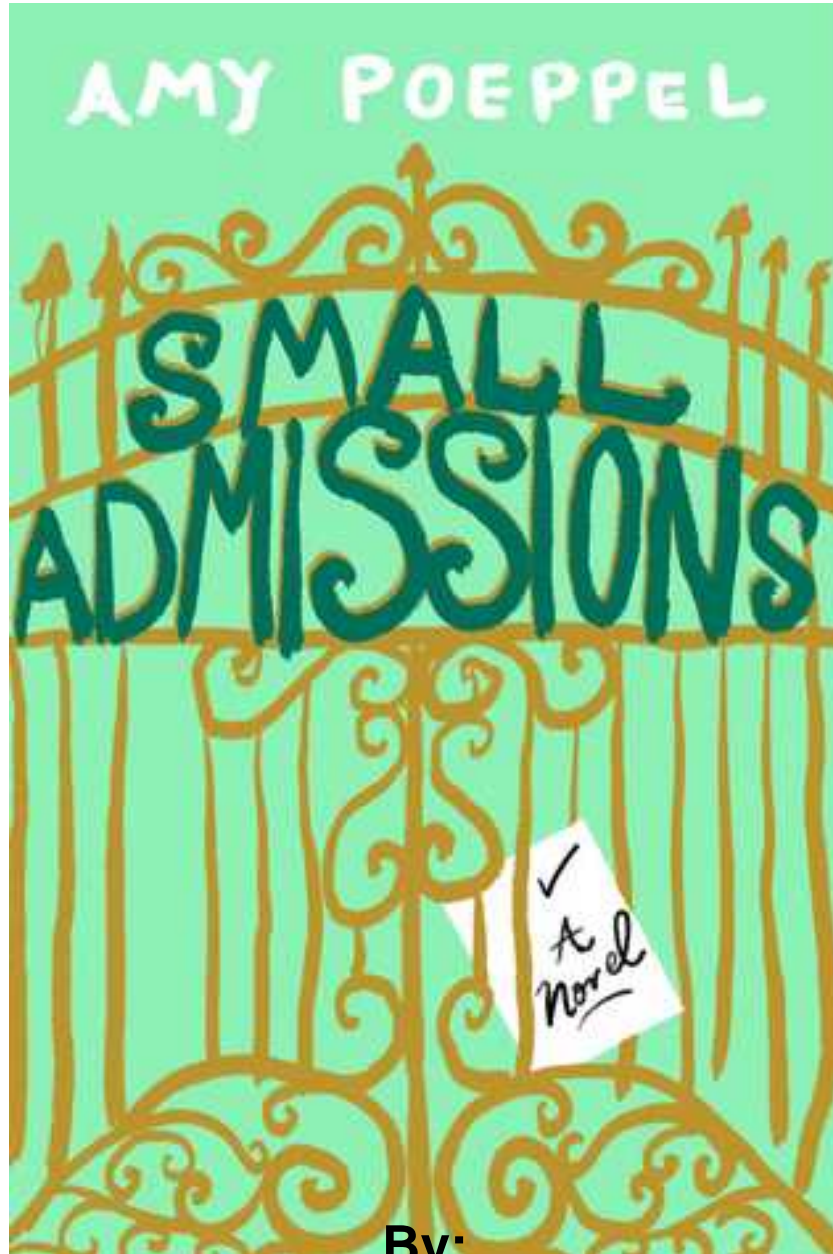


Small Admissions Book PDF Download



By:
Amy Poeppel

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What people Say:

Chelsea Humphrey

Those are the two words I'd use to describe this book. I stated in my brief, immediate thoughts after finishing this one how I rarely give Chick Lit 5 stars, but I stand by my opinion that this one is worth every star. It might appear similar to many other fluffy, girly, mindless reads out there; I'm not claiming this to be a deep read, but it is different in quite a few ways which I'll tackle below. This was the perfect beach read, which is why I went ahead and devoured it now

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My favorite surprise to this upbeat read was the fact that it isn't centered around the main character finding a soul mate. Sure, there is some romance sprinkled in, but it isn't the main focal point of this story, giving the lead female character much more depth than your stereotypical, recently dumped woman. Instead of solely focusing on dating and our girl pining over multiple men until she finds "Mr. Right", the story highlights in depth many other relationships, such as growing in the areas of family (parents) and friends/coworkers. It also confronts the issue of tragedy striking in personal and professional areas, and how we have to dig deep to work through and overcome, rather than just giving up on everything good in life.

I also couldn't believe how dang funny this book was! This wasn't cheesy, chick lit funnies; this was my type of dry humor that had me snorting out loud and my family wondering if they should have me committed while on vacation.

The humor and situations involved in the school and specifically the admissions department are nothing short of hilarious, and feel very relatable on what I would expect working with children and their Type-A parents would be like. The letters her parents continually send had me in stitches and also had me thinking I could be BFFs with author

; I'd love to sit down with her and a coffee to see if she's as hilarious in person.

If you have trouble finding a breezy read that isn't totally flakey, you're not alone. It always seems the Chick Lit I hunt down is either too unbelievably ridiculous or isn't as care-free of a read that I'm looking for. This story had the perfect balance of "escaping from the pressures of life to just enjoy a fun read" without being "over the top cheesy and vomit worthy in the romantic department". I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys Women's Fiction/Chick Lit/Contemporary Fiction. I can't express how shocked I was to love a book like this as much as

I did; I thoroughly enjoyed escaping from my own little terrors long enough to enjoy laughing at the fictional parents of the teenagers (read monsters) in this book. I'll be keeping my eyes glued looking for more work from Ms Poeppel!

Larry H

I'm between 3.5 and 4 stars, so I'll round up.

Sometimes after I've read a few fairly heavy or angsty books, I need to metaphorically cleanse my literary palate by reading something a little lighter. It doesn't necessarily have to be a humor book or utter fluff, but every now and then I like to seek out books that are lighter in tone, more straight-forward, something I can enjoy without having to tax my brain or my psyche too hard.

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as my literary intermezzo of sorts. It was just what I was hoping for—an engaging story with characters I could root for (as well as some I could root against). It even made me laugh more than a few times, which was a pleasant surprise.

The daughter of two college professors, Kate Pearson has always been almost myopically focused on academics, much to the frustration of her friends and her older sister Angela. But when her post-graduate work in a prestigious anthropology program with a noted professor turns disastrous, she makes a characteristically un-Kate decision and plans to move to Paris with her

handsome boyfriend Richard. Only she doesn't quite get out of the Paris airport, and then she's back in the U.S., nearly catatonic in her depression, never getting out of her pajamas, drinking far too much, and refusing to do anything to fix her situation.

After nearly a year of moping and mourning, Angela feels compelled to do something to save Kate from herself. Angela's chance meeting with the overworked director of admissions for a tony prep school in New York lands Kate an interview. And despite one of the most disastrous job interviews on record, where she dresses inappropriately and says even less appropriate things, Kate is shockingly hired as the assistant director of admissions for the famed Hudson Day School.

Lola Reviewer

I would not be surprised if this became a best seller. Maybe not #1 of its genre, but it's interesting and insightful, since it explores multiple subjects.

With the use of humour.

This is a book particularly for those who are amused/entertained by drama, somewhat ridiculous situations or/and women who like meddling in each other's lives.

There is Kate, who was dumped by Robert, who is Chloe's cousin, who is Kate's best friend who keeps her love life a secret from everyone. Kate is going through a

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There is Kate, who was dumped by Robert, who is Chloe's cousin, who is Kate's best friend who keeps her love life a secret from everyone. Kate is going through a rough time right now.

There is Angela, who is Kate's sister, who obsesses over her sister's splintered life. Her plan to fix Kate? Get her a job! Will it work, will it make things better? And does Kate have what it takes to work in admissions?

There is Victoria, who is Kate's former best friend and still kind of friend, who has a secret she is not eager to tell anyone.

Sam

is an easy read, by turns occasionally smartly observed and amusing, but also thin, never penetrating far beneath the surface layers of its characters and situations. The novel centers around Kate, pulling herself from the despondency caused by a tough break up and academic failure. Kate is the fulcrum, and we orbit around her and the lives of her sister and college friends, and as she accepts a position in admissions at Hudson Day School, the lives of the privileged New York pa

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I'm not sure whether it's the writing or the characterization, but the main adults whose lives we're peeking into never really rose to become characters I cared about or was even truly interested in - this despite the fact that I am in a personally similar situation to Kate's at the beginning of the novel. Kate is a bit of a cipher: awkward, intelligent (though mostly told that and only sometimes shown that), beautiful without trying, you never really feel her despair enough in the beginning to truly root for her to succeed, in part because it already feels like a foregone conclusion that she will find herself and (probably) find a new, better fit man for her. Vicki is the ambitious, gorgeous, shallow striver who gives tough love and breaks girl code and ultimately amounts to little more than a beautiful cold bitch stereotype (although at least her ambition is made clear, even if it is presented as a double edge sword). Chloe is the one we could be most interested in since she has the most amount of emotion and thought (and is the more plain one of the three deliberately), but Poeppel shifts her perspective to first person with her parts, and she's mostly on the outside of the entire proceedings even though we have small opportunities to get directly in her head.

Amy Poeppel has a knack for good observation, even if some of the sketches of characters can feel a bit banal at times: telegraphing personality by what one wears, the erudite and eccentric anthropologist parents of Kate, the workaholic verbally abusive father, the housewife growing increasingly delusional and drugged out, the charming commitment proof French Lothario who ensnared and rejected Kate and then begins things with Vicki. Her writing style is just fine, good for her observations, but doesn't necessarily excel at capturing and showing mood or emotion. It also switches from first to third person, and from straight narrative to occasionally epistolary with emails between characters, and I don't feel these style changes added much to the overall, even if the emails could occasionally be funny.

There's some snark and moments of humor (but nothing I laughed out loud at) and interesting ideas, but the whole reads somewhat flat to me. These aren't characters or situations that were made to be interesting (because anything can be interesting and well written). And even as a New Yorker who did attend private school at various points of my childhood, none of the observations or characters were new or surprising to me. I could see fans of

or

being interested in this title, and again, it's a very easy read. But I found it just ok and ultimately unmemorable.

Suzanne Leopold

Kate Pearson quits graduate school to live in Paris with her French boyfriend, Robert. She is blindsided by Robert as he quickly breaks off the relationship and she ends up moving back to New York City. Kate spends a good part of the year living on her sister's couch, watching television and barely functioning. Her two friends from college and her sister were doing everything they could to get Kate back on her feet. They eventually find her an apartment to sublet and a dog walking job, in the ho

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She eventually lands a job interview at an admissions office for a small

Manhattan private school. Kate leaves the interview feeling that she botched it the because of her inappropriate answers to questions and her profuse sweating. Surprising herself, Kate gets the job and enters into the competitive world of admissions. Although feeling unqualified, she slowly begins to settle into her job and with her two co-workers. She interviews a multitude of children, deciphers essays and meets with stressed out parents.

While Kate seems to be progressing with her newfound career, her sister is still greatly concerned. She micromanages her with unsolicited advice amid worries that she will regress back into depression. Her friends continue to stay in contact with her but have ulterior motives.

The dialogue during parent and student interviews was very humorous and I laughed out loud a few times. This book was fun and entertaining and I look forward to future works from Amy Poeppel.

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