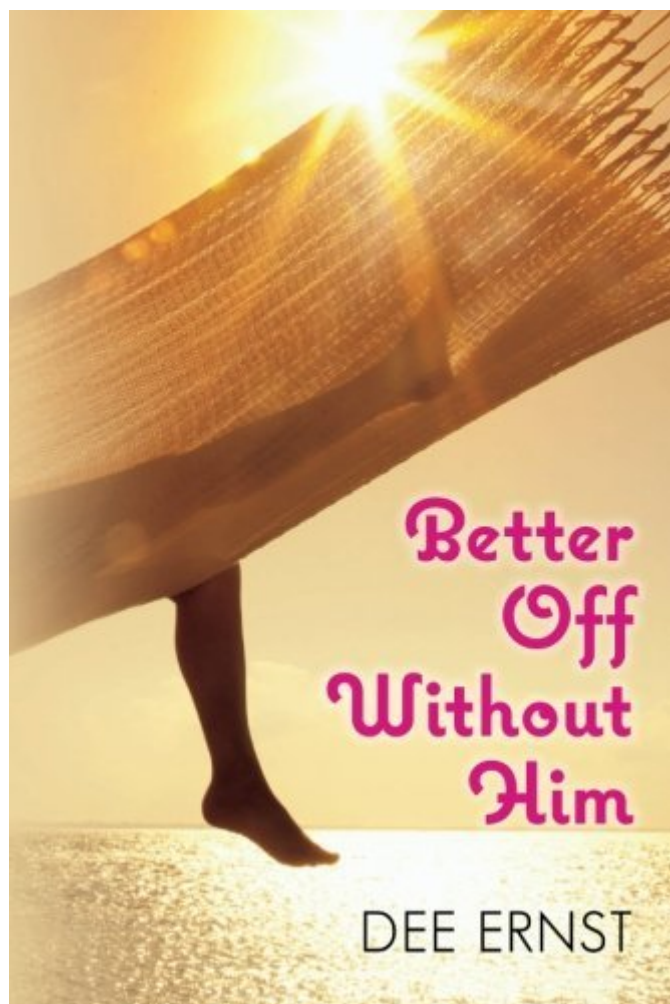


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Better Off Without Him



Synopsis

Mona Berman has it all—a twenty-year marriage, a successful career as a romance novelist, and three teenage daughters. But when her husband, Brian, leaves her for someone younger, thinner, blonde, and French, she has to step back and take a good, long look at her life. First, her career. She can't continue to write about "Happily Ever After," so she changes the heroine of her new book from a hot young thing to a forty-something woman who manages to find happiness without a man. Her agent isn't too happy—the heroine is how old? She doesn't get the guy in the end? How is that even possible? But Mona is tough, and she's got Anthony, her personal assistant, and a few good friends to cheer her on and keep the stiff martinis flowing. And Ben. Ben is her plumber, but not your average plumber. He's smart enough to know that Brian was never good enough for her, and sexy enough to be cast as the romantic lead in quite a few of her books. The sound of his voice alone can send her imagination into full romantic overdrive. Then she meets Mitch, who might be just the guy for her. And there's still Ben, who's managed to come to her rescue more than once. But there's a book to publish, a soon-to-be-ex-husband to deal with, and what has Aunt Lily done this time? Can Mona work this all out? Can life imitate art, and can Mona write her own happy ending?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book got me through the worst case of jet-lag I have ever experienced - or it may have just been a handy excuse for lying abed much longer than normal. I like to mix up my reading and having just finished one literary novel followed by an action/adventure/suspense story, I thought perhaps this confection would be just what I needed. Dee Ernst is a fellow author on Boomers and Books and I knew from reading her blogs over the past year that she has a style which appeals to me. My instincts were right. How could one not love a book when it begins with a view of the April version of winter that is so in tune with my own. Touted as a romantic comedy, *Better Off Without Him* was just that. The characters were varied and zany in a normal kind of way, and their nicknames laugh-out-loud funny. Mona, the hero, is a romance writer in her mid-forties who thinks her marriage is perfect - until the day Mr Right comes home and tells her he is in love with a woman fifteen years younger and thirty pounds lighter. A few months later she takes her three teenage daughters to her place on the Jersey shore for the summer. One rainy day they come at her as a group and tell her she should start 'practice' dating. They even have a man in mind, a neighbor and friend from across the street. Thus starts the round of dating 'safe' men recommended by friends, most of whom are anything but. Ms Ernst has impeccable timing, both with comedy and plot. Her writing is smart and crisp. We are not absolutely certain who she will end up with - or even if she will end up with anyone at all.

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