



A New Attitude

Charlotte Hughes

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Marilee Abernathy's life is a mess. Everyone in Chickpea, South Carolina, knows about her husband's affair with the town floozy. But when her dignified farewell—complete with pearls and impeccably applied Mary Kay cosmetics—turns into a spectacularly unsuccessful attempt to hang herself from a fake ceiling beam, Marilee figures there has to be a better way to cope.

Marilee needs a new attitude—at least, that's what her neighbor Sam Brewer thinks. Between his demanding mother and his crazy ex-wife, though, the last thing he wants is another woman whose life is out of control. But Marilee's learning on her own that a little attitude can go a long way—suddenly she's taking charge and taking chances she'd never imagined. And watching her blossom reminds Sam of some long-forgotten dreams of his own. Now he's just got to convince her to turn some of that attitude his way....

A New Attitude Details

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Noco says

Primo racconto contenuto nell'antologia NON c'E' DUE SENZA EX.

Romanzo davvero delizioso, costruito in modo semplice, umoristico, eppure profondamente toccante. E' la storia di una rinascita di una donna colpita da un duro fallimento matrimoniale, che dopo un'iniziale, comprensibilissimo, profondo sconforto, si rimbocca le maniche e lotta per rendersi indipendente, per riconquistare il figlio e riavere indietro la propria vita. Ma non solo: la rinascita per questa donna sarà l'occasione per ricostruire la vita di moltissime persone che, appoggiandosi le une alle altre si rinforzeranno esponenzialmente e raggiungeranno risultati davvero fantastici, che da soli non avrebbero potuto neppure lontanamente pensare di conseguire.

Un romanzo d'amore, d'amicizia, ma, soprattutto, di speranza!

Veronica A Pitts says

A New Attitude by Charlotte Hughes

I chose this particular rating because of the movement of the story
Marilee the main character in the book is the one that has to get a
Hopefully you will enjoy the story too.

Kelly says

I thought that 'A New Attitude' would be your run-of-the-mill, coming-of-age chick lit whereby the recently dumped heroine would discover herself and get a HEA. Don't get me wrong, the book was *exactly* like that, but it wasn't in a traditional chick-lit way. 'A New Attitude' read more like a romance novel that had forgotten the romance, or at least had gone very light on the romance. While it was still enjoyable, I didn't feel that it had the punch to be classed as a great example of either chick-lit or romance.

The supporting characters were the jewel in the crown. Each were well-developed and likeable with unique voices and stories. The character progression was genuinely very well done, with each of their subplots interweaving with the main to create a well paced and full novel.

Winnie was by far my favourite character; sassy and funny, she didn't take any s**t from anyone, and was determined to make a success of her life regardless of the hand she had been dealt. Likewise, I loved Josh who was an understated character but had such a wonderful story and a real depth of character.

In comparison, the leading lady, Marilee, felt superficial, empty-headed and too cookie-cutter perfect. Marilee baked for people who were rude to her, she offered a room to the ex-husband who cheated on her and then left her, she took in strangers and made them part of the family... she was perfect and that was boring to read. Every character in a novel should have a flaw to make them more human and to offer realistic obstacles, but Marilee did not. She felt like she had no backbone, and yes, this was addressed and developed toward the end of the novel, but she just didn't have the depth or grit that the others had.

Sam was saucy and I liked that he ruffled Marilee's feathers, but we didn't ever get to know him. Sam was barely part of the story, popping in and out where convenient but having no real impact. Their love was instant and unsubstantiated.

There were a number of subplots, but rather than bogging down the book, they actually kept the pace and it was in these plots that the character development came. However, there were a few subplots that I just couldn't help but roll my eyes at, they made a mockery of the rest of the novel, like parodies of a rom-com in the middle of reaffirming chick-lit. They disjointed the flow of the plot, and beside instant, high action, added nothing to the characters or plot.

(view spoiler)

Overall, I thought that it was an okay read for a Sunday afternoon. Light and reaffirming, it straddled the line between Romance and Chick-lit. The characters were the shining star, but Marilee and Sam needed more development so that their romance wasn't just a subplot buried among several others. If the high-action, low-impact events had been better developed or removed entirely, then page time could have been given to developing their relationship, and I would have enjoyed the novel more.

Ashley says

Ugh. Bothers me for various reasons.

Merrilee says

I don't normally write reviews because all I can usually think to say is that I enjoyed the book, but I do want to comment that the heroine in this book plays the wrong song at a funeral and her boos covers for her. I spent several months looking for this book and that was all I could remember. So now that's recorded in the ether just in case someone else wants to find this book and that's all they remember about it!

Karen says

I mostly skimmed through this. Too clean and nice for me, and it felt dated, even though it's not that old. A later-in-life romance with all the complications of exes and children and health problems. Eh.

Roxann says

At first this book's heroine wasn't very likable. One of those too stupid to live types. The first impression of her friends are "with friends like those who needs enemies" however if you are able to get past that they grow on you.

It was a pleasant journey seeing Marilee find her strength and a new love.

Julie says

A fun holiday read.

Debbie says

Simply put.....GREAT BOOK!!

Ashley says

After having read Full House by Janet Evanovich and Charlotte Hughes, I decided to see if it was truly Hughes writing that dragged down "Full House" since that was what all the other reviews were saying. And for some reason, I had this book A New Attitude by Hughes. (I have no idea where it came from.)

"Full House" was by no means great but it was a better read than this, overall even if they both rated 2 stars. I can't give "New Attitude" a 1 due to the fact that I finished it and I can't give "Full House" a 3 because I didn't really like it so it looks like they equal out to the same rating, but for different reasons.

First off, Marilee is 35 years old. Yet, I could not stop thinking of her or her friends as anyone younger than 60. I read parts of this out loud to my 80-something year old grandmother and she laughed. All the females come off as older, prim women even Winnie, the 17 year old. Marilee is suppose to be a 30 something rebuilding her life after he husband leaves but the story read like a 70 something that had lost her husband, not to divorce but to death. Her friends are just as old and stuffy feeling as Marilee and the early menopause plot point just added to the feeling of these woman being much older.

I have read things like The Red Hat Club & The Hot Flash Club where the woman are older and I tell you, they had much better story-lines and characters that I actually cared about way more than this book did.

I was fine with Marilee being a Christian and soon to be ex-minister's wife. After all, I am from the South myself and know how it works having your faith as well as a life and not always sticking to the straight and narrow, but this book was published in 2001 yet reads like it was written in the 50s. Marilee is playing the piano in a nightclub?! *gasp*, the horror, the indecency!!! This outdated view shared by her "friends" only added to the "Seriously? These woman are only 35?" train of thought. I mean, my 60 year old mother is more accepting and open minded than these woman and she has unshakable faith like you would not believe due to being one of those strong, southern baptist type woman they like writing books about nowadays. Her two kids have tattoos for crying out loud and so pardon me for finding the characters behavior more distracting

from the plot than moving it along.

The overall arc of the story seemed like a good one but Hughes overstuffs her books with details that slows the pacing. This book should have been half this size as it all reads like filler. I was fine with the no-sex and was expecting it so to get to 30 pages from the end only to have Sam and Marilee hook up...?/ It felt forced and added. And yet another throwback feel to the book? The woman is barely single after years of marriage (and happy marriage at that, at least to her) before she is just soooo in love with her new guy and everything works out. Jeez, couldn't the book span at least a year so that we can pretend it is believable?

I think I got a Evanovich book laying around somewhere that I am going to read just to make sure that my comparison is correct but I think that I just might be in agreement with some of those reviews of "Full House" now that Hughes drags down the story even if at the time that I read "Full House", it didn't seem that out of line with the Plum novels that Evanovich is so famous for.

Coleen Murphy says

Very cute story about women's friendships.

Heidi Murphy says

About a preacher's (ex) wife. A fun read that keeps it clean (for the most part).

Barb says

Marilee Abernathy's life is a mess. Everyone in Chickpea, South Carolina, knows about her husband's affair with the town floozy. But when her dignified farewell—complete with pearls and impeccably applied Mary Kay cosmetics—turns into a spectacularly unsuccessful attempt to hang herself from a fake ceiling beam, Marilee figures there has to be a better way to cope.

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Mendy says

bleh! Boring and not worth the read.

Diana says

A little too fluffy for my tastes, but a good light read.
