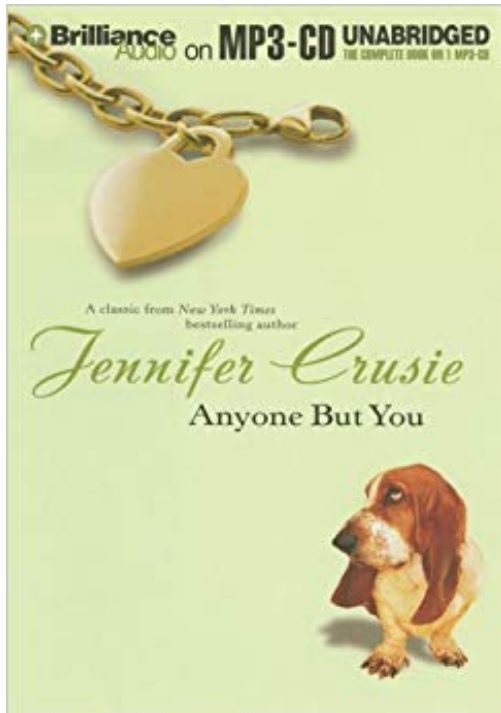


## Anyone But You *by* Susan Ericksen, Jennifer Crusie



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**ISBN:** 1423304918

**ISBN13:** 978-1423304913

**Author:** Susan Ericksen, Jennifer Crusie

**Book title:** Anyone But You

**Publisher:** Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition  
(December 27, 2005)

**Language:** English

**Category:** United States

**Size PDF version:** 1971 kb

**Size ePUB version:** 1241 kb

**Size FB2 version:** 1749 kb

**Other formats:** doc lrf lit azw

For Nina Askew, turning forty means freedom—from the ex-husband whose career always came first, from their stuffy suburban home. Freedom to have her own apartment in the city, freedom to focus on what she wants for a change. And what she wants is something her ex always vetoed—a puppy. A bouncy puppy to cheer her up. Instead she gets...Fred.

Overweight, smelly and obviously suffering from some kind of doggy depression, Fred is light-years from perky. But for all his faults, he does manage to put Nina face-to-face with Alex Moore, her gorgeous, younger downstairs neighbor.

Alex looks great on paper—a sexy, seemingly sane, surprisingly single E.R. doctor who shares Fred's abiding love for Oreos—but a ten-year difference in age, despite his devastating smile, is too wide a gap for Nina to handle. Ignoring her insistent best friend, some interfering do-gooders and the ubiquitous Fred—not to mention her suddenly raging hormones—Nina thinks anyone but Alex would be a better bet for a relationship. But with every silver-haired stiff she dates, the more she suspects it's the young dog-loving doctor she wants to sit and stay!



## Reviews of the **Anyone But You** by Susan Ericksen, Jennifer Crusie

### Enditaling

This looked cute, and I was in the mood for a dog story with some humor and romance on the side, which was what someone promised me when they recommended this book. Plus, I'd always heard great things about Jennifer Crusie, that she has a great sense of humor. And the opening of the book seemed to be exactly what I'd been promised. The dog was great and our heroine had great chemistry, and great dialogue with the dog.

And then the hero and heroine meet. And there goes the chemistry, the great dialogue, and the focus being on the dog.

The obstacle to the romance (there always has to be one, we're told) is that the heroine, Nina, is ten years older than the hero, Alex. That's it. Not surprisingly, this does not make for a lot of angst, misadventure--though the author tries, and fails, with some slapstick bra humor (seriously?). It doesn't make for a lot of anything except ennui.

Usually I like a book with a lot of dialogue, which this book has, but it's not very interesting dialogue, and neither are the characters. Even when you think you're going to get some wonderfully eccentric characters, like the older couple in Nina's and Alex's apartment building, they turn out to be your typical older voice of wisdom who tell the younger couple how to do things right.

I think the main problem is that the author must have issues with older women getting together with younger men, because she can't seem to bring herself to give more than lip service to the idea of these two people having a romance. When they hang out they do things that an aunt would do with a nephew, or a mom with a college age son. That's the vibe I get from these two. So when the author starts to sex things up I was embarrassed and repelled. That's not what a romance reader is looking for, by the way.

So, here's the main problem. Alex and his brother Max have great chemistry and are a fun couple. Nina and her friend Charity have great chemistry and are a fun couple. Nina and the dog Fred have great chemistry and are a fun couple.

The main couple of the book? Nina and Alex? Fun with great chemistry? Not so much.

I would give this two stars because I had to force myself to read it to the end, but I'm giving it three stars because the beginning was so doggone good. And, because of the beginning, I'd be willing to give Crusie another try and hope she can live up to all the good things I've heard about her.

Axebourne

I have read several books by Jennifer Crusie that I really really liked, but this one was lame and not worth paying for, or even reading.

Here's what the book was: the first 5 percent was the intro, the middle 90 percent was mostly the heroine thinking she was too old/fat for the hero, and the last 5 percent was the conclusion.

It was a really bad book, and not sure what Crusie was thinking when she wrote it. Or, apparently she wasn't thinking.

Don't waste your time on *Anyone But You*. Instead read *Fast Women*, *Bet Me*, and *Getting Rid of Bradley*, all really great books by Crusie.

Dyni

Just re-read this wonderful book. Originally, I bought the print copy at a book signing in Atlanta and had the author sign it for me. I picked it because it had the dog on the cover - and when I mentioned it to Miss Crusie, she said she wanted to call it *Fred's Book*, and it should have been. I adored this book so much, I purchased it for several people I loved and insisted that my husband read it. No one had anything other than rave reviews. So I got it on my Kindle so I can have it at my fingertips whenever I want to re read.

Nina has her 40th birthday after a divorce from her self-centered husband and is attempting to begin a new life that will be just for her. She wants a puppy. She gets Fred. Part beagle, part basset hound, who looks like he just lost his best friend. She is delighted with him. She lives on the third floor and teaches Fred to go out the window and down the fire escape to the enclosed back yard. On the second floor lives a just turned 30 year old ER doctor - Alex. Fred chooses Alex's window instead of Nina's and the romp begins.

Crusie dialogue is funny and the plot is fun. There is a 76 year old upstairs neighbor, a ditzzy friend and Alex's brother all in the mix. When I feel a little down, I pick this book to make me happy. So far, I have loved every Crusie book (that she wrote alone) and own them all, and re-read them often. You simply cannot miss with Jennifer Crusie.

Jerdodov

This book is one of her earlier ones, but Jennifer Crusie's path of excellence was evident from the very beginning.

Her characters are fun, identifiable, and real. Her prose is tight; the imagery pops off the page. This story flows quickly and smoothly -- not a single part drags, and there's not a single unnecessary word in the story that doesn't serve to further the story. Undoubtedly, she is a role model for tight, well-written, gripping romance.

And while the dog was one of the highlight characters in the book, Nina as a 40-something lead was the perfect blend of empowered and self-conscious, struggling with starting a new path and determined to make it all work. Alex, on the other hand, was a smoldering young doc, the perfect blend of headstrong and green, successful and modest. These characters rocked -- and as all of Jennifer Crusie's novels show, these characters are what hook us, make us fall in love, and leave us always looking for more.

Darkraven

4.5 Nina is 40, recently divorced and restarting her publishing career, but she's lonely. She adopts a dog, named Fred who through his canine him inks introduces Nina to Alex. Alex is 30, ER Doctor and Nina's downstairs neighbor. I loved this, it was light and funny with interesting character (I loved Fred), no needless drama or angst, just two people slowly figuring out they love each other. Nina is reluctant to enter into a relationship with Alex because he is so much younger, but that doesn't stop her from wanting him. They make each other laugh and feel good when together. I laughed and smiled most of the book.

Cordann

funny good read..it is a younger man older woman romance,but you kinda forget that as the story goes on..laughed several times over the dialog between the H and the h... was hoping for a second book about the H's brother but it has never happened..this is an older book by this author and the author doesn't write much anymore..which is a shame because her books have always been enjoyable funny reads

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