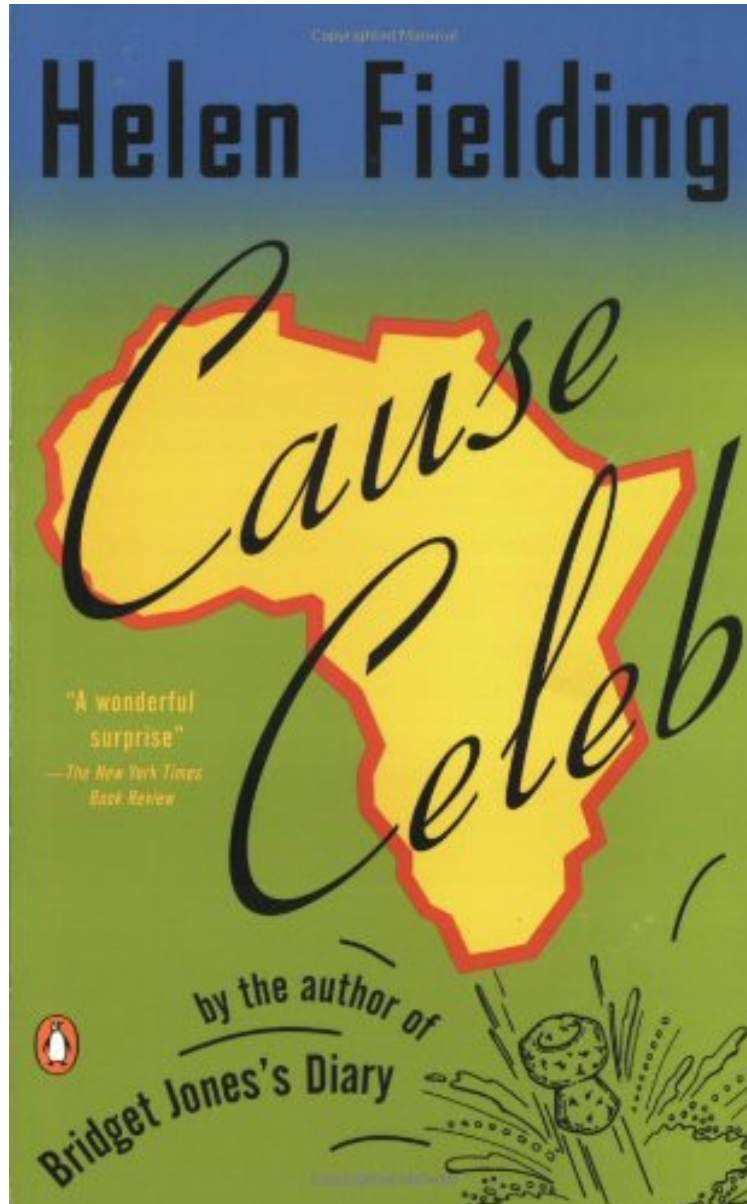


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Cause Celeb

Helen Fielding

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#1324039 in Books Helen Fielding 2002-02-26 2002-02-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.94 x .75 x 5.051, .55 #File Name: 0142000221352 pages Cause Celeb | File size: 29.Mb

Helen Fielding : Cause Celeb before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cause Celeb:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Combines Humurous Chicklit Style With Exploration of Causes of World Hunger - And Pulls It Off! By L. Erickson I was completely caught off guard by this book, and absolutely loved

it. Because Fielding is also the author of the Bridget Jones books, I was expecting more of the same light, humorous, relationship-chicklit kind of read. However, only about 1/3 of the book could be said to be that - through a series of flashbacks, we follow the life of Rosie, a young London PR admin in her relationship ups and downs with Oliver, a TV celebrity. This is in flashbacks, because Rosie now works in an African refugee camp where she works tirelessly to prevent a repeat of the 1984 famine that killed thousands. As locusts threaten to destroy the area's crops, Rosie decides the only hope is for her to return to London and try and convince celebrities from her 'former life', including Oliver, to help her raise money. The London celebrity scenes are funny, and on target in their gentle skewering of celebrity life. However, what really got me in this book was the African story, particularly the characters, both relief workers and refugees, that Fielding has created and humanized here. I also learned a lot about the NGO (non-governmental organizations) culture and the problems that have led to repeated crises in Africa, and from what I have read in other places about this book, Fielding does a great job presenting them here within a fictional context. So if you are looking for a book that combines some chicklit type scenes, good characters, and the solid depth of exploring the roots of world hunger, this is a great book for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite Women's Fiction Book Ever By Mrs. Majors I love this book so much - I can't quite put it into words. The first time I read it, years ago, I instantly identified with the main character Rosie, and her desire to run from a complicated and tainted past. What she found, and what I found after reading the book, was that there's a great big world out there and a place for everyone in it. Even if it's not quite the place we thought we'd end up. This book makes me feel adventurous and hopeful, and that's the best praise I can give any experience. Read it, you'll be the better for it! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Read and weep. A mildly sordid tale of disaster relief, all too real to ignore! By Dr. John T. Webb Outstandingly true to life, it reminds me of several other real-life foreign-aid disasters like the tons of food rotting at their sundry delivery points, because there was no way to distribute the items to the areas where they were needed. (This has also happened to medical supplies, too.) Several times the problem could have been solved by inserting one or two bulldozers, or some trucks with snow-plow blades to penetrate the barriers of debris, sometimes a combination of the two. One other frequent problem in some parts of the world was the highjacking of supplies by "official authorities" for stock-piling for later selling at insanely high prices to virtually penniless and homeless victims.

Disillusioned with life as a literary publicist in London and sick of her hotshot TV presenter boyfriend, twenty-something Rosie Richardson decides to give up glitz for good deeds and escape to Africa to run a refugee camp. When famine strikes and a massive refugee influx threatens to overwhelm the camp, officials drag their heels. The only way to get food fast is to bring the celebrities first, so Rosie returns to London to organize a star-studded and risky emergency appeal. Deftly skewering the world of celebrity fundraising, Fielding's debut novel is both comic and thought-provoking. Cause Celeb crackles with insights into the nature of fame, passion, and altruism in our time, all the while following an unlikely-but hugely likeable-heroine.

.com Helen Fielding's novel Bridget Jones's Diary had a meandering, rather shapeless shape (as diaries will). Both fans and critics of that 1998 smash hit will be surprised to find that the author's first novel, previously unpublished in the United States, is a lot more sophisticated in structure. And Cause Celeb is nearly as fun as Bridget Jones's Diary, which is saying a lot, especially since Fielding's debut is about African famine. The narrator, Rosie Richardson, runs a relief camp in the invented country of Nambula. Henry, the most flippant member of her staff, wears a T-shirt that tersely lists the various motivations for relief workers to come to Africa: "(a) Missionary? (b) Mercenary? (c) Misfit? (d) Broken heart?" As Rosie herself admits, she is "a c/d hybrid and soft in the head to boot." Flashbacks reveal that in London, Rosie had fallen in love with an erratic, emotionally abusive (but adorable!) newscaster. As she trailed about town in Oliver's wake, she came to know his in-crowd of movie stars, directors, and musicians. Her split with this media magnet is what initially sent her to Africa. Four years into Rosie's exile, however, a plague of locusts descends on the crops of a neighboring country, and refugees begin to flood her camp. She decides there's only one thing to do: go back home and round up her old celeb pals for a benefit TV special. It should come as no shock that the London sequences are great fun, as is the climactic collision between movie stars and refugees. But the real treat is Fielding's handling of the camp sequences. Rosie and her staff struggle with their petty emotions as they confront the incredible suffering in front of them. Henry watches in disbelief as some starving refugees move their tent to a better location: "Never mind the old malnutrition--you go for the view." A newswoman visits the camp, and, fraught with emotion after first seeing the starving children, she caresses Rosie, whose response is this: "I hope the famine hadn't turned her into a lesbian." Fielding has found a voice that is both compassionate and irreverent, a rare and wonderful combination. --Claire Dederer From Publishers Weekly Fans of the sarcastic humor and rapid-fire dialogue found in bestselling British author Fielding's Bridget Jones's Diary and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason will be delighted with the U.S. release of her 1995 debut novel, which juxtaposes the death, disease and despair of a refugee camp against the vacuous mid-'80s London celebrity scene. Gorgeous twentysomething literary publicist Rosie Richardson travels to the fictional African country of Nambula to heal from a particularly rough breakup with a devastatingly

handsome TV personality. Caught up in the allure of volunteerism, Rosie goes high profile, bringing from London 40 tons of food, a television crew and the ad hoc group Charitable Acts, an assembly of image-conscious celebrities who plan to air an African broadcast of a speeded-up version of Hamlet. Fielding's tale filled with huge egos lends itself exceptionally well to audio, and Quigley scrupulously brings Fielding's vapid, iconic characters to life with her uncanny ability to switch between accents and mood at the drop of a hat, achieving a subtler style of comedy than listeners may expect. Simultaneous release with the Viking hardcover (Forecasts, Dec. 11, 2000). Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal As a publicist for a literary firm in London, Rosie Richardson aspires to the world of celebrities where she will be seen on the arm of a charming TV personality. For a while she enjoys her romantic relationship and the attendance at fundraising events to help the famine-struck people in Africa. However, she becomes tired of the superficiality and insensitivity of the people around her; she also finds the moodiness of her partner intolerable. Rosie leaves London and sets out for Africa to help in the refugee camps. In an acerbic manner, Fielding effectively contrasts the plight of the refugees and the difficulty of getting food to them with the glittering lifestyle of the rich and famous. Although the novel, read by Bernadette Quigley, doesn't have the continuous humor and spirit of the Bridget Jones books (Bridget Jones Diary; Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason), it does demonstrate the author's wit and her empathy for the single woman looking for her niche. Recommended for women's literary collections. Catherine Swenson, Norwich Univ., Northfield, VT Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.