



## I'm Fine and Neither Are You: A Novel

*Camille Pagán*

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**I'm Fine and Neither Are You: A Novel** Camille Pagán

**Honesty is the best policy...except maybe when it comes to marriage in this brilliant novel about the high price of perfection from bestselling author Camille Pagán.**

Wife. Mother. Breadwinner. Penelope Ruiz-Kar is doing it all—and barely keeping it together. Meanwhile, her best friend, Jenny Sweet, appears to be sailing through life. As close as the two women are, Jenny's passionate marriage, pristine house, and ultra-polite child stand in stark contrast to Penelope's underemployed husband, Sanjay, their unruly brood, and the daily grind she calls a career.

Then a shocking tragedy reveals that Jenny's life is far from perfect. Reeling, Penelope vows to stop keeping the peace and finally deal with the issues in her relationship. So she and Sanjay agree to a radical proposal: both will write a list of changes they want each other to make—then commit to complete and total honesty.

What seems like a smart idea quickly spirals out of control, revealing new rifts and even deeper secrets. As Penelope stares down the possible implosion of her marriage, she must ask herself: When it comes to love, is honesty really the best policy?

## I'm Fine and Neither Are You: A Novel Details

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## From Reader Review I'm Fine and Neither Are You: A Novel for online ebook

### Kristen Cook - A Book Ninja says

Camille Pagán does it again. She has brought to us a story that I think will resonant with so many women, moms, wives, daughters and employees. This was a quick read for me but not an easy read for me. If I could I would give this book 20 stars because I think it brings to light so many issues that women today are having but so many of us are unwilling to talk about it. Life can be hard. Marriage can be hard. Motherhood can be hard. Friendship can be hard.

In our world of social media, blogs, influencers etc., it is so easy for us to just see the side that is published. The side that is glossy, clean, pretty, polished, neat and public-ready. We only see what is contained within the photos and not the mess that is just on the periphery of this picture. Yes, the picture and the images within the picture might be put together but often the periphery is messy, dirty, cluttered etc.

One of my all-time favorite quotes: "it is unfair that we compare the intimate knowledge of our own lives with the outward knowledge of others' lives."

I received an ARC of this book. All thoughts & opinions are my own.

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### Michelle says

What the hell? It's ridiculous how good this book is. No, not ridiculous. Refreshing! Entertaining. Thoroughly satisfying. Every element of this book--characterization, plot, pacing, scene set-up--works. I picked up an advanced reader copy of it at a Little Free Library and after finishing felt so bad so not having paid the writer for her words that I just pre-purchased a copy.

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### Barbara says

I always feel a connection to Camille's characters and stories and this latest was no exception. What woman doesn't feel overwhelmed by life? We often feel we have to be everything to everyone and often the only one who suffers is US!! Penelope Ruiz-Kar is us, she's working full time, raising two kids, shuttling them to practice and play dates, cooking, cleaning and feeling angry and resentful toward her husband and coworker. When tragedy strikes and Penny's best friend Jenny is found dead, an apparent suicide, Penny is forced to take a different approach to life. Jenny's life seemed so perfect. In fact she was showing the world her life on her blog, but her life was not the shiny perfection that her blog portrayed. Penny and her husband Sanjay decide the time is now to reexamine what they want out of life, how they can improve and save their marriage. It won't be easy and it will take a lot honesty and soul searching. Will it be enough? Thank you to the author for the ARC. All opinions are completely my own. #ImFineandNeitherAreYou #NetGalley

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### Nikki says

Wow! Book 5 and I end up ugly crying just like it was Book 1! How does Camille do this? By being an amazing storyteller! This book grabbed my heartstrings and just didn't let go. A family going through ups and downs of a marriage then rocked by the unexpected. If I could give more than 5 stars I would it was amazing and I highly recommend snatching this book as soon as it hits the stores!

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### **Liz Fenton says**

A senseless tragedy causes a woman to re-evaluate her entire life in *I'm Fine and Neither Are You*, a beautiful novel that is equal parts hilarious and heartbreaking. When the ordeal forces Penny to ask the hard questions, she unexpectedly finds her own life reflected in the answers. A must-read for any woman who has tried (and most-likely failed) to have it all.

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### **Alison Hammer says**

Camille Pagán is one of the few authors whose books I will pick up to read without even looking at the back cover to see what it's about. I just love her style of writing, her relatable characters and the honest stories she tells.

At the heart of this story about family and friendship is the little white lie we tell ourselves and the people closest to us. I know I'm guilty of saying "I'm fine" even when I'm not.

Penelope Ruiz-Kar says those two words so often that she has even started to believe it herself—even though she's miserable in her job, overwhelmed at home and worried about her marriage. When she unexpectedly loses her best friend who was apparently also guilty of pretending things were okay even when they're not, Penelope does a little experiment to see if honesty really is the best policy.

There was so much to love about this heartwarming and heartbreaking book. I cried, I laughed and I cried again—I can't recommend this book enough! Is it too soon to say I can't wait to see what Camille writes next?!

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### **Nancy says**

"*I'm Fine and Neither Are You*" is the latest from author Camille Pagán. I love a book where you laugh and cry; the best stories are the ones that you can see bits of yourself in the characters. You can empathize with them and their lives. This book is REAL. It's about friendships, and marriage, and life in all of its messy glory. It's about honesty and being enough. I'm rating this 5 stars, which I don't do often. The writing is superb and the characters and dialogue are relatable. Well done!

Thank you to the author, Camille Pagán, for this advance copy of "*I'm Fine and Neither Are You*".

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### **Michelle says**

This was an extremely relatable book for any woman who sometimes feels they just want to escape from

their lives. Whether you are overwhelmed by your daily responsibilities at work and at home or the pressure of feeling like you have to make everything look easy and be what everyone expects you to be. It explores the different relationships women have with their girlfriends, husbands and parents. It also touches on current issues of women in the work force, social media and drug use. We have a habit of only showing others our presentable selves making the circle of people who truly know us quite small (if anyone). I enjoyed Penny's transformation throughout the book and by her being honest with herself as well as others, she changes the road she is on, figuring out what she wants and making that the priority.

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### **Lesley Kay says**

I loved this book! I couldn't put it down. Camille Pagán has a writing style that will completely suck you in and make you love the characters. I laughed, I cried, I thoroughly enjoyed the tender approach that was taken in the face of a very difficult subject, opioid addiction. The book was sweet and sad, and I definitely cried for a bit after I was finished. Recommended read!

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### **Susan Peterson says**

I'm Fine and Neither Are You is a thought-provoking, timely novel that takes a deep look into relationships between friends, between spouses, and between parents and children. Penny is the primary breadwinner and caretaker of her family, hiding resentments by acting as if all is right in her world. But an unexpected tragedy causes Penny to take a hard look at her life, her marriage and her job with clearer eyes and a promise to herself to be more honest about her own feelings. The characters in this book are so well-written...complex characters who will connect with readers on so many levels. This story will cause readers to think of their own relationships...relationships, like the ones in the book, are messy and complicated, and they are portrayed in this book with insight and honesty. My emotions were taken for a ride while I was reading this book, a ride complete with ups and downs, bumpy roads, twists and turns.

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### **Sonja Yoerg says**

A tragedy sends a shockwave through Penny Ruis-Kar's life, and what were narrow fissures in her relationships become gaping chasms. Given that her mantra is that everything is unequivocally fine, how will she find a way to make her world whole again?

She decides upon radical honesty as a courageous prescription for an ailing marriage and a fraught worklife. And in telling this story, Camille Pagan's own radical honest is the key to its success. The portrayal of Penny and Sanjay's marriage is as unflinching as any I have read, and that's exactly why it works. No fairytales here, just real struggles, awkward memonts, touching insights, and plenty of humor to ease the pain.

Pagan has boundless compassion for her stumbling, striving characters, and you will, too. Wise, entertaining, and big-hearted, *I'm Fine and Neither Are You* is as nuanced as a marriage, and equally as worthwhile.

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### **Ellen says**

Pagán has done it again, with a book I read in one sitting! With depth of emotion and empathy, the book captures what is so true about many women; we try to make everything look easy and perfect, as we are pulled in so many directions. Penny is a young mother, wife, professional, daughter, best friend and more. When tragedy strikes, Penny is forced to reevaluate her marriage and her relationship with husband, Sanjay, but more importantly to re-evaluate her own choices. I loved the book and highly recommend reading this gem.

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## Sue says

This is a wonderful well written novel about best friends and marriage. The characters are so real that they feel like your best friend. We see them as total people - not just their good points but their flaws as wives, mothers and friends as they try hard to have the perfect life with the perfect marriage.

Penelope is married to Sanjay and they have two children. What started as a hot love affair has now cooled due to the every day stresses of marriage and raising kids. She works full time AND takes care of the kids, the house, the bills and just about everything in their life. He is underemployed - looking for that perfect job but not really willing to pick up any of the items that are causing Penelope so much stress. How does she get through her resentment? By talking to her best friend Jenny. Jenny has the perfect marriage, the perfect kid and a beautiful clean house. Or does she? When Jenny dies unexpectedly and Penelope learns the truth about Jenny's life, she decides that its time for her marriage to be changed and based on total honesty with each other. But is totally honesty the answer to marital discord? What Penelope and Sanjay go through will have you laughing out loud at times and getting teary eyed at other times.

This is a wonderful book and friendship and marriage with real characters who soon feel like friends. Mistakes are made that we've all made and as they struggle to maintain their marriage, Penelope and Sanjay at times remind us of the struggles in our own lives.

Thanks to the author for a copy of this book to read and review. All opinions are my own.

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## Marisa says

This is a novel that every woman (single, married, career oriented, SAHM) should read. And their significant other (hubby, friend, lover, otherwise) should read to possibly understand when a woman comes to the crossroads of her life and how to assist.

Penelope (Penny) is stuck in her life. She is married to Sanjay, a man who while she loves him really coasts on her tails and she holds down everything: full time job, domestic homemaker, mother, supportive wife. Penny looks at her Best Friend Jenny, her handsome husband Matt - Jenny's perfect lifestyle blog and really believes Jenny has it all. When a secret is revealed about Jenny after her death, Penny's perceptions change and as a result self realization and reflection ensures.

what if she and Sanjay were finally honest about some of the parts of their life and marriage they are not happy with. What would happen? can a marriage survive brutal honesty from the people in the partnership? What happens when the person you think has it all together is really holding the biggest secrets?

I loved this book. As I have with pagan's 4 other novels I felt a deep connection to the protagonist. Penny is someone who at times you want to shake and tell her to look at what she has and other times you want to hug

her and tell her that she deserves more than what life has given her.

this novel is real, raw and touched a lot of pieces of my heart. A little less cynically funny than Pagan's other novels but deeply self reflective and raw.

Loved it and cant wait to share with others

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### **Danielle says**

I have no idea how she does it, but Camille Pagan has written another 5 star read! I read this in one sitting because I became so engrossed. Her characters are real and relatable; her stories are ones that reflect many of our own lives, and the emotions she draws forth are ones that we all feel on a daily basis. I see myself in her books and am immensely grateful that there is an author out there telling the very real stories of women trying to make sense of their lives while juggling their families, work, and the realization that they have lost themselves somewhere along the way. I cannot recommend this book highly enough! While you're waiting for this one to be published, make sure to read her backlist. You will not be disappointed!

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