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# The Life She Wants



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Robyn Carr brings together a poignant novel with a rich tapestry of characters. A moving story that will leave the reader laughing and crying, as two friends confront their pasts and move towards their futures. In the aftermath of her financier husband's suicide, Emma Shay Compton's dream life is shattered. Richard Compton stole his clients' life savings to fund a lavish life in New York City and, although she was never involved in the business, Emma bears the burden of her husband's crimes. She is left with nothing. Only one friend stands by her, a friend she's known since high school, who encourages her to come home to Sonoma County. But starting over isn't easy, and Sonoma is full of unhappy memories, too. And people she'd rather not face, especially Riley Kerrigan. Riley and Emma were like sisters until Riley betrayed Emma, ending their friendship. Emma left town, planning to never look back. Now, trying to stand on her own two feet, Emma can't escape her husband's reputation and is forced to turn to the last person she thought she'd ever ask for help—her former best friend. It's an uneasy reunion as both women face the mistakes they've made over the years. Only if they find a way to forgive each other—and themselves—can each of them find the life she wants.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My wife ordered this and here is her review: I loved *The Life She Wants*. Robyn Carr, once again, does not disappoint. The book had me hooked from the beginning. Emma and all of the supporting characters and their stories were well developed and intriguing and enjoyable. There was romance, drama and all the things necessary for a great read. I don't like to write much in reviews, because I don't want to risk a spoiler. This story kept me up way past my bedtime. I highly recommend.

This is a well-crafted contemporary storyline that gets my vote for an enjoyable summer read. Emma Shay Compton, married to a wealthy financier whose Ponzi scheme was exposed by the federal government, returns to her home in Sonoma county under a cloud of suspicion to rebuild her life. Her husband committed suicide rather than face prison. All but a few of her possessions have been seized by the government. She is reviled by many who believe she participated in her husband's schemes even though she has been cleared of any wrongdoing. Above all, she questions her naiveté in her marriage - how could she have been so blind to what was going on? Embracing the truth of how shallow her life had become in the rarified atmosphere of super wealth in New York City, Emma wrestles with the guilt over her disgraced husband's actions which destroyed hundreds, in not thousands, of lives. All of the above is a prelude to the body of the novel: the story of how one moves beyond a shattered life and creates a meaningful existence. Choosing not to hide her identity, Emma reestablishes her life in the small town with the help of a few loyal friends...and it is not easy. Despite the fact that she is college-educated and had a thriving career prior to her marriage, no one is willing to take a risk in hiring her. After a series of false starts in low-wage, menial jobs, she overcomes her pride and asks to work for an estranged childhood friend who owns a successful cleaning service. I am very familiar with Robyn Carr's writing and have enjoyed her insight into the emotional complexity of relationships and the social fabric of small town life. This stand alone book is a welcome addition characterized by strong, engaging female characters, realistic life challenges and satisfying resolutions. I highly recommend this book and look forward to her next offering.

I do believe I've read each and every one of author Carr's novels and novellas. Her books are some of my favorites of all time - the whole *Virgin River* series (I actually cried when she reached the end of that series - those characters felt like family) and *The House on Olive Street* is super, just as

examples. But this book was missing her usual spark. To me it almost felt like she was venting over some actual happening from her past, like she was too close to the storyline to be objective. I noticed quite a bit of repetition and it was difficult to feel close to any of the characters. I guess after writing close to 40? books she's entitled to have a weak one once in awhile. The book is worth reading but unlike other books of Carr's I won't be re-reading it.

This is not the first Robyn Carr book that I have read, nor will it be my last. She is an excellent writer who develops her characters and their stories fully. I like a book that catches you from the get go and this one does. There is romance, forgiveness and hope in this story. A great read.

Emma really has no place to go and is ashamed and wants to get out of New York as fast as she can. Emma was married to Richard Compton and he was charged with a ponzi scheme that took millions of dollars from innocent people. When he realized he could not make a deal and get himself free he shot himself. Now alone and left with nothing she must try to rebuild her life. Lyle who was a constant friend thru all of this has gotten her an apartment where she can live and figure out how to resume her life. Rather unexpectedly while working in a burger place (nobody in town wanted to hire her and she needed money for rent, food and insurance) she runs into Adam, (Riley's sister) who was taking his niece Maddie out for a burger. They talk for a few minutes and agree to get together for a glass of wine. Adam listens as Riley explains that she was fired from that job and then worked in a hospital but that did not work out and so she must find another job. Riley has been operating a very successful cleaning service for years and suggests that she give her a call and see if she has any openings. Of course after much thought she realizes she has no choice but to call Riley she is nervous as she does not know if she will even see her. When they last saw each other they both said things they would regret. Now while working for Riley the two women have to see if they each have it in their hearts to forgive and forget. Emma had tried but Riley just does not feel ready to accept her back as a friend as she feels she never accepted her apology years ago. Ms. Carr has a way of making her readers get so hooked into the story that the struggles seem to become ours. The characters are so real and so is the story line. This is definitely one of her best and a must read.

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