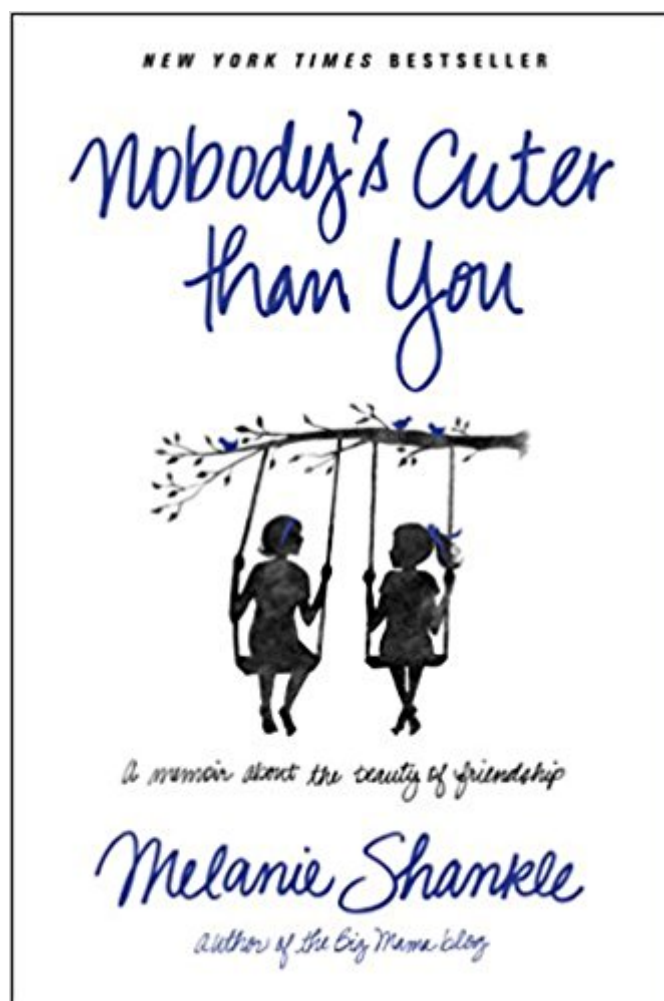


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Nobody's Cuter Than You: A Memoir About The Beauty Of Friendship



Synopsis

There is nothing as precious in life as a friend who knows you and loves you in spite of yourself. Yet over the last couple of decades, we've substituted the joy of real friendship with cheap imitations. We settle for "community" on Facebook and Twitter and a series of text messages that allow us to communicate with someone without the commitment. We like each other's beautifully filtered photos on Instagram and delude ourselves into believing we have a community. But real friendship requires effort. It's showing up, laughing loud, and crying hard. It's forgiving and loving and giving the benefit of the doubt. It's making a casserole, doing a carpool pickup, and making sure she knows those cute shoes are 50 percent off. Written in the same comedic style as the New York Times bestsellers *Sparkly Green Earrings* and *The Antelope in the Living Room*, *Nobody's Cuter than You* is a laugh-out-loud look at the special bond that exists between friends and a poignant celebration of all the extraordinary people God had the good sense to bring into our lives at exactly the right moments. From the friendships we develop over a lifetime to the ones that wounded us and the ones that taught us to love better, Melanie Shankle reveals the influence our friends have on who we were, who we are, and who we will become. And on a day when our jeans feel too tight, our chins have decided to embrace hormone-related acne reminiscent of our teen years, and our kids have tested the limits of our sanity, they are the ones who will look at us and say, "Nobody's cuter than you!"

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Customer Reviews

Melanie Shankle writes daily on her blog, Big Mama. She is a graduate of Texas A&M and loves writing, shopping at Target, checking to see what's on sale at Anthropologie, and trying to find the funny in every situation. Most of all, she loves being the mother of Caroline and the wife of her husband, Perry. The three of them live in San Antonio, Texas. --This text refers to the Unknown Binding edition.

I first learned about Nobody's Cuter Than You from The Happy Hour with Jamie Ivey when she had author Melanie Shankle on the podcast. After I heard Melanie and Jamie giggling on The Happy Hour, I wanted to hear more of Melanie's voice in her book. I went into the book anticipating a light beach read that would make me walk away feeling grateful for my girlfriends. Mission accomplished, Melanie Shankle. Mission accomplished. The book has 19 short chapters. Melanie goes all the way back to her first best friend and shares stories from all of her most important friendships up until present day. My favorite part was Melanie's chapter about her annual tradition to get all of her Christmas shopping done over a weekend with her friend, Gulley. I appreciated how Melanie's introspection interspersed among anecdotes forced me to think about how my friendships shaped and continue to shape me. I struggled with the pace and flow of her narrative, though. While I appreciated Melanie's lightness and sense of humor, I wanted her to lean into the pain a little more when it happened. As a reader, it made me feel like she didn't feel comfortable sharing her whole story. I felt like I was being kept at an arm's length with humor and couldn't get the full story. At times her humor felt out of place or she'd go on and on about seemingly unnecessary details that didn't help advance the narrative of friendship. While Melanie's devotion and affection for her dearest friends shines through, I struggled with how she handled the toughest moments. As a reader, I kept wanting to get back to the details of what was happening in her relationship instead of her interest in the superficial (hairstyles, fashion, etc.). Melanie has a knack for remembering all of those colorful details that take you back to times and places, but I think she took it to a level that distracted from the story. Perhaps it would have made more sense to plug in a few little vignettes. A small "ode to the 80's" or a "love song to my Honda CR-X" would have been great! Just my \$.02. I wish Melanie's editor had forced her to trim out the fat and keep us along for the ride of the most important details. The chapters felt isolated and read like individual blog posts instead of a narrative weaved together to help us learn more about why Melanie is the woman

she is today. In brief: *Nobody's Cuter Than You* was a fun, light, vacation read that made me reflect more on the power of friendship, but I don't think I'd recommend it unless I was giving someone my copy. I shared this review on my blog: [...]

I LOVE Melanie's books! *Sparkly Green Earrings* and *The Antelope in the Living Room* were WONDERFUL! Totally delightful reading and both of them would have me laughing so hard I would have tears rolling down my cheeks and would have to stop reading and get a tissue and then start back reading only to start laughing again! I highly recommend those two books. This book was very good. Such a wonderful book about friendships throughout our lives and it did have funny moments, but not the kind in the other two books. But I enjoyed reading it very much and if you have had the blessing of having a lifetime of BFF's enter and exit your life, you will love reading this book about Melanie and her friends throughout her life. It was a blessing! It would be a great gift to give your BFF!

read this for book club, and let me say that if I didn't have to finish this book, I would have left it after the first few chapters. I found myself starting a paragraph and quickly skimming the page to see if there was any usable piece of information or wisdom the author could impart. Her "wisdom" ended up being overused cliché phrases at the end of each chapter. Yes, I realize it says "a memoir" right there on the cover, but the entire thing was simply her story, and quite frankly, I don't care to read someone's entire history that I don't know, or have no connection to, or has nothing solid to contribute. I kept waiting for some depth to show up, but it never came. I should have known when she plainly wrote that she had no clue where the campus library was but daddy kept paying her tuition!

This book was really an ode to her own friendships (not friendship in general) which is a sweet idea but not of interest to most other people. It was an account of what happened, sometimes in excruciatingly boring detail, kind of like a *Dear Diary*. The book started with childhood friendships and just moved on through her life. I was actually surprised to find not one mention of her friendship with Sophie Hudson (Boomama). On the bright side, we now know all about her BFF Gulley. Not sure why I didn't find anything funny - maybe you have to be Texan to appreciate the humour? I actually found the book really, really boring and forced myself to finish reading the book because I received it as a gift from a special friend of mine. I now need to stop putting these blog authors on

my list because while the blogs are entertaining, I just feel the writing doesn't translate well to the longer form. I've read two of hers and I won't be reading another :)

This was such a wonderful book about friendship. She has a way of writing that makes you think you can imagine having this conversation with her on a long roadtrip. Looking forward to the next book!!

I came across Melanie Shankle via Living Well Spending Less Blog and I have to say I loved this book! It was in part probably due to the fact that we are of a similar age so the pop culture references were right up my ally even if I did grow up in Christchurch New Zealand on the other side of the world from Texas. Since I had my twin boys coming up 4 years ago friendship and keeping friendships has been one of the areas I am very conscious of, especially as I have friends from both before children and after children and who don't have children. Thanks for the laughs during this book and I am looking forward to reading your other 2 books.

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