (and of course her dog ...) ... all accurate descriptions of Emma's life. Emma, who's terrible disorganized, is confronted with an almost unsolvable task: playing the bridesmaid. All the while, Emma's love-life descends into chaos and now she also needs to fulfill Olga's every ludicrous wish; Olga, the bride whose character is far from easy-going. However, this novel is so ingenious and witty, I was barely able to stop laughing. Emma and Marie are incredibly entertaining. They are such an amazing team and it was extremely satisfying to follow their story and to read about their inner conflicts, most of all, their desire to rip Olga's head off. It was just terrific. And Emma truly is a recognizable character.

My favorite part of the novel were the dialogues; I could immediately picture myself in the situations and conversations, and at times forgot that I was reading a fictional story. I was so invested in the novel, I felt like I was part of story. Literally in the middle of it all and not just at the sidelines.

The men of creation in this novel are like a colorful bag from a kiosk. Sometimes, you'll get a taste of the most delicious gummy bears, you can't stop eating, and then, sometimes, you'll chew on something you just want to spit out, because they're inedible. Christian, Ben, and Paul couldn't be more different.

I thought Olga – the bride-to-be – was just plain horrible. Well, her personality was. With friends like these, who needs enemies? I would have blurted out “Ya know what? Handle this shit on your own!” a lot earlier. If I was Emma I wouldn't have lasted this long. This constant authoritative tone in Olga's voice, the condescending whining ... I would have shot, hung, and cut her to pieces.

Once again, another brilliant novel. I definitely got my money's worth, as “The Bridesmaid” is just refreshing and you can read it over and over again, it just doesn't wear out. Speaking for MYSELF, I'll never grow tired of the humor, sarcasm, and cynicism of this book.

I'm definitely not a reader who's easily impressed. I'm a very critical consumer and I'm not afraid to tell the truth. But there's nothing I could complain about in this case. Undeniably, a five star novel and another must-read for 2020. Fantastic!!!