

Sacramento Book Review



Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

This One is Mine

By Maria Semple

Little, Brown & Co, \$24.99, 289 pages

Meet Violet Perry: married to a man who manages rock bands, one child cared for by a full-time nanny, intelligent and witty, wealthy. It would seem she has everything, but her life is still lacking. Her marriage is a little bit rocky, and her husband, David, never seems to care about what she has to say, so long as she always seems interested in what he's been up to. And, because she feels unfulfilled, Violet's willing to risk everything important to her for a brief affair with an unlikely candidate named Teddy: bass player for a Rolling Stones cover band, strapped for cash, recovering drug addict.



Meet Sally Perry: David's younger sister, former ballerina, diabetic, and secretly deep in credit card debt. Sally wants nothing more than a dream wedding to a rich man, to get herself out of debt, and live happily ever after in the kind of lifestyle her brother and his wife now have. She finds the perfect candidate in Jeremy White, author of a sports statistics column and soon-to-be television star. Events culminate during Sally's wedding, but by no means does the fun stop there; the story continued to surprise me to the end.

In *This One is Mine*, Maria Semple spins the story of two women dissatisfied with their current lives and willing

to do something to change that. This story has all the makings of a good "chick lit" novel: a bored housewife (and one who wishes she were), small amounts of steamy romance, quirky new age ideas, and ridiculous amounts of wealth to power it all. I didn't really identify with any of the characters; Sally was shallow, Violet too emotional and disconnected. But I still thoroughly enjoyed this book. The pace is quick, jumping past uneventful times while lingering in the important scenes. The writing is fairly simple, but interesting and engrossing as well; I particularly enjoyed Semple's use of various modern slang terms. *This One is Mine* was a good, light, fun read to take my mind off more serious matters.

Reviewed by Holly Scudero