

The background features a network diagram with white circular nodes connected by thin purple lines. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with a higher density in the lower right quadrant. The background color transitions from a dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The title text is centered in the upper half of the image.

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

Written by Camille Pagãjn

Published by griefconvention

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I'm Fine and Neither Are You

By Camille Pagã;n

I'm Fine And Neither Are You

Honesty is the best policyâ€, except maybe when it comes to marriage in this brilliant novel about the high price of perfection from bestselling author Camille Pagã;n. Wife. Mother. Breadwinner. Penelope Ruiz-Kar is doing it allâ€and barely keeping it together. Meanwhile, her best friend, Jenny Sweet, appears to be sailing through life. As close as the two women are, Jennyâ€™s passionate marriage, pristine house, and ultra-polite child stand in stark contrast to Penelopeâ€™s underemployed husband, Sanjay, their unruly brood, and the daily grind she calls a career. Then a shocking tragedy reveals that Jennyâ€™s life is far from perfect. Reeling, Penelope vows to stop keeping the peace and finally deal with the issues in her relationship. So she and Sanjay agree to a radical proposal: both will write a list of changes they want each other to makeâ€then commit to complete and total honesty. What seems like a smart idea quickly spirals out of control, revealing new rifts and even deeper secrets. As Penelope stares down the possible implosion of her marriage, she must ask herself: When it comes to love, is honesty really the best policy?

"It takes courage to be yourself when everyone expects you to be someone else."

Penelope Ruiz-Kar is the glue holding her family together. She's the breadwinner, working in the development office of a medical school. But much to her chagrin, she's also the disciplinarian of her two children, and often the cook, cleaner, and organizer, despite the fact that her husband Sanjay is a stay-at-home dad while picking up some freelance writing jobs.

All too often she's frustrated with everything and every "It takes courage to be yourself when everyone expects you to be someone else."

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All too often she's frustrated with everything and everyone, and wonders how she's strayed so far from her dreams of being a writer of children's books.

Penelope is also tremendously envious of her best friend, Jenny. Jenny always looks like she's posing for a magazine, her house is always perfectly clean and inviting, her daughter is polite and charming, her lifestyle blog influences many women, and she and her husband still have passionate sexâ€a lot. How can Jenny accomplish it all without breaking a sweat when Penelope just wants a do-over, perhaps of her whole life?

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

When a sudden tragedy illuminates the fact that Jenny's life isn't quite as perfect as it seems, Penelope is thrown for a loop. She has to stop pretending everything is fine in all aspects of her life, and she needs to be more honestâ€”and that needs to start with Sanjay. They both agree that things in their marriage could use some work, so each makes a list of changes they want the other to make, and each promises complete honesty.

"Something between us had shifted over the course of our marriage, particularly the last two to three years. We had gone from being lovers to best friends to...roommates who routinely irritated each other. If I was honest with myself, that was what it felt like most of the time."

Total honesty seems like a good idea...but in reality it causes more problems than it solves, especially as Penelope starts becoming a little too honest with people around her. And while she and Sanjay want to commit to fixing their marriage, it isn't as easy as they thought it would be. Is it possible at all? Is their marriage destined to fail and are they powerless to stop it, or is there something they need to do?

Camille Pagã;n's *I'm Fine and Neither Are You* is a funny, thought-provoking, poignant look at how difficult it can be to balance marriage, work, and family, and not kill yourselfâ€”or each otherâ€”in the process. It's also a look at the lies we tell each otherâ€”and ourselvesâ€”and how uncovering the truth is so difficult and often painful, but it's truly necessary.

This was a quick, enjoyable book that I read over the course of the day. I had never read anything of Pagã;n's before, but I really liked her balance of humor, poignancy, emotion, and soul-searching. This is definitely a book that made me realize that whenever I think a person may have it all and I'm envious, that I don't really know the challenges they're facing.

Lake Union Publishing and Amazon First Reads provided me an advance copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making it available!

This book will be published April 1, 2019.

See all of my reviews at itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com.

Check out my list of the best books I read in 2018 at <https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2019/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2018.html>.

You can follow my Bookstagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/yrralh/>. ...more

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

I'm Fine And You

2 at best...

I actually just skimmed through to the end of this one. I chose this, my mistake, as my Amazon First Reads for March. I assume I am not the "target" audience, although I'm growing weary of authors writing specifically for a "target" audience. While certainly not every genre is for every person when you start writing specifically for a select group of people something is just "off." Of course that's also just me being cranky, never the less, it still is a sign of a lack of talent. I 2 at best...

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...more

Audiobook... read by Amy McFadden

I've listen to ~too much~ of this one.

I have the kindle ebook/ sync. The last 30% I switched to the written words. But by that time - I just didn't care.

Amy's voice was irritating, and annoying.

This was the first time I've ever listen to a book by Camille Pagan and was ~totally~ turned off by the voice narration.

Each book I've read has gradually gone downhill. The book I enjoyed best was "Woman Last Seen in Her Thirties" .

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I'm Fine and Neither Are You

in Her Thirtiesâ€• .

And honestly- I wasnâ€™t crazy about the storytelling - written words - either. But the Audiobook was the worse!

This is my 4th read with Pagan.... definitely my least favorite.

2 stars at BEST ...more

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

I'm Fine And Other Lies

â•• â•• â•• â•• / 5

I'm Fine and Neither Are You by Camille Pagã;n is a witty, but moving look at what it's like to be a wife and mother while also holding down a full-time job.

What it's about: Penelope Ruiz-Kar is married with 2 little kids and while she is out working 50+ hours a week and barely holding it together as the main breadwinner, her husband is at home with the kids, 'working on his writing,' and going to practice with his band. Meanwhile, her best friend Jenny Sweet seems like she doesn't have

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What it's about: Penelope Ruiz-Kar is married with 2 little kids and while she is out working 50+ hours a week and barely holding it together as the main breadwinner, her husband is at home with the kids, 'working on his writing,' and going to practice with his band. Meanwhile, her best friend Jenny Sweet seems like she doesn't have a care in the world. She has an amazing marriage, a perfect daughter, and a flourishing blog. But that appearance is shattered the day Penelope shows up to Jenny's home after not being able to reach her and finds something that will change her forever. In the midst of tragedy, Penelope finds herself rethinking her marriage and her own happiness. And like the tagline says, has to ask herself if honesty really is always the best policy...

Even if you don't have kids or even if you are not a wife, I think it is very easy to find a bit of yourself in Penelope. I don't have kids, but I am a married woman in my 30s and was able to connect a lot to Penelope's story. I love when you can relate to characters on multiple levels and I was definitely able to do that in this book.

There is a theme of addiction in I'm Fine and Neither Are You that I thought the author handled very well. There is humor and witty words throughout, but also a very real problem that Pagã;n talks about and handles with a delicacy that I didn't even know was possible. This book is so realistic that I know it will be very relatable to a lot of people.

This book is super short as well, coming in at only 270 pages. While it still took me almost 4 hours to read, I was engrossed in the writing and finding myself wanting to savor it as long as possible. I just found it a little bit repetitive at times which is really the only reason it didn't get a higher rating from me.

Final Thought: If you love women's literature and contemporary stories focusing on a wife and mom (or any of these things individually!) then I highly suggest checking out I'm Fine and Neither Are You. I even managed to cry towards the end, I was so moved! I cannot wait to read more of Pagã;n's work and hope

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

I can get to something else of hers very soon.

Thank you to the publisher for providing me with an advance review copy of this book! ...more

A totally realistic and relatable story as women today struggle to reach perfection in their life.

SUMMARY

Wife. Mother. Breadwinner. Penelope Ruiz-Kar is doing it allâ€”and barely keeping it together. Meanwhile, her best friend, Jenny Sweet, appears to be sailing through life. As close as the two women are, Jennyâ€™s passionate marriage, pristine house, and ultra-polite child stand in stark contrast to Penelopeâ€™s underemployed husband, Sanjay, their unruly brood, and the daily grind she calls a career A totally realistic and relatable story as women today struggle to reach perfection in their life.

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What seems like a smart idea quickly spirals out of control, revealing new rifts and even deeper secrets. As Penelope stares down the possible implosion of her marriage, she must ask herself: When it comes to love, is honesty really the best policy?

REVIEW

Any woman who is juggling career, marriage and family will totally relate to this poignant story of real life, love and loss. Iâ€™m Fine and Neither are You is a touching chronicle of Penelopeâ€™s re-evaluation of her life. The story is totally relatable and very realistic, as women today strive for perfection.

My favorite part was the concept of creating a short list of changes that Sanjay and Penelope wanted the other to make. This naturally forms the basis of hurt feelings, but much introspection for Penelope. Camille Pagã;nâ€™s writing was smooth, fast-paced and easy to read, and offers tremendous insight into juggling the demands of life and the price of perfection.

When Pagã;n is not at her computer writing, she is reading a book, running after her two kids and their

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

nutty dog, or planning her next trip (most likely to Puerto Rico, where her husband was born and raised). Camille and her family live in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She has written four other novels, most recently *Woman Last Seen in Her Thirties*. Thanks to Camille Pagã;n for an advanced reading copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Publisher □Lake Union

Published □April, 1, 2019

Review□www.bluestockingreviews.com

...more

I'm Fine And Neither Are You Goodreads

Camille Pagan has written the story of every woman who hides their real feelings and puts on a brave front. When asked, "how are you?", many of us always answer, "I'm fine" simply because we don't want others to know of our insecurities and weaknesses. As a woman, we all have our struggles balancing work, kids, relationships and life in general. I'm Fine and Neither Are You really drives home the meaning behind "the grass is always greener on the other side". I love Camille Pagan's writing and t
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Penelope is working hard to keep her family together. She's also beyond stressed with her work and home life. When her best friend dies, Penelope realizes other people's lives aren't as perfect as they appear. Penelope and her husband agree to make a list of things they want from the other. Despite the problems and secrets, they work to improve their relationship.

Penelope is faced with some harsh realities when her best friend, who seemed perfect, is gone. Her best friend had a lifestyle blog, a Penelope is working hard to keep her family together. She's also beyond stressed with her work and home life. When her best friend dies, Penelope realizes other people's lives aren't as perfect as they appear. Penelope and her husband agree to make a list of things they want from the other. Despite the problems and secrets, they work to improve their relationship.

Penelope is faced with some harsh realities when her best friend, who seemed perfect, is gone. Her best friend had a lifestyle blog, and seemed to have a great marriage, the most well behaved child, and a perfectly decorated home. This has a ring of truth in the picture perfect lifestyle that is prevalent in our current culture. Penelope soon learns everything is not as it seems, and she reflects on her own life.

Contemporary women's fiction. Penelope has a hard time balancing marriage, kids, and work. Something a lot of women can relate to. And I imagine a lot of the target audience for this book has been guilty of saying "I'm fine" rather than be vulnerable to their real thoughts and feelings. An emotional story that touches on some timely topics.

This was my Amazon First Reads pick for March 2019. ...more

I'm Fine And Neither Are You Review

3.25 stars

I'm Fine and Neither Are You is better than 3 stars, but nowhere close to 4 stars. I would say this novel falls into the "domestic angst" genre. Penelope hits a crisis point in her life when her best friend dies, and she realizes that she may not want to stay married to the father of her two young demanding children. Penelope's feelings are a somewhat typical trope in contemporary domestic fiction. The twist is that she is the breadwinner and her husband is at home. Also Penelope's husband is a somewhat multidimensional character. There were some good scenes and some real emotions in I'm Fine and Neither Are You, but it didn't knock my socks off. Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for an opportunity to read an advance copy. ...more

I'm Fine and Neither Are You is a witty and honest book about modern marriage and motherhood. It's smart and relevant, and it tackles many important issues that so many women and families can relate to. I loved the writing style and I enjoyed the characters, I could easily see myself in Penelope and relate to her struggles. I laughed and I cried while reading this book. I flew through it in two sittings, and even though it was a breezy read, it was also a thought-provoking story. I'm Fine and Neither Are You is a witty and honest book about modern marriage and motherhood. It's smart and relevant, and it tackles many important issues that so many women and families can relate to. I loved the writing style and I enjoyed the characters, I could easily see myself in Penelope and relate to her struggles. I laughed and I cried while reading this book. I flew through it in two sittings, and even though it was a breezy read, it was also a thought-provoking story. I'm Fine and Neither Are You a perfect book club pick. I highly recommend it. ...more

I'm Fine And You In French

(free review copy) Oh my goodness. As a 38-year-old married mother of three, I am the sweet spot of the target audience for this book and it more than hit its mark. I inhaled it in less than a day and I will be thinking about it for a very very long time. A story of friendship and marriage and making the most of the wild and messy "normal" lives that we all lead, this book was more effective at making me reevaluate my current life and priorities than any self help book has ever been. If you are (free review copy) Oh my goodness. As a 38-year-old married mother of three, I am the sweet spot of the target audience for this book and it more than hit its mark. I inhaled it in less than a day and I will be thinking about it for a very very long time. A story of friendship and marriage and making the most of the wild and messy "normal" lives that we all lead, this book was more effective at making me reevaluate my current life and priorities than any self help book has ever been. If you are in my demographic, I can't recommend this highly enough to readers of contemporary domestic fiction. LOVED IT. ...more

A book about nothing special

This was an overall disappointment. It started interesting enough, but the whole story felt like it was leading somewhere and nothing. When you read what this book is about it doesn't really say. I thought it would be about a murder cover up, an affair, a ghost, what?!

Nothing! It's about nothing. Pen complains the whole time about her husband and when they talk and is agreeing with her she backtrack and "feels" bad. The story makes you think there something with the c
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This book is best described as opening a big gift with another wrapped box inside, and then another, and another. And when you are all excited as to what it can be when you finally get to the last box, it's a fast food gift card. ...more

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

I'm Fine And Save Me

Just what the doctor ordered...

A suspense/thriller junky, I often find myself feeling a little less than inspired as I read the same tired story lines over and over and over again. Today, I needed a break.

Having read several other Camille Pagã;n novels in the past couple years, and loving every one, I was so excited to dive into I'm Fine and Neither Are You this morning. Yes, I said this morning. I read the entire book in just a few hours. I couldn't put it down.

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If it's action and intense excitement you're looking for, this isn't the novel for you. This is the book for the married mother, trying to keep an unnaturally high number of balls juggling all at once, who neglects her happiness for the sake of others.

The voices of these characters were so real. I found myself laughing, crying, and everything in between, as Penny dealt with the loss of her best friend, her crumbling marriage, her less than stellar body, her screaming kids, the job she never wanted...even her "comfy" home (short for messy and lived in). I kind of loved Penny...although, unlike her, I've never had a problem being upfront and honest. Perhaps my issue is the other extreme...too brash and loud-mouthed.

Let's face it...we've all been down this road, forever putting the needs of our husband, our children, even our employer, ahead of our own. Why we all try to be Superwoman, I have no idea, but it seems to be the very essence of a mother's DNA.

I'm Fine and Neither Are You is a timely and thought-provoking novel about life, and, despite the pitfalls, being grateful we're still alive for the struggles. I couldn't recommend this book more...for all ages. ...more

I am SO the target audience for this book, Iâ€™m just an average mom and wife trying to keep my family running and stay sane while juggling more balls than I should be, and the main character, Penny is doing exactly the same thing, and sheâ€™s struggling in a major way. #relatable So if youâ€™re a

I'm Fine and Neither Are You

middle aged wife/mom grab this one because I have a feeling that youâ€™ll see a piece of yourself in Penny as well. And if youâ€™re not, grab it anyway because it was a great read.

Penny and her husband Sanjay de I am SO the target audience for this book, Iâ€™m just an average mom and wife trying to keep my family running and stay sane while juggling more balls than I should be, and the main character, Penny is doing exactly the same thing, and sheâ€™s struggling in a major way. #relatable So if youâ€™re a middle aged wife/mom grab this one because I have a feeling that youâ€™ll see a piece of yourself in Penny as well. And if youâ€™re not, grab it anyway because it was a great read.

Penny and her husband Sanjay decide to try and revitalize their marriage and the first step is total honesty, especially concerning their own personal wants and needs. At first glance this sounds like a solid plan, but is total honesty ever a truly good idea? Thatâ€™s a hard no from me, I mean I like to think Iâ€™m an honest person but do you know how many times a day I bite my tongue in order to avoid sounding like a huge bitch? The answer to that question is a lot of times a day and I most certainly keep quiet when my husband says or does something to annoy me on the regular. All of that to say, the idea of true and sometimes harsh, honesty in a marriage is downright scary. It brought some really interesting questions to light and even made me examine my own life, which is always something I appreciate in a book, especially one that is super fun and light in so many ways. A mix of depth and fun is such a great balance and when itâ€™s done well, itâ€™s a little magical. It was done very well here! This would be a great choice for a book club, plenty of themes to discuss and enough humor and heart to stick with you after youâ€™ve finished.

Iâ€™m Fine and Neither Are You in three words: Witty, Heartfelt and Realistic

...more

I'm Fine And Neither Are You Book

I loved this book so much!!

Being a woman is HARD. There's expectations upon expectations and your spirit can be crushed by the weight of keeping your home together, keeping your significant other happy, keeping your kids alive, keeping a job - the pressure can be paralyzing. But WHILE all those monkeys are jumping on your back, the hardest thing of all, is to pretend like you've got all of your sh*t together. Keep a smile on your face. Keep going.

Penny is desperately trying to keep it all together, and watching her picture perfect best friend Jenny sail through a Pinterest-perfect existence, is not helping. How on earth does she do it? Her home is immaculate, her daughter an angel, and a steamy relationship with her husband?!?! All the while Sanjay and Penny can barely sit down and have a conversation together.

But when an awful tragedy occurs and the cracks begin to show in Jenny's picture-perfect life Penny makes a proposal to Sanjay to get their lives back on track. They request from each other 3 things they'd like each other to change that have been affecting their relationship, and agree to work at them as hard and as honestly as they can.

The story is raw, and SO real, and it forces you to examine your life a bit as well. In this day in age, especially, it's so easy to portray a digital flawless life. And SO many people do. These fabrications spiral out of control to affect many who wish to aspire to unachievable standards. It's SO HARD to be a woman. It's even harder to be a woman you aren't.

It's an honest story that examines what you'd do to achieve the "perfect life". How honesty may not always be the best policy, and in the end sometimes something as simple as communication IS key.

I loved every minute of this book. The characters were flawed, yet relatable. The story was compelling and engaging - from friendship, love, and loss, to mystery and secrecy, while also tackling a prevalent issue that haunts our nation right now - I couldn't put it down, and I can't stop thinking about it.

...more

I'm Fine And Yourself

This is my first time reading one of Camille Pagã;n's novels and I was drawn in right away. The first scene involved morning chaos and not having toilet paper in the bathroom, making it instantly relatable. Then there was the scene at the end of Penny's workday that clinched it for me even more. The entire story resonated with me a lot and spoke volumes. I felt an instant kinship with Penny. It makes you think about what goes on behind closed doors in a marriage and home and that what things look like on the surface aren't always that way when no one is looking. There are a lot of important messages regarding relationships and self-care.

There were times I got really annoyed with Sanjay, but then I started to love him later on. This story made me step back and take a look at my own marriage through other eyes, as well as addressing what my needs are and speaking up more (both at home and work). I even sent this article to Camille after I had finished reading the novel.

Overall, this was a great novel and now I need to go back and read Camille's previous ones.

Movie casting suggestions:

Penny: Jaime Murray

Sanjay: Raza Jaffrey

Jenny: Ellie Kemper

Matt: Eric Winter

Russ: John Mulaney

Yolanda: Gina Torres

...more

I don't really know what to say about this book. I'm not sure how I feel. Nothing really happens. It's realistic and has a good message so there's that. Oh and I absolutely LOVE the title. But overall it sort of felt like I was just listening to a coworker talk about her problems and family life that I don't particularly care about. Not entertaining but not completely boring. Just. Meh. Life, Plain and simple.

2.5 stars.

I'm Fine And Other Lies Review

This book's clever title drew my attention and but its blurb describing a story about a woman who struggles with secrets, loss and how to get her life back on track is what sold it to me.

The book starts out strong and had me giggling in the first scene. A good sign. The book remains a fairly light read even though it handles some darker issues involving family, life lessons and a few side stories. Unfortunately, these issues are only touched on and readers aren't given enough time to get to know This book's clever title drew my attention and but its blurb describing a story about a woman who struggles with secrets, loss and how to get her life back on track is what sold it to me.

The book starts out strong and had me giggling in the first scene. A good sign. The book remains a fairly light read even though it handles some darker issues involving family, life lessons and a few side stories. Unfortunately, these issues are only touched on and readers aren't given enough time to get to know the characters in any depth. We really only get Penny's take and she's a very hard gal to like. While she has some good quips, she comes off as a whiney martyr who is hard to please and instead of clicking with her, I ended up feeling bad for her husband.

Overall, I'm Fine and Neither Are You started off stronger than it ended and while it didn't quite hit the mark for me, I applaud the author for taking on the underlying theme of honesty -- with ourselves and those around us -- as we try to shed the masks we wear in order to appear that we have all aspects of our lives in perfect order.

Disclaimer: My sincere thanks to the publisher for providing me with a complimentary digital copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. ...more

Good "mom lit" genre read. Very well-written -- I felt like a friend was talking to me -- about both timely and timeless topics. Timeless: relationships, managing life in all its wonderfulness and ugliness. Timely: opioid addiction, social media and how we curate it to present a very certain image of ourselves to the world (rather than our whole selves), often to the detriment of ourselves and others. Wish I could give it 3.5 stars. Can't quite articulate why not 4; something about how the ending Good "mom lit" genre read. Very well-written -- I felt like a friend was talking to me -- about both timely and timeless topics. Timeless: relationships, managing life in all its wonderfulness and ugliness. Timely: opioid addiction, social media and how we curate it to present a very certain image of ourselves to the world (rather than our whole selves), often to the detriment of ourselves and others. Wish I could give it 3.5 stars. Can't quite articulate why not 4; something about how the ending seemed too pat, even if it wasn't your classic fairy tale-everything-is-perfect conclusion. Am glad I selected this from Amazon's First Read offerings for the month, and do plan to read more by Ms Pagã;n down the road. ...more