



Roommates

Emily Chase

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Dana Morrison - spirited, independent, city girl.

Faith Thompson - determined, talented, and practical.

Shelley Hyde - naive small town girl.

Dana, Faith, and Shelley, all new to Canby Hall in their sophomore year, end up as roommates -- and get off to the worst possible start. They're so different they practically hate each other! But slowly they grow to understand and care about one another and to help each other -- through Dana's disastrous first love, Faith's trouble with the headmistress, and Shelley's desperate homesickness.

Roommates Details

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Brodiesmom says

Seriously, NO OTHER BOOKS on earth have stayed with me the ways The Girls of Canby Hall series have. I WAS OBSESSED with these books and I still reread them as an adult when I need some good nostalgia! Every single book in this series is amazing, but none are as good as "With Friends Like These...." and "Our roommate is missing" I have to go dig them out again because I need a Shelley, Dana & Faith hit! LOVE!

Amadeus says

Thank you to Roxane Gay who, in her book *Hungry*, reminded me of the Girls of Canby Hall series. I read these as a teenager but had forgotten about them. Fortunately, I found a reasonable deal on books 1-30 online. :-)

This first book is not as exciting as I remember--when I first read them, they made me want to move to a boarding school--but it was a good way to pass the time. I was surprised at how they brought up social issues but, since it was written in 1983, it still has the tired trope of girls trying to be skinny.

Jen says

I read these in late elementary-middle school, and I remember devouring the series. It's about a group of girls from different backgrounds who go to an elite boarding school. I think, if I remember correctly, that there are some mysteries that happen, but there wasn't one in this one, so who knows.

Anyway, I wasn't one of the cool kids reading Sweet Valley High (and I never have, thank you very much) but this one suited me really well. The descriptions of clothing and hair styles are extremely dated, but the content is great. I think I might try and get myself the series from an auction site or something.

Sarah Crawford says

This is another of the somewhat older young adult series of books that I like. The main characters are going to a boarding school. Dana, who is white, is a city girl. Faith, who is black, is a girl who is 15 and is a talented photographer. Shelley is from a small town type of place.

Problems start right off when Faith thinks Shelley doesn't like black people (where she comes from there were almost no black people at all.) It gets worse when Shelley wants to decorate the room a certain way and the other two girls don't like her idea. Matters get so bad they divide their room into three parts using masking tape and basically a war of silence goes on among the three.

The situation is known by others and they all get called in to their resident assistant and they discuss what is going on. Later Faith becomes friends with a girl who is basically a troublemaker and Shelly is absolutely set

on leaving the place during Christmas break and never returning.

I liked the book and I think it's a good opening to the series.

Jill Kronick says

This was one of my favorite series as a teen. I had forgotten what it was called and was searching around in Goodreads and finally came upon this!! Yay!

Dirly says

One of my favorite series every when I was a kid. Quick and easy to read, even when I was 10 years old. The series is the story of 3 girls in an all girl boarding school and how they become friends and get through life and all of the bumps along the way.

Sara Morcom says

Loved this series as a Tween and begged my parents to send me to private school. Unfortunately, that was a negative.

Denise Kettering says

I read these books as a tween/teen and really enjoyed the characters and the series as a whole. As the first book in the series, Roommates introduced the characters of the three main characters. While these books are clearly dated, they still have some good stories about learning to get along despite apparent differences.

Jenna says

[In this first book in the series, we meet the three Girls of Canby Hall that will be the main characters. Dana is from New York City, a tall, thin brunette with divorced parents and a younger sister named Maggie. (When this group of girls graduates, three new girls take their place to continue the series. I had hoped Maggie would be one of them. Alas, she was not.) Dana's mother is a fashion buye

Olivia says

It's a really funny book about three different girls named Dana, Shelly, and Faith. They are all completely different people, and they all have to learn to accept each other for their differences. But, they all run into lots of problems.

Courtney Wheaton says

I just finished reading this little gem from the 80s last night and I was pleasantly surprised. I have some strange love of books set in boarding schools, and this one is a nice easy read. The girls in the story start off in a bad spot but in the end friendship reigns supreme. There were actually a few really poignant moments in this typical teen bit o fluff.

Susann says

This book, probably more than any other, made me eager for dorm life and taught me how to decorate a dorm room. It also taught me how to pursue my interests and how to not let boys get away with ratty behavior.

Alison is the ultimate in aspirational dorm motherhood. I'm still looking for that Katie's Klip 'N' Kurl neon sign and am ready and willing to paint my plumbing pipes and heating ducts in bright, primary colors.

And how about Dana's fashion sense? I still envy the scene where, "...[she:] put on her best pair of designer jeans and a tuxedo shirt, threw a green cotton sweater over her shoulders, sprayed herself with L'Air du Temps, and ran out of the dorm before she could lose her courage."

I think the series rapidly worsened after the first few, but the first one is still a terrific read. My recent discussion with Lizz inspired me to re-read this. We each ordered our copies from Scholastic or Weekly Reader, back in the elementary school day.

Heidi-Marie says

I think this was another looking for something to read around the house and for some reason we had this one. It was OK. The only thing I remember about it is one of the girls knocking on the RA's door. The RA asks "Friend or Foe?" The girl said her name. And the RA said "Definitely Friend." That's how I learned what a foe was. I know I enjoyed the book at the time, but so much that I wanted to read others in the series. Probably dated now, but I'm sure some 12-14 year old girls would enjoy it still.

♥ Susan says

This was probably my favorite tween/teen series. I have the cover memorized, with great emotion attached.. they were like friends.

Noora says

Ikivanha suosikkisarja, jossa on edelleen hohtoa jäljellä. Tai sitten ensimmäisten lukukertojen hyvät kokemukset palaavat mieleen. Sitäpaitsi, muistot palasivat muutenkin mieleen, mikä on aina positiivista.
