



The Diaries of a Fleet Street Fox

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SEX, DRUGS, HEARTBREAK AND SCANDAL - THE INNER WORKINGS OF A TABLOID NEWSROOM

Fleet Street Fox's anonymity allows her to delve deep into the dark corners of that most guilty of pleasures - the tabloid exposé. Acerbic, funny, and revelatory, her diaries show the heart within the hack as she tries to recover from a betrayal as devastating as any newspaper scandal.

The Diaries of a Fleet Street Fox Details

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From Reader Review The Diaries of a Fleet Street Fox for online ebook

Olga Wojtas says

This is a brilliant book from the point of view of showing how Fleet Street works - the fox writes beautifully and amusingly. But I couldn't be bothered with the central story of the breakdown of a marriage - wasn't interested in the dreary ex and couldn't see why the fab fox had got together with him in the first place. I'd love to read more by the fox on life among the red-tops - plots aplenty for her there - and ditch the pseudo-chicklit nonsense.

Bill says

Really a game of two halves. Loved all the parts about tabloid journalism, which really rang true to life at least as far as my brief experience of that game goes. Unfortunately more than half the book is filled with the tale of the writer's divorce, which was to be very well described but much less interesting.

Oliver says

Foxy is a Fleet Street journo who cut her teeth writing on local and national tabloids. She writes a punchy column in the Mirror and blogs about the state of the nation. Originally she wrote anonymously but these days most people know her name is Susie Boniface. When I saw she had a book out I figured it was worth a read; someone whose that good with language would be interesting over three hundred pages. The resulting memoir is a mixed bag. In part this is my fault - whilst I knew Foxy had gone through a divorce I didn't realise it was the main story of her book. What results is essentially a divorce diary. It's interesting in part, an incite into an alternating state of mind in emotional turmoil, and in that respect deeply honest; but it's also writing as therapy, and not sure how much use that is to the general reader. The best bits of the book are actually where she portrays life and the workings of tabloid newspapers - the hierarchies of power, the mortuary humour , the insanity of hack competitiveness. OK, but I suspect she has a better book in her.

Simon Evans says

I really should pay attention to book reviews. I read film and music reviews but rarely for books. If I had I would have avoided this like the plague.

It's not a bad book, certainly well written and tells a reasonably interesting story. The problem is, it's almost nothing to do with life in a Fleet Street newsroom which was the main reason I wanted to read it.

This details, at enormous length, the protracted and venomous divorce of the author and her husband. He sounds like a complete git but then this is only one side of the story so that is pretty much a given. The prose is full of long rants and ponderous musing which I found hard to wade through.

There are some insights into the life of a Fleet Street hack but for those who follow Foxy on Twitter and read her blog you are better sticking with them. This is a divorce story and a divorce story only. It's occasionally witty but not enough for me to recommend.

I can only hope that writing this has proven cathartic for the Fox and that her next book delivers what is promised on the cover.

Louise says

Torn between 3 and 4 stars here. The insights on journalism and how a newspaper works were fascinating, however there wasn't as much as I'd have liked included. I've never been through a divorce, so I can't say I took too great an interest in the specifics of that, but it's not my book and I'm sure plenty enjoyed it.

Lesley says

I only got to 58% just couldn't cope with the rubbish storyline any more.

nicdavdi says

By turns funny and poignant, this is the story of a marriage breakup written by a newspaper journalist. Fleet Street Fox is the pseudonym of a tabloid journalist in the UK, and her story charts the aftermath of her discovery that her husband of a few years has been cheating on her. In the course of the story she also describes her life as a journalist on one of Fleet Street's tabloids. It's an insiders look at how the press works in the UK, warts and all. It's very funny at times, but the wounds inflicted by her husband's cheating are visible to all and her description of her feelings and behaviour in the time following the break up are often painful to read. The anger she feels at what has happened displays in some self destructive behaviour which are written with great openness. Her toughness as a journalist acts as a counterpoint to her vulnerability as someone going through a messy break up and divorce.

Sarah McMullan says

Sometimes he will leave you for a fat girl. aka another divorce novel. yawn.

Neither full of salacious secrets about Fleet Street, being a "Fox" (though the character's surname is Fox - geddit?!?) or any breakthrough advice on life; this is just another book about a late 20's early 30's year old woman getting divorced.

Things she learns:

Her husband is a twat,

Property is expensive & mortgages are scary,

Lawyers charge a lot,

Alcohol gets you drunk AND causes hangovers,

The traditional media landscape is changing;

And my fave bit - sometimes he will leave you for a FAT GIRL *gasp*

I wouldn't bother if I was you.

Peter says

Was expecting it to read more like an exposé of the world of tabloid journalism and less like a sequel to Bridget Jones's Diary.

Not a bad book and I can see how it might have been therapeutic for the author and anyone else going through a divorce, but for everyone else it's probably a little wallowing and samey.

Sara says

Disappointed - thought this would be more along the lines of an actual day to day diary with juicy showbiz and newspaper gossip - more like 'The Insider' and 'Wicked Whispers'. Instead it's a one sided view of the author's divorce with occasional references to her work as a tabloid journo.

Ben Aaronovitch says

This is actually a novel about a divorce and about a woman trying to come to terms with a personal crisis that to her seems like the end of the world and yet she knows is just another everyday heartbreak in the great scheme of things.

It's also very funny and the Fleet Street background is possibly the most accurate depiction of a modern tabloid that you're going to read this decade.

Kate says

Very well written and frequently amusing -

I read it because I have followed Foxy on Twitter and found her to be entertaining & informative. By half way through the first chapter I was hooked and looking forward to a rollicking good read. It actually gets more serious/philosophical as the book progresses, but is still well worth a read, even if, like me, you don't have any experience of or interest in, divorce (which is main plot source for the book).

Actually one of the things that kept me interested was how Foxy's experiences of divorce correlated some of my own (non-divorce) life crises. I especially empathised with the feeling of suffering raw & deep pain about something else the rest of the world obviously thinks you should have moved on from.

And of course the stories from Fleet Street are HILARIOUS.

Only available in eBook at the moment (Kindle Edition now on Amazon.com) but I will be ordering the real book as soon as it is available.

Lucy says

Like many others I bought this book because I follow Fleet Street Fox on twitter and I find her funny and interesting there. Sadly this book was a big disappointment on so many levels.

The book is largely the diary of Foxy's divorce. At the beginning she says that the book is a blend of fact and fiction; well if this is the fictionalised version of the divorce I hate to think how boring the real version must be. The highlight comes in the first chapter when Foxy gets arrested, and the story spirals rapidly downhill into being a very normal, everyday story of what happens when a married couple split up. I'm sure to Foxy it was the most all-consuming event of her life, but for a casual reader it simply isn't an interesting yarn. It's an entirely predictable narrative.

Even with a boring subject, I was expecting this book to be well-written because the author writes for a living. But I found the prose plodding and amateurish. Each chapter felt formulaic; there was an anecdote, a bit of relationship drama, a meltdown and then an epiphany (usually along the lines of her being better off without him, well duh) - they came along regular as clockwork. This really surprised me as I quite like Foxy's style in articles, but none of that style came through in this novel.

The best thing about the book was her characterisation of some of her Fleet Street colleagues, which really did jump out of the page. On the other hand, I thought Foxy came off pretty badly in her depiction of herself. She comes across as shallow, spiteful and that classic blend of arrogant and insecure, revealed in repeated offensive comments about women who are fatter than her coupled with constantly reminding the reader of how thin she is after the trauma of divorce, and obsessing about why her husband didn't fancy her any more. I guess she is a product of the media bubble she lives in, but it makes both her and that industry seem totally unappealing - so much so that even her twitter persona is spoiled for me now.

On the whole, a badly written and boring book. Had she not been a twitter celeb I have no doubt it would never have been published.

Angelnet says

I really wanted to like this. I really did. The insight into Fleet Street was great and the characters were all very well written but it all just took a backseat to the rather tedious divorce. Yes its heartbreaking and I know he was a shit but this really was the most self indulgent book I've read for a long time. I did find myself skipping over pages towards the end and I rarely do that. Like the marriage I just wanted it to end. Sorry.

John says

Goes off the boil in its final quarter, as the story of Foxy's divorce meanders towards the decree absolute in a chick lit stylee. But up to that its lively portrait of life as a hack and the anguish of a broken marriage are compelling.
