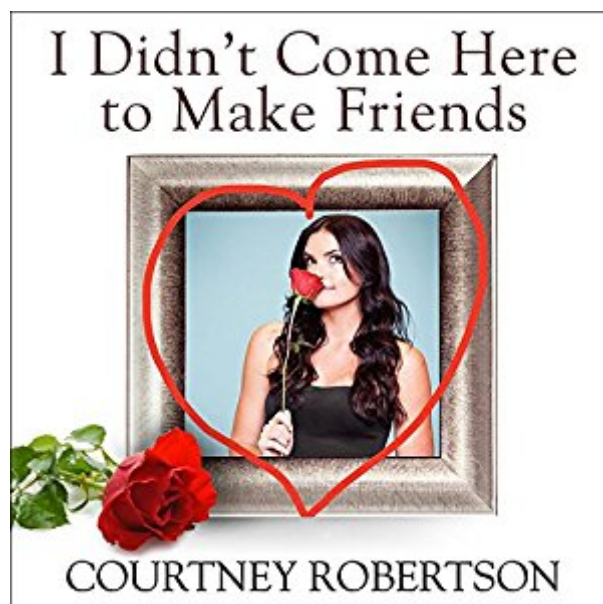


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I Didn't Come Here To Make Friends: Confessions Of A Reality Show Villain



Synopsis

Courtney Robertson joined season 16 of *The Bachelor* looking for love. A working model and newly single, Courtney fit the casting call: She was young, beautiful, and a natural in front of the cameras. As the season unfolded and sparks began to fly, it became clear: She was not there to make friends. Courtney quickly became one of the biggest villains in Bachelor franchise history. She unapologetically pursued her man, steamrolled her competition, and broke the rules. Now, after a very public breakup with her Bachelor, Ben Flajnik, Courtney dishes on life before, during, and after *The Bachelor*, including Ben's romantic proposal to her on a Swiss mountaintop and the tabloid frenzy that continued after the cameras stopped rolling. Complete with stories, tips, tricks, and advice from your favorite Bachelor alumni, and filled with all the juicy details Courtney fans and foes alike want to know, *I Didn't Come Here to Make Friends* is a must-listen for every member of Bachelor nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Courtney Robertson was the girl we loved to hate. I'm a big fan of the Bachelor/ette franchise as a general rule, but Courtney really brought the kind of pain to the show that hooked us viewers in. I started off this review saying she was demonized, but I think everybody's aware, especially herself, that she was fully aware of her own behaviors and how they affected people. Anyway, this is not a review on Courtney's personality flaws, but the book she wrote highlighting her life thus far which focuses heavily on her time with Ben Flajnik, *The Bachelor's* 16th bachelor. A bit of backstory starts

us off, name— dropping as we go (Jesse Metcalfe, Adrian Grenier, Gerard Butler), where Courtney does her very best to set herself up as an awkward underdog whose ugly duckling difficulties in her teens and early 20s are intended to endear us to her. She stumbled into modeling completely unaware of her beauty as if she felt undeserving of the attention. I suppose that angle may work for some readers, but ... hee. Not me. In reality, and per the Bachelor show we all participated in as voyeurs, Courtney is exactly as she presented. I wish, as a reader and a viewer, she'd just embrace her inner bitch because it is what it is and it was what it was. She was catty and sassy as often as possible on the show, and attempting to play it off as "stand-up comedian gone bad" is just kind of pathetic. None of what's written above, however, gives a pass to how Ben Flajnik treated Courtney post-Bachelor unreality. Courtney is definitely giving her side of the story in this painstakingly detailed retelling of events, and there would likely be a difference of opinion were we to compare notes with Ben, but he came off light on integrity on the show itself long before this book was neuron firing. That his behavior as Courtney describes it matches exactly what I would have expected is no coincidence nor is it a shock. Long story short: I believe the charge that Ben Flajnik went on both Bachelorette AND Bachelor in order to hawk his winery & wine to be true. As to why Courtney wrote this book? I think she's a big-time narcissist and has long-harbored resentment that she came off as terribly as she did on the show (even though it was by her own hand -- thus is the insanity of narcissism) and can't stand how Ben has talked poorly about her in the press for years. She wants to paint herself in the halo-glow of innocence via this book and point the wicked wand at Ben. It won't work, in my opinion, but she can have fun trying. The secondary purpose for her writing this book is that I believe she desperately wants to be The Bachelorette, and in my opinion, they should let her do it. The ratings will be sky-ffin-high (I'll for sure watch!!!). Make it a celebrity version since the bar has been raised so high for her, and holy crap. Show success. One thing I really have to admit to - while reading the book I followed along as closely as I could with YouTube clips and media stories / pictures to go along with what she was reporting. It was a really lot of fun. To know the insider knowledge of how terribly bad her relationship was with Ben by the time they got to the Wet Republic pool party was awesome to then run over and look at the pictures and try to see the misery in their faces. Overall this book was a super-fast read and highly entertaining. It's light and fun - not deep or difficult or cerebral at all. Be ready to feel like you're watching a 10-car pileup in wicked slow motion while eating popcorn and drinking cheap wine (not Ben's). Disclaimer: I was provided a digital copy of this book in order to read and provide an honest review.

This is a revealing look both at what goes on behind the scenes in making The Bachelor and,

whether intentional or not, at the raunchy lifestyle and persona of this Hollywood-model turned author. The biggest takeaway is that producers, through selective editing, can amplify conflict and create viewer tension by depicting Bachelor/Bachelorette contestants as either Mother Teresa's or budding Ted Bundy's. By the end we can't be sure whether Season 16's Bachelor winner, Courtney Robertson, was a mean-girl villain or a somewhat willing victim. There's plenty of salacious dirt to go around. The book is peppered with locker-room language and lewd details such as the number of men 30-year old Courtney has had sex with (not that many according to her and primly rounded off. She also has a rule against going all the way on first dates with men she might be interested in getting serious with later on.) She describes her favorite positions for intimacy either alone or with a partner, complete with the Cosmo-inspired name for one of them. Robertson identifies the guy who bestowed "the best sex I've ever had", an alum of the show. And of course the number of times she and Ben did it on their overnight in the Fantasy Suite. Courtney gives us the names of other Bachelors and Bachelorettes who were intimate in their Fantasy Suite interludes, which commonly involve separate sex with all three of that season's finalists, two of whom are soon to suffer the humiliation of being publicly dumped by someone they've fallen for on national TV. Robertson maintained a detailed journal during the wearisome downtime between exhilarating dates that some of the girls went on with Bachelor Ben Flajnik. So we learn that contestants for weeks on end are sequestered together in exotic locations with ample free booze but deprived of access to cell phones, TV, or friends and family. This fosters a combustible mix of boredom, estrogen fueled gossip, intense competition, and the unrelenting threat of being sent home. There's a close-knit brotherhood/sisterhood of former Bachelor contestants, whom the show occasionally convenes for parties and brings back for the summer spinoff "Bachelor Pad". What's surprising is that so many gorgeous, nubile female alums, who were publicly virtuous on their previous seasons, make themselves readily available for the alumni hunks. If your name is Emily M., don't read this book. Once a winner is selected the winning twosome is kept separately in seclusion for about four months, until the episodes air. That hiatus is when two people from often totally different backgrounds first encounter their partners' cultures by long distance phone calls and a few clandestine arranged dates. There was apparently little time during previous taping sessions to have discussed with each other such basic topics as religion, politics, one's views on saving versus spending money, and their respective levels of education. When each episode airs they see for the first time how they were portrayed and what the audience saw their partner doing and saying to the other contestants. Thus, the winners frequently breakup sometime after they have milked the notoriety and financial opportunities offered to them (such as what one gets paid for being on

Dancing With The Stars) after the final results are shown to the public. Lovable Ben comes off as distant, self-absorbed, and more interested in being with his buddies than with Courtney. His mother is painted as snobbish (her first question to Courtney was "Why didn't you go to college?"). Courtney's mother's mantra was "All men are scum" and she raised her daughter as a prude. Courtney, of course, ultimately broke out of those constraints in high school, which she barely completed, and she has continued to accelerate through life in the passing lane. Like many other Bachelorettes she falls regularly for "bad guys" despite having her pick of almost any man she wants. The book is fairly well written, aided by Deb Baer. There are plenty of inside info lists, such as "How To Get Noticed on the Application to The Bachelor", "Arie's Kissing Tips", and show creator's Mike Fleiss' "Banging The Bachelor". The lists are thrown into the narrative somewhat indiscriminately, however. It's hard to remember from 2012 the many contestants referred to by only first name so fans may want to have a computer handy to Google "The Bachelor Season 16 Cast" for pictures and bios. Some critics have called The Bachelor "fantasy football for females" (and eye candy for a few voyeuristic males like me). But ladies, be careful what you wish for. Another lesson of "I Didn't Come Here To Make Friends" is that appearing on this show can be life-changing but there's less than a 4% chance of a happy ending. And even the winners can be losers.

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