



Odd One Out

Monica McInerney

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Sylvie has always been the odd one out in her family. Her mother is a celebrated artist, known for her bohemian lifestyle. Her father, long estranged from the family, is a respected poet and academic. Sylvie's two beautiful sisters and her big brother are also making their mark in the design world.

Sylvie hasn't an artistic bone in her body. On the verge of turning thirty, back living in the family home in Sydney and working for her mother and sisters, she feels stuck in a major rut.

Then her brother Sebastian steps in with a rescue plan. He offers her a room in his Melbourne apartment for as long as she likes, on one condition. In an updated version of a treasure hunting game they played as children, she has to follow his instructions and go exploring the city.

Within days, she's doing things she's never done before, going to places she's never been and beginning to think of ideas for a new career. She is also getting to know a very lovely man. Life is looking up.

Then Sebastian reveals one final challenge...

Odd One Out Details

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From Reader Review Odd One Out for online ebook

Susan McKone says

A very quick read but fun. It was at the beach house I'm holidaying in and was the perfect fill in read. Obviously written as a mini book for promotional purposes but still had plot and warm characters as expected of this author.

Dee ~ Proudest Nanna Of Newborn Millie ~ says

This was my very first Monica McInerney book, and I really enjoyed it. Being a short story, it gave me the opportunity to get used to the author's writing style. I am so glad that I did, because it was so good that it kept me turning the pages, for hours. The story of Sylvie, born into a family of a single mom, two career driven sisters, a kind brother, and an absent father, whom she has never met. With a firm push from her brother, she decides to find her own path, in a very big, very unforgiving world.

KylieAtkinson says

Love Monica McInerney but only liked this book. The characters were great (even the mum and sisters because it's always fun to have someone to not like). I especially loved the Great Aunt Mill and her 'sordid' previous life. Haha. She'd be a great book by herself. I wish there was a bit more romance (I thought for sure Gorgeous George was going to be a match) and maybe a few more rollercoaster moments. I good quick read but I'm glad I've read other before this to say that I love the author.

Caroline G'wattage says

Enjoyed this book immensely!

Finished this book in no time, lovely and short especially for the summer break.

Odd One Out was so well written, set in Sydney and Melbourne, about a young woman Sylvia struggling to find her own way in life.

Sylvia who was living others peoples lives, thinking she was do a rewarding job and making everyone happy, until her brother convinced her to move to Melbourne with him for a while, a time she can find herself and become confident enough in herself to find her own choice of life.

Family complications and personal struggles keep the storyline moving and self discovery.

This book is a definitely a ten out of ten Monica McInerney writes characters so real and sympathetic, that touch you heart, and stay with you.

Tricia says

This was a quick read.

Sylvie is the odd one out in an artist family. Her brother Sebastian brings her to Melbourne to rescue her. Then he sends her on a treasure hunt with dares. Things don't turn out as Sebastian plans it.

I did like the book but it was a bit dull. If it was any longer it might have been a struggle.

Jeanette says

I wasn't quite what to expect with Monica McInerney's *The Old One Out*. I love the colourful cover and McInerney hooked me from the first page with her fast, light and humorous prose.

Almost 30 years old, Sylvie Devereaux is the old one out; a competent secretary in a high-profile artistic family - her estranged father, a poet and academic, her mother a talented and feted artist, her siblings high flyers in the design world. Sylvie's mothers and sisters totally take her for granted. When dotty Great-Aunt Mill embarrasses Sylvie in front of everyone at her sister's society wedding reception - Sylvie's brother Sebastian whisks her off to Melbourne and sets her on a treasure hunt in an effort to encourage her to find her own life. Things don't turn out how Sylvie or Sebastian expect - with successes, disasters and unexpected decisions.

While I began to twig what at least part of the ending might be, I really enjoyed this humorous book with its underlying seriousness about family relationships and not living in the shadow of the past or that of your brilliant (or otherwise) relatives. Great-Aunt Mill was hilarious; Sylvie, Max and Sebastian likable characters and McInerney gives us an enjoyable and satisfying ending (though, as a former medico, I did cringe a bit to the cavalier attitude to both drinking oneself blind and smoking for the fun of it.)

At 150 pages, it was a light, funny read with depth. I'll be reading McInerney again

Heather says

Quick read

At 175 pages, I practically read in one sitting. Sylvia is a great main character and her realizations about her family and self made an interesting story. Beach read material!

Amy Volker says

I fell in love with Monica McInerney's novels years ago and get so excited when I realized that I had this one

but never read it. Same lovable characters with way too many issues only in an almost short story length. Sylvie Devereaux matches all of her other lead characters who needs help in all aspects of her life and this time it's her brother who pulls her to safety. My only issue is that it just wasn't long enough. I wanted more of Sylvie and Sebastian and his wonderful treasure hunts.

Anna Hooper says

A really enjoyable story from the engaging Monica McInerney. I've been struggling to read things of late and this was a great kickstart back into books. I enjoyed the familiarity of the Melbourne setting too.

Juliet Sampson says

I've always wanted to read one of Monica McInerney's books. I liked the length of the story and the writing style.

The reason I gave the book three stars is because I did not find the story exciting, there was no real drama till chapter eleven.

I would like to read another book of Monica's sometime.

Dee-Ann says

This book did not grab me. It was not totally predictable but did not seem to have any 'dah dah!' moments. I think it might have been better if at some stage Sylvia's family in Sydney actually came to terms to what they were missing when Sylvia left. The characters of Mill and the neighbour (cant remember her name) were okay, but could have been expanded or used a bit more.

Liz says

Not my favourite McInerney book. I agree with another reviewer on goodreads - it would be better as a movie - especially if they spent time showing the essential Melbourne, and focussed on her family's artistic bent - showed her mum's sculptures, sister's designs, her mum's (coastal?) retreat. Could be an aussie chick flick - we don't do those very often, if at all...

Sharon says

Although this was a quick read I really enjoyed it.

Sylvie is feeling a bit out of sorts and has always been the odd one out in her family. So when her brother Sebastian asks her to house sit for him in Melbourne she decides to take him up on his offer.

Whilst Sylvie is there Sebastian makes her do a treasure hunt game similar to the ones they did when they

were children. Doing the treasure hunt will make Sylvie explore the city and meet new people.

I enjoyed the relationship between Sylvie and Sebastian as he was always there for her and was able to cheer her up when she most needed it.

The other character I liked was Aunt Mill. She was hilarious and I found myself having many giggles with some of the things she said through the book.

This was a short, easy and fun read. So if you're looking for a light read I would recommend this book.

Suzanne says

What a bloody good book to come across at Vinnies for a dollar. A really great author, hearty and lovely family stories. I'm thinking The Alphabet Sisters and Lola's Secret.

I'm not sure about the premise of this 'book' as it does state on the back cover that it is only for promotional purposes and that it's not for sale.

A sweet little novella broaching sweet and safe contemporary issues. Set in Melbourne, mostly, this was an easy to read story that fans of Monica McInerney will embrace. Characters to love (Mill) hate (nasty self absorbed sisters) and characters to laugh with (Leila). I liked it, and I've found I'm not easy pleased of late! This one was easy. I like easy.

Check this out (as my 3 year old says) "... Donald's bookshop, nestled between a French bakery and a wine shop. The front windows featured beautifully displayed books and posters." I only know of Dymocks! This is nice make believe.

Kate Krake says

About 1/3 of the way through, it was like I'd eaten too many lollies. Sweet and insubstantial good for the moment, but after too much it starts to make you a bit sick and you realise it's doing you no good and you're better off without it.

Nothing particularly bad about it as far as mindless chick lit goes (hence 2 stars, not 1), but I like to get more out of reading, even junk food reading.
