



Rules for Thursday Lovers

By Yana Stajno

PRESS RELEASE

Two friends, on the brink of midlife crisis, embark on a no-strings attached love affair with a major twist: they will share just one lucky man between them.

"Can I help you?" asked someone with a Yorkshire accent. "Possibly," answered Fiona, unsure as to what she was really looking for in the whip and handcuff section.

When old school friends, Angie — a care home worker and mum of two — and Fiona — who has clocked up multiple failed marriages — bump into one another at a tipsy timeshare evening on a Thames barge, they bond over their respective boredom with life. Stale marriages, overbearing families and previous hopes and dreams now tragically confined to the top shelf, they crave the romance and excitement that their youth and all the movies had promised them (rather than the timeshare apartments on offer). Buoyed by the fast-flowing bubbles, a thrilling plan for sexual

misadventure is hatched. Inspired by their surroundings, Angie and Fiona agree that while anyone can timeshare an apartment, timesharing a lover would be much more interesting.

After placing an advert detailing the position available, men of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities — from an opera singer to a pickpocket — flock to London Zoo, the ladies' chosen venue for auditions. One candidate in particular catches their eye, but may prove to be too close to home — and their husbands. To make sure they play fair, don't develop feelings or go off piste completely, Angie and Fiona agree upon and sign a set of rules. But in affairs of the heart rules are often broken.

A hilarious yet heartfelt cakewalk as two women try to reinvigorate their romantic lives, **Rules for Thursday Lovers** juxtaposes the mundane responsibilities of getting older with our never ending thirst for affection and adventure. What begins as a stroke of mischief unravels in spectacular fashion - from a questionable Scrabble game to an impromptu trip to Baden Baden - as Angie and Fiona must quantify the real cost of romance and friendship. Stajno's astute narrative will delight fans of comedy and women's commercial fiction, making **Rules for Thursday Lovers** the perfect literary companion this summer.

About the author: Born in Zimbabwe and educated in South Africa, Yana Stajno enjoyed an artistic and eclectic start to life. Graduating in English and Drama at Cape Town University, Stajno was politically active, joining the anti-apartheid movement where she met her future husband in the middle of a riot. Leaving South Africa for a damp squat in Camden Town, she studied acupuncture and Chinese Medicine before becoming an artist and teacher. Stajno has written plays including *Postcards from the Swamp* and short stories *Ten Plastic Roses* (published in the Bristol Short Story Prize, 2010) and *Flash in the Park* (published by SelfMadeHero, 2012); this is her first novel. Yana can be found in her artist studio at the Chocolate Factory, Wood Green, where she happily splashes paint and hosts workshops for children of all ages with the Booster Cushion company. **Rules for Thursday Lovers** by Yana Stajno (published by Clink Street 16th July 2015 RRP £8.99 paperback, RRP £5.99 ebook) is available to buy online from retailers including amazon.co.uk and can be ordered from all good bookstores.

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