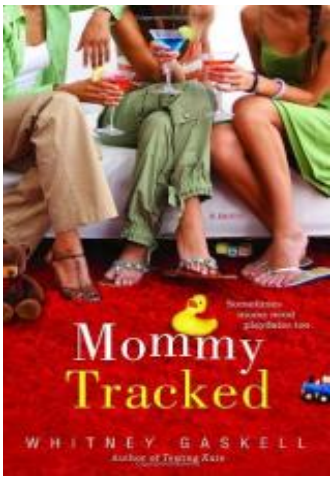
Mommy Tracked

by Whitney Gaskell



About the Book

Praised for her ?smart, funny, sexy, and refreshingly real? novels, author Whitney Gaskell delivers a warm, witty, and wise new story of four women coping with the challenges of motherhood, men, and each other.

For Anna, Grace, Juliet, and Chloe, the idyllic town of Orange Cove, Florida, is home?but even in paradise, balancing the challenges of motherhood and life is never easy.

With a son in the throes of the Terrible Twos, divorced restaurant critic Anna has too much on her plate to reenter the frightening world of dating?no matter how expertly her new admirer wines and dines her?.Grace has three beautiful daughters and the perfect husband, yet she?s increasingly obsessed with one nagging flaw: her excess baby weight?. Ambitious Juliet is desperate to make partner at her law firm. Fortunately, her husband stays home with their twins. But at the office, Juliet is finding more than work to occupy her time....When newest mom Chloe gives birth, her husband seems indifferent to parenting their son. Chloe is so overwhelmed that she finds herself slipping into a nasty habit she thought she?d overcome.?

Filled with humor, charm, and richly developed characters, **Mommy Tracked** illuminates four friends? intertwining lives?and their joys and mistakes along the way.

Discussion Guide

1. Which of the characters did you identify with the most? What common threads link each of their dilemmas?

2. What does Anna?s mother teach her about parenting, and about love? Is your life similar to how your mother?s was when she was your age?

3. Grace?s husband, Louis, is caring and responsible?unusual for dads in **Mommy Tracked**. Are men like him equally rare in real life? Do fathers like James overlook their paternal duties intentionally, or without realizing it?

4. The sexpert and waxing session for Mothers Coming Together helped the women feel alluring again. What activities would you propose if you joined a group like Mothers Coming Together?

5. Discuss the article Chloe wrote that led to the rift between her and Juliet. Why did Juliet?s depiction of Patrick offend him so deeply? Is it equally insulting when working dads deliver similar descriptions of their stay-at-home wives?

6. How would you have responded to Noah?s stories about his previous fiancées? What would it have taken for him to earn your trust?

7. Was Juliet tempted to sleep with Alex solely because of his good looks, or was something else motivating her? Was her road to near-infidelity a typical one?

8. What did Chloe?s experience with Fiona Watson demonstrate about the struggles and ostracism faced by many mothers with newborns? Which segments of society seem the most and the least accepting of babies and their moms?

9. Ultimately, what strategies proved to be the most effective in conquering absentee dads (and, in the case of Juliet, moms)? Would change have ever occurred without extreme measures?

10. Would you have given up a promotion like the one Juliet was offered? What is the best way to resolve income and childcare issues within a family? Is it possible for husbands and wives to allocate the workloads equally?

11. Discuss Grace?s attempts to lose weight. Why had she been so easily influenced by her badgering stepmother, Alice? Why does American society exalt thinness when creating definitions of beautiful women?

12. Grace has to put up with comments about the fact that she has many daughters, while Chloe and Anna are raising sons and Juliet regrets not spending much ?girl time? with her twins. How does the gender factor affect the novel?s characters and their attitudes toward their children?

13. What was at the heart of Chloe?s kleptomania? Do you predict that she and James will achieve enough stability to relieve her insecurity?

14. What does **Mommy Tracked** prove about the nature of friendship? What is the best measure of a friendship? How does the dynamic between friends change when parenthood enters the picture?

15. In what way did Whitney Gaskell?s previous books pave the way for **Mommy Tracked**? What aspects of life as a woman does she celebrate in all her works?

Author Bio

Whitney Gaskell grew up in Syracuse, New York, and is a graduate of Tulane Law School. She worked for several years as a reluctant lawyer before writing her first novel, PUSHING 30. She lives in Florida with her husband and son, and is at work on her fourth novel.

Critical Praise

?Comfortable as fuzzy slippers and still as sharp as stilettos.?

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Publication Date: August 28, 2007
Paperback: 384 pages
Publisher: Bantam
ISBN-10: 0553589695
ISBN-13: 9780553589696