



Crazy, Busy, Guilty

Lauren Sams

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The juggle is real . . .

Georgie Henderson is having a bad year. As a new – working – mum, she strives to be Sheryl Sandberg at work and Martha Stewart at home. But she's discovering that in the twenty-first century being a Good Working Mum means answering emails at midnight while you puée vegetables and line up playdates and French lessons for your four-month-old daughter.

Georgie's ex, Jase, gets 100 per cent of the credit for 5 per cent of the work, and her best friend, Nina, is on a 'self-discovery' journey that involves a 25-yr-old bartender and a plan to become an artisanal florist. And all Georgie's mum wants is for Georgie to find a man. Preferably the man who is the father of her child.

In *Crazy, Busy, Guilty*, Lauren Sams returns to the characters of *She's Having Her Baby* and unpacks the realities of modern parenting with candour, humour and warmth.

Crazy, Busy, Guilty Details

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Author : Lauren Sams

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Elizabeth says

I realised about two chapters in that this was the sequel to something I read last year! It was fun to catch up with Georgie and her baby Pip. Georgie is mother to a young baby and returning to work. The full time working single mother juggle is one I know far too well, and Lauren Sams writes about it with perfect truth. The struggle of sleepless nights, never quite meeting anyone's expectations, constant guilt and no one quite understanding how bloody hard it is to keep your head above water and how we just don't have time to have a mental breakdown or even a sleep. It was so wonderful to read a realistic book about these struggles, not one with a Hollywood spin. This was funny and sad and a lovely read.

Susie Anderson says

look, this was fine. especially if you like books where there are more quips than complexities. as someone who has been reading literary fiction for clearly far too long, this was quite a nice break. there are some moments that are actually HILARIOUS. and some parts hinted at insights into the publishing world, but it was all so surface level. I'd have enjoyed more of the critique of the foodie industry, especially since the author is in that industry. as it was, all the quips left hardly any room for character development of the protagonist whose name I've actually forgotten right now. perhaps if I'd read the first one it would have made more sense. it definitely sounded like a lot of interesting stuff went on in there, such as the whole mixup between best friend and protagonist's surrogacy agreement. and indeed, decision to keep the baby of a relationship that recently ended. I have however learnt about mastitis which could be an important life skill and there were definitely some moments where I was like, THANK YOU FOR SAYING THIS. so all in all, an extremely guilty pleasure read but do please only read this if you got the free advanced copy off your mum.

Ruby says

Written with laugh out loud humour. Whether you are trying to do it all or not this is a book that will appeal to all mothers.

a received a copy from Goodreads Giveaways

Jessica says

This book was easy to get into - although I did find out at the end it was actually the second book in the series! It was a really good, honest commentary on being a single working mother in today's society, and the unrealistic expectations others put on each other by only advertising the glamorous aspects of their lives.

Ayesha Smith says

A book all mothers can relate too, whether a single mum or in a partnership, so easy to feel these things, and realise you are not alone with feelings of guilt etc.

Cynthia Coghill says

The old chestnut of whether a mother can have it all is refreshingly revisited in this second novel by Lauren Sams. It also broaches the question of whether all women are maternally inclined or have it thrust on them by happenstance.

Georgie has a baby, Pippa. Georgie is clueless as to what to do with her. She gets the basics that they need to be fed and changed regularly but that's where it ends. (There's a part where she thinks Pippa will continue in the nappies she's had from birth. Pippa's grown and they no longer fit. What to do?)

Her mothers' group are of little help as each mother insists they have sussed this whole mothering gig. According to Georgie she is a "bad" mother for anticipating her return to the workforce. After all, shouldn't she want to be with Pippa day in, day out? It appears not. Throw into the mix her best friend Nina who, going through a messy divorce, has reverted to single life with gay abandon. Georgie had envisaged Nina helping her with this transition. Alas, that falls through and Georgie struggles to accept that people change, including her.

Lauren Sams writes with insight of the pitfalls of returning to the hectic, unrelenting working life you had pre-baby, whilst attempting to spend time with your baby. Georgie only has to call on the people around her for help and they'll be there - including Pippa's father. She believes she's superwoman and can do everything, even when it's late at night and the exhaustion has driven her to tears of frustration. Something's got to give, the question, as always, is what?

Ana Urban says

I'm a mum but Just could not relate. A bit too forced for me. Had to give up. Sorry.

Reannon Bowen says

A fast book with characters you kinda want to slap but most of them you just want them to hurry up & figure out what's best. I think it's a story that a lot of woman would relate to.

Andrew Hall says

I won this in a goodreads giveaway. Before I read this book I read the first Georgie book and enjoyed that one. Lauren's style is very straightforward which makes the characters believable, angaging and gives you a ringside seat to their daily trials and tribulations. An enjoyable read that could make a good movie.

Kate says

This was just ok.. I didn't realise it was book 2 which didn't help with character bonding, so the first 1/4 was a bit slow.. I didn't relate to a lot of the plot being a childless spinster myself but I guess it was a good insight into how I'd picture my life as a single mother.. still not for me haha

Jane says

Thoughts:

- ~ Really, really, ridiculously funny.
- ~ Expertly (and humorously) dissects the unrealistic societal expectations of motherhood.
- ~ Although motherhood is a huge theme in this book, it also tackles friendship, career and identity, which anyone can relate to.
- ~ Makes fun of Sydney's hipster food scene, which I am SO here for.
- ~ Shout-out to all the mums who kick butt.
- ~ Best read with a gin and tonic.

Melinda Crumblin says

Very enjoyable read. I could relate to a lot of it. Lost one star for poor editing. I'm sure at one point it said it was 2017, then a bit later it was 2016?

Kvstaker says

More of the same!

Hannah Thom says

3.5 ??'s

Bronwyn says

Quite a good, light read. Being a mother to two children under two I could relate to a lot of the main protagonists experiences and thoughts regarding new motherhood. However, the first few chapters seemed to consist of a whole bunch of quips about motherhood - I just wanted her to get on with telling the story. I also found that the main protagonist was very sensitive to any perceivable criticisms of her life choices but she was extremely critical of every other character in the book which left a bad taste in my mouth. I would like

to see more from this author but something with a much stronger and more creative plot.
