



Kin flicks

By Lisa Alther



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Meet Ginny Babcock - the forerunner to BRIDGET JONES It's the 1950's and 60's in Hullsport, Tennessee and Ginny Babcock is coming of age. Bouncing from one identity to the other, she adopts the values, politics, lifestyles and even sexual orientation of each new partner she finds. In this wise, funny and ultimately heartbreaking story, Lisa Alther explores the limited roles offered to women in this period - from cheerleader to motorcycle moll, bulldyke to madonna - each embodying important truths about the aspirations of the culture that created them. Honest, wise, funny and tragic by turns this is a remarkable novel in a class of its own.



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Kinflicks By Lisa Alther Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #165291 in Audible
- Published on: 2009-08-18
- Format: Abridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 171 minutes

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Editorial Review

From [The New Yorker](#)

An ambitious, funny, lucid, and unfailingly honest novel...No other writer has yet synthesized [the coming of age in the '60's] as well as Ms. Alther has.

Review

Amazing...A very funny book, not at all savage, about serious matters. The tone of voice throughout is a tone that has been missing in American fiction for years -- it is the speech of breezy survivors, of Holden Caulfield, Augie March, and, ultimately, Huck Finn."--John Leonard, NY Times Book Review

"So continuously funny that its wisdom takes you by surprise...We are in the presence of a most powerful and remarkable talent."--Alice Adams, Harper's

"Alther dazzles with her range from the human and tragic to the erotic and comic.... She is the kind of writer you want to hear from again." --Joan Crawford

"An almost flawless balance of light and dark, the skittery and the sad."--Mary Cantwell, NY Times Book Review

"Ginny is the classic outsider, and her fine sense of the comic permits the novel to approach a kind of high seriousness...A best-seller? Sure. In the august company of THE CATCHER IN THE RYE, PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN and Huck? Yes, indeed."--Saturday Review

An ambitious, funny, lucid and unfailingly honest novel ... No other writer has yet synthesised (the coming of age in the 60's) as well as Ms Alther has THE NEW YORKER A strong, salty, original talent ... It made me wonder what Tom Jones would be like written now DORIS LESSING Dazzling talent ... brilliant, compelling ... wildly ribaldly funny PUBLISHERS WEEKLY Originally published in 1976 and re-released as a Virago Classic, Lisa Alther's Kinflicks remains remarkably fresh and provides the perfect read for a plane ride into another time zone. The hilarious odyssey of Ginny Babcock, a Southern peach gone rotten, Cherry Smyth, AMAZON.CO.UK REVIEW

From the Inside Flap

Lisa Alther's wonderful first novel -- her large, hilarious, serious, and powerfully affecting story of a young American woman's uproarious tumble through the fads and shocks and "essential" experiences of the 60's and 70's -- has created a ground swell of advance excitement and admiration, exemplified by the letter from Doris Lessing on the back of the jacket.

Ginny Babcock at twenty-seven, Cast-Out Adulterous Wife and Unfit Mother, is en route to Hullsport, Tennessee, and her own mother's hospital bed (her father is dead, her family home on the auction block). She's groggy with two in-flight martinis, huddled next to the DC-7's emergency exit ("My family has always been into death")...

Her "home movies" -- her uncensored Kinflicks -- unreel: her first Never-Tell padded bra; the first time she made love -- to the hood-about-town, in her parents' bomb shelter ("I feared sperm almost as much as I feared Communists"); the Hullsport High Romance of the Decade: Flag Swinger Ginny and her Little All-American running back, Joe Bob Sparks (he had "a smile in excess of any possible stimulus"); "Do-It" Pruitt, Ginny's grammar school chum who'd gone "all the way" for all the guys; Ginny hefting a lacquered

bouffant like a plastic space helmet; Ginny in the truck of a car, with Joe Bob "twisting one of my nipples as though tuning a radio"; Ginny at her Ivy League college ("a close-fitting coif, wool suits, cameo brooches, low-heeled shoes"), starstruck by Spinoza and his scholarly herald, Miss Head...

Ginny abandoning college and The Family and The City, resisting the American Capitalist Imperialist Economy, wearing fatigues and eating "whole grain bread you needed diamond-tipped teeth to chew," joining a commune (with other "Communists, lesbians, draft-dodgers, atheists, and food stamp recipients"); Ginny, housewife (the handsome husband, the darling baby), in the Tupperware party set; Ginny into Transcendental Sex with her war (resister) hero; Ginny as the Madame Bovary of Stark's Bog, Vermont...

Now: Ginny at the hospital, at her mother's side ("I have been well and happy, Mother. In between being sick and miserable.") Ginny helplessly watching her mother besieged by doctors, by nurses, by dying ("Why was she being treated like an idiot child: Whose body was it?") Ginny nerved for the maternal lecture ("Extramarital sex is vulgar. You must do your duty"), spending whole afternoons with her mother, the two of them absorbed in, protected by, soap operas ("unsurpassed as social realism...almost as tedious as life itself"); Ginny beginning (at last) to perceive her mother's life as distinct from her own; Ginny coalescing, moving on...

Absolutely alive and generous, filled with unconstrained laughter and feeling, KINFLICKS will stand as a novel of major importance about mothers and daughters, about friends and lovers, and about becoming a person in our time.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Audrey Rivas:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what you problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They need to answer that question due to the fact just their can do which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of Kinflicks to read.

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