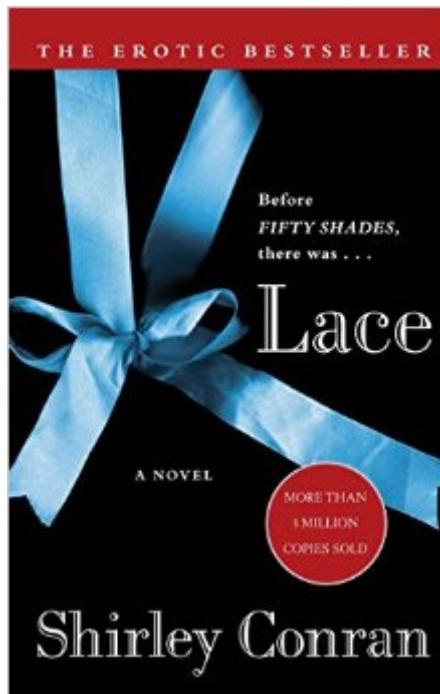


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Lace: A Novel



Synopsis

"Which one of you bitches is my mother?" Four elegant, successful, and sophisticated women in their forties are called to New York's Pierre Hotel to meet Lili -- a beautiful, young, and notoriously temperamental Hollywood movie star. None of the women knows exactly why she is there; each has a reason to hate Lili and each of them is astonished to see the others. They are old friends who share a guilty secret and who have for years been doing their best to keep that secret quiet. Their lives are changed forever, however, when Lili suddenly confronts them. When the women refuse to answer her, Lili proceeds to travel around the world through the playgrounds of the rich and famous, seeking to answer the question that has obsessed and almost destroyed her. From Paris to London, from the boardroom to the bedroom, Lace takes the reader into the rarified world of five unforgettable women who are as beautiful, as complex and as strong as...lace.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (47 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Shirley Conran knows how to weave an exciting, glamorous story of the kind of life most women dream of but never get to experience. If she didn't, there wouldn't be the wonderful miniseries that it inspired, minus Kate, whose character was honestly not all that impressive. Yes, the novel goes into more detail, but the movie itself was a real gem, and I will admit that it's what turned me into an Arielle Dombasle fan 20 years ago when I was 19. It is impossible, after seeing the 5 1/2 hour miniseries not to see Pagan, Judy, Maxine, and Lily being portrayed by the actresses in the film once you read the book. I also liked the movie slightly better because it was a gorgeously lavish production, trashy, glamorous, tragic, and touching. Conran's classic novel beguiles like a loaded

treasure chest, but the film adaptation sparkles and dazzles as if the lid was strewn wide open. I recommend both the book and the movie for full effect, but I really wish Ammy would supply us with the option of procuring the miniseries on DVD. I already know one definite buyer!

Originally published in 1982 when Conran was 50 years old, this book is as great today as it was when first written. The story chronicles the lives of five women, four of whom meet up at a Swiss Finishing School. It follows their growth to maturity as each one carves a successful future for themselves. However, their lives are laced together by a shared secret! Lavishly descriptive, you will be seduced by the glamour as well as the hard realities that the five women have to endure. Ultimately, it is a book about friendship and what it means to be a woman. Conran writes with heartfelt understanding and accuracy. She is first rate! I believe a wealth of Conran's life experience (and cultural awareness) is evident in the development of the characters. And, I can honestly say as a man, that my understanding and empathy for women has changed for the better. Shirley is a real woman and she writes from a real woman's perspective. The intimacy, pain and passions of the characters are viewed from an intimately feminine standpoint. I feel I have shared something of what was in the author's mind and the minds of the characters in this magical book. Thank you Shirley.

I'm not a big fan of romance novels, but I remember the mini series as being a big deal in the 80's when I was too young to watch it, so I decided to check out the book. Not a great work of literature, but if you're looking for something entertaining to read at the beach, something that won't tax your brain, this is the ticket. Multiple story lines keep the story moving along at a good clip. A nice easy read.

This is a very well-written book about a group of women in the 1950's & 60's. It is interesting on many levels: the relationships, the locations, the sex (which at times seems contrived but usually flows quite naturally), as well as for the cultural evolution/revolution of the times. A great retro-women's book. I intend to pass it around to my group of "sisters". And at 750 pages, it's a long read, but I was sorry when it ended.

As you get more and more trapped inside the well woven fabric that is "Lace" on your way to unravel the answer to the curiosity-arousing question presented by Lili at the beginning, you realize what "Lace" is all about. Money, sordid love affairs, haute couture, friendship and lots more is what

you encounter as you turn page after page and follow the sizzling plot and connect to the lovable characters. "Lace" is a richly enjoyable novel not of the cheap supermarket kind, but truly an amazing book that'll keep you on the edge and mesmerize you from beginning to end. Once you started reading this book, you'll never want to put it down, and will want to reread it a good many of times- I know I have. A truly amazing, staggering story of the dramatic (and humor full) lives of four best friends from being teen angers to adulthood. It is my favorite novel. As Sarah said a prime choice for rainy days and Sundays, indeed!

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