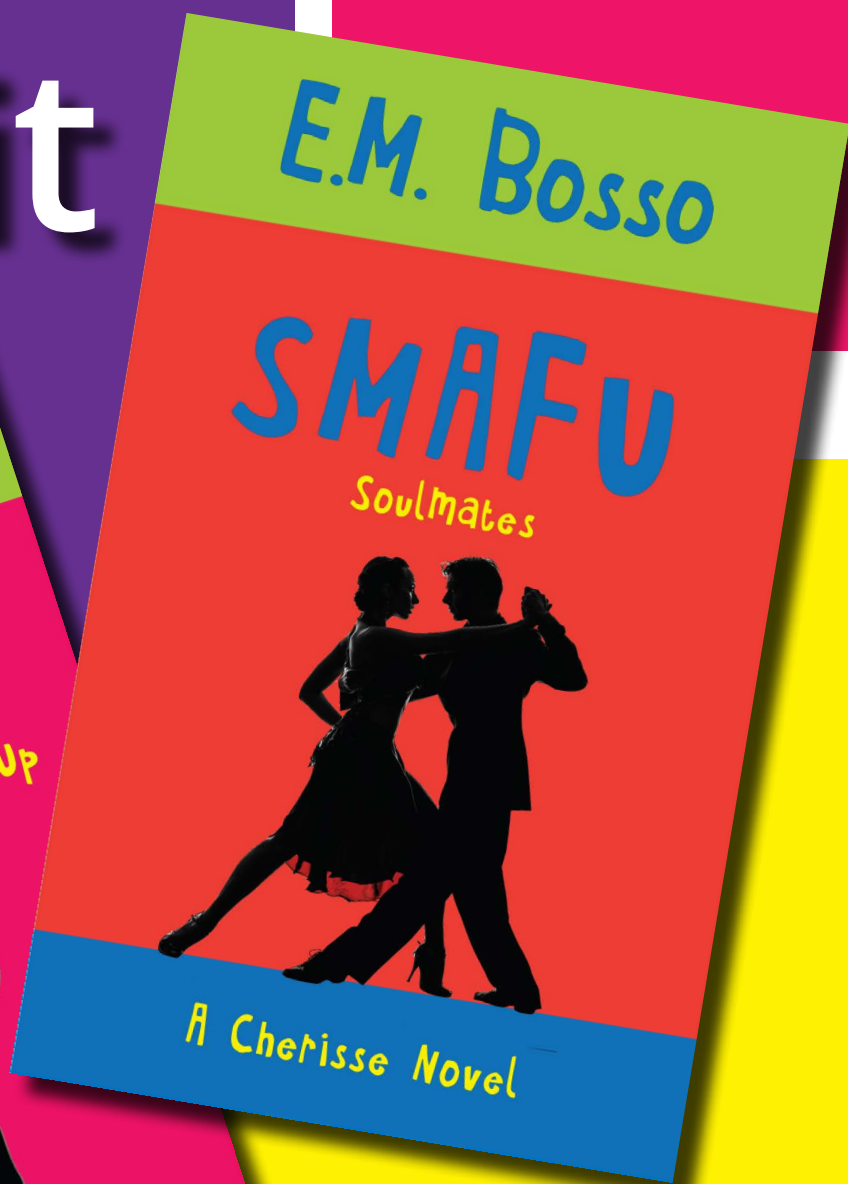
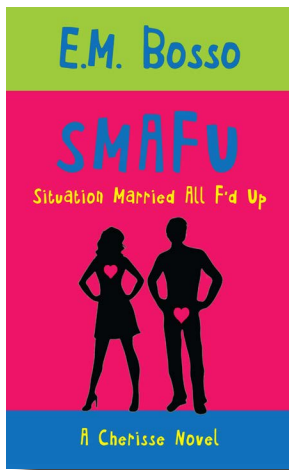


# Media Kit



2018



## SMAFU - Situation Married All F'd Up

2015, 286 pgs

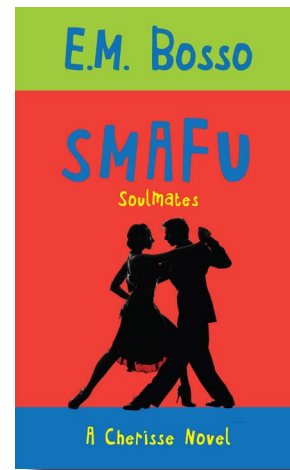
[Cover Image](#)

[Long Excerpt](#)

[Amazon Book Page](#)

[Goodreads Book Page](#)

[Soundtrack](#)



## SMAFU - SoulMates

2018, 304 pgs

[Cover Image](#)

[Long Excerpt](#)

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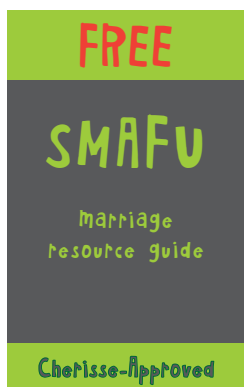
A sexy and humorous walk through life, as an elderly neighbor notices the impending end of a failing marriage and decides to step in and share her wisdom and life experience. If she can't help save the marriage, perhaps she can at least soften the pain.

Whether you are looking for a feel-good novel to inspire you to explore your dreams; a novel to help you affirm that you are not alone; or something to help you sit down and open up a new line of communication with your significant other, SMAFU will change your life.

Fans of Graeme Simsion (Rosie Project and Best of Adam Sharp), Nick Hornby "Juliet, Naked," Jonathan Tropper (Book of Joe, How to Talk to a Widower), Nick Spalding's "Love" series, and Robert Bryndza's Coco Pinchard books . . . will feel right at home here.

Excerpt:

"Before we made our first monthly payment, we had "christened" every room in the house just to find out which one was the best room to make love in. I think, if we could have gotten away with it, we probably would have set the bed up in the kitchen. It had the best access to both the coffee and the refrigerator. It really would have been a perfect setup. I suppose, in the new house, we'll eventually "christen" our bedroom, but we'll have to make sure the kids are in bed, the stereo is on to cover any noise, and the lights are turned off just in case our youngest decides to wander in. That's assuming, of course, we both aren't so tired we don't just limit ourselves to hallway sex in the morning. You know, flipping each other off as we pass by heading towards the coffee, or back to the shower."



## [The Free SMAFU Marriage Resource Guide](#)

SMAFU-SoulMates is a bittersweet, real-life, romantic story of growing apart, growing up, and growing (or not) into the person you always dreamed you could be.

This "prequel" to the acclaimed and much-loved, SMAFU – Situation Married, All F'd Up, can be read as a stand-alone novel. The characters' ages, stages, and concerns may be different, but Cherisse is Cherisse and will simply never change, Darling. When she takes you on as one of her pet projects, your life will never be the same.

Jake, a journalist, and Jen, a bestselling YA author, were once the perfect couple, or so Jake thought, until Jen decided she'd had enough: Twenty. Years. Later.

Marriages built solely on youthful dreams, may not turn out the way we hope. The beliefs we built as children may not hold up as we age, mature and begin to find our own identities: Can you ever really go back home?

This is a story of growing up, realizing what we want out of relationships, and most importantly... what we want out of life. Can divergent paths reunite down the road? Can we re-discover what once set our souls on fire? Can Jake ever learn how to dance? Will Jen EVER get a decent cup of coffee?

But most importantly of all: Will the worldly and shockingly randy ninety-year-old Cherisse develop a blend of tea strong enough to wake Jake up and make him see the light?

Fans of Graeme Simsion (Rosie Project and Best of Adam Sharp), Nick Hornby "Juliet, Naked," Jonathan Tropper (Book of Joe, How to Talk to a Widower), Nick Spalding's "Love" series, and Robert Bryndza's Coco Pinchard books . . . will feel right at home here.

## Author Bio 1

EM Bosso is the author of SMAFU and FBoM books, Writing Tips #42, as well as several upcoming novels. His multitude of careers and life experiences give his writing a unique flavor combining dark humor, emotional and frequently painful situations, and a fearless attempt to bring serious issues into the forefront of fiction. One reviewer puts it like this,

"Thank you for making my rocky moments real!" Where the imaginary stories leave off, his website and blog posts pick up with true stories; honest opinions; and useful resources for those in need of help.

EM Bosso lives in Portland, Oregon. (Yes our slogan really is, "Keep Portland Weird")

## Author Bio 2

As a young man I always wanted to be a writer, I just didn't know it. Telling stories, having dreams, building a fictional reality that allowed me to cope with "normal" people became an outlet for creativity that was bubbling inside. After all, how much fun is it to sit in a restaurant and assume the couple at the next table were just ordinary people having dinner? Much more entertaining to imagine them discussing world domination, or plotting their next great bank heist. (If that was you, sorry about the strange looks).

As time went by, and my kids no longer believed I was a pirate-spy working for the Antarian secret service plotting their intergalactic takeover of the fast food industry, I decided to take

my imagination out into the real world and let total strangers judge, rate, and post reviews on the quality of my mad writing skills. So far... so good.

The real world of "Michael" (yes I actually refer to myself in the third person, doesn't everyone?) is pleasant but nowhere near as exciting as my stories. I've been a shoe salesman, phone salesman, nuts and bolts stacker, television repair assistant, designer of computer systems, non-profit worker, lobbyist, banker, VP of a large banking institution, stock broker, financial advisor, husband, dad, son and brother. Pretty standard stuff compared to a dream-walker, or mass-murdering avenging angel.

## Other Books by EM Bosso

[\*The Eyes of Justice Series\*](#)

[FBoM - The Foundation](#)

[FBoM - The Betterment](#)

[Chris Crossed - An FBoM Novella](#)

[Other](#)

[Writing Tips #42: The Incomplete Guide for the Self-Published](#)

[Author's Website](#)

[AMAZON Author Page](#)

[Goodreads Author Page](#)

Available  
Author  
Images



**EM Bosso**  
author of

**SMAFU** Situation  
Married  
All F'd Up

## Discussion Questions SMAFU - Situation Married All F'd Up

Was either one of the spouses more at fault than the other?

Which one do you identify with more?

What role did their phones play in their marriage? In their connection or disconnection? Did Steve really "just learn" how to use his phone to communicate?

Why did Mary immediately jump on her phone when things got tense with Steve?

Would Steve have been able to TALK (face-to-face, in person, using voices) had she tried to? Do you think she had?

Why did Cherisse's way of talk communication with Steve work? What caused him to respect HER way more than anything you can guess Mary might have tried?

How do you think Cherisse came to be the way she is regarding her attitudes toward sexuality?

Steve's whole world is rocked (so he believes?) back into place when his wife dons the skirt and visits his hotel room. Why? What do you think REALLY went on there?

Are men REALLY the (big quote marks) "simple creatures" they so often claim to be?

How would this story be different if the author were a female? Or if told from Mary's perspective?

Men do read. What would they be talking about right now, if they, you know, attended Book Clubs? Would it be different in a mixed gender vs men-only club? Can you imagine your S.O. here at THIS book club?

What questions would a man like to see on this list?

## Discussion Questions SMAFU - SoulMates

Which character do you identify with the most?

Jake was charged with writing a piece on "technology and old people." Was there more to it than that?

What do you make of Jake's "learning to text?" What might he really be learning with all those abbreviations, acronyms and EMOJI?

Why did Cherisse's way of talk communication with Jake work? What caused him to respect HER way more than anything you can guess Jen might have tried?

How did you react to the explanations of Jen's life choices?

What did you think of Cherisse's reaction to Jake's favorite fairy tale being Sleeping Beauty?

Assume Jen said the same types of things to Jake that Sarah did. Why do you think Jake didn't feel judged by Sarah?

How do you think Cherisse came to be the way she is regarding her attitudes toward sexuality?

Are men REALLY the (big quote marks) "simple creatures" they so often claim to be?

How would this story be different if the author were a female?

Do you believe in the concept of SoulMates? Did you feel either of the couples had found their soulmate? Were Jake and Jen soulmates? Can a soulmate relationship ever end? Can you have more than one?

Men do read. What would they be talking about right now, if they, you know, attended Book Clubs? Would it be different in a mixed gender vs men-only club? Can you imagine your S.O. here at THIS book club?

What questions would a man like to see on this list?

## From SMAFU - Situation Married All F'D Up

To say Mary was my biggest life regret probably isn't fair. I had made my share of mistakes too, so she didn't get all the blame. It certainly wasn't all her fault our relationship was in the place we were in. Still, she certainly ranks in the top ten. She was definitely not-as-advertised while we were dating. It reminded me of that old joke, "What's the greatest form of birth control? Wedding cake." I'm sure there is a female equivalent, something along the lines of "You never really know a man until you marry him, and then it's too late."

§

Why do we do this to each other? Why do people that love each other enough to agree to spend their lives together, spend the rest of eternity trying to tear it apart?

§

As she breathed in the aroma of her concoction she spoke over the top of the rim, her eyes slightly sparkling, "Maybe he's clueless because you haven't found a way to make him understand yet dear. I find my discussions with Steve go better when I speak slowly and use small words, and tell lots of stories about my sexual exploits to keep his attention when his mind starts to wander..."

§

"Steve, what are you doing in my bedroom? Thirty years ago I might have been interested, but those days are past dear boy. Besides, I'm terribly fond of your wife." How someone could go from being dead asleep to total smart ass in the leap of a heartbeat, I had no idea, but I couldn't help but laugh.

"Thirty years ago I was underage, and you'd have gotten arrested." I teased. "But we would have had a wondrous time and you would have learned so much!"

§

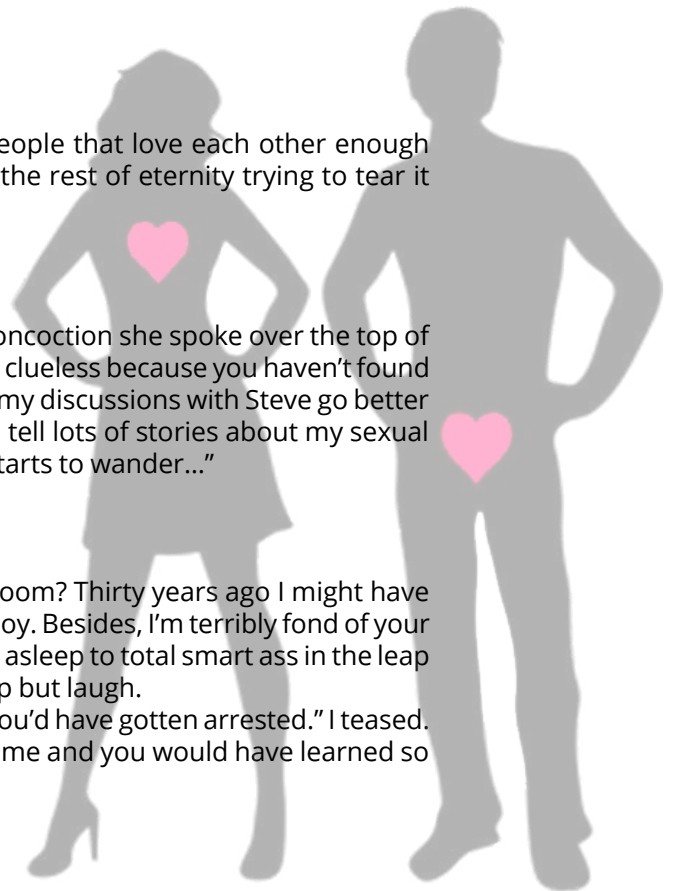
I couldn't let Mary and the kids see me like this. I couldn't let them see how badly I'd failed them.

§

For the first time in I don't know how long, we had a real conversation. I learned more ... in an hour than I have in the last decade. ... It was like old times ... like what brought us together to begin with.

§

What do you have to lose? If you open yourself up, allow yourself to become vulnerable and he rejects you, then is he really the man you want to spend the rest of your life with?



## From SMAFU - SoulMates

### Cherisse

My first boyfriend, after my first husband ....was sweet and kind and loving and all... but I was a bit of a wild young lady and wanted a man that could take charge in the bedroom once in a while. He just wanted to coast through life—and in bed—boring.”

“Um... ma’am... technology... we’re supposed to be talking about technology.”

“Don’t be silly young man, those weren’t around when I was young. We had to be more creative then. I remember exactly when I got my first...”

“STOP!!!!!”

“Well you asked dear boy. It’s not as if orgasms weren’t around when I was young. They were more difficult to come by of course, unless you took matters into your own hands... there were so many fewer expectations on men at the time. ....

“My god! I just wanted to know about cellphones, and computers and television! That kind of technology. I hardly even know you, I don’t want to know about your sex life, or your old sex life... or whatever...”

“Well I’m almost ninety dear. It’s not like we have a long time to get to know each other. No point in being shy. But go ahead... I’ll try to answer your questions. Would you like more tea, darling?”

§

Cherisse grinned like the Cheshire Cat as she watched the younger man turn into a boy thrilled with his new toy, “Jake, imagine [she] is the baking soda and you are the vinegar. If what you have is true, then you will react just like that towards one another. You will combine and become one, both growing and bubbling with excitement. You will become more than either of believe you could be apart, and you will be able to accomplish wonderful and magical things together.

### Jake

Why couldn’t they just sell two kinds? White and red would have been good enough, nobody really knows the difference between shiraz, cabernet, Malbec, zinfandel, chardonnay, burgundy, merlot, or gewürztraminer anyway. ... He found a bottle ...called, “Basic Life.” The label was simple and the letters looked like they were written by hand with a black felt-tipped marker. Jake felt it gave the message of, “I have no expectations,” which was exactly how he felt.

§

Only one thing could have caused the change and even if he wouldn’t admit it to her, yet, the man was in either in love or getting laid. It was always debatable whether he knew the difference, but whatever the case Jen was relieved. It made the text message she was about to send that much easier.

### Jen

Working yourself to death ... hadn’t done her father a damn bit of good in the long run. What good was busting your ass for fifty years if all you’re going to do is end up in a hospital at the end of it?

§

Should it be disturbing when your husband of 20 years calls you his best friend? .... He was dreaming again ... Only one thing could have caused the change and even if he wouldn’t admit it to her yet, the man was in either in love or getting laid. It was always debatable whether he knew the difference.

§

He was all I knew. As the years went by, he lost that... oh, I dunno—sense of wonder? or adventure? curiosity? or... exploration. That’s it. He forgot to find out what made life ‘tick’ for him, which is something I absolutely refuse to give up. I mean, who wants to have all of their adventures alone?!

## ABOUT - SMAFU - (from the end matter)

Men can pay attention...

SMAFU and the upcoming SMAFU - SoulMates are both fictional novels based in a whole lot of Truth. They are an amalgam of both my own personal life and the experiences I've shared with others over 30-odd years, as I traveled a rather serpentine path, stopping along the way to be a husband, father, financial advisor, youth minister, non-profit worker, coach, small-business owner and now author.

Cherisse herself is a combination of my many wonderful elderly clients, with whom I've had the privilege of speaking, learning from, and sharing many warm beverages.

What I hadn't expected when I began my career as a financial advisor, was exactly how intimately money is tied up with life's important milestones. I'm inevitably one of the first phone calls that gets made when my clients are experiencing divorce, the stress of changing careers, or the loss of a loved one. So of course I paid attention—it was for work. :-|

As a younger man, I felt driven to succeed, to achieve the next promotion. The older I get, the more I realize a truer path to success for me, lies in helping others. I hope that the lessons I've learned over the years may help someone in the world save a marriage, make life a little better, or give some small peace to a frustrated soul.

The marital troubles as portrayed between Steve and Mary, although quite factual in parts, were also built from long discussions with clients who were going through a divorce. What surprised me this time was this: How many readers of the early release(s) took the time to contact me and let me know how they saw their lives and marriages written all over my pages and how, after reading (and sometimes forcing their spouses to read) the novel, their relationships actually improved.

I hope that these stories will help make your life richer and fuller too.

If there is one message, and one message only, that underlies all of my novels, it's this: We are all one, we are all equal, and we all experience heartache, joy, pain, frustration and euphoria in our lives... yet we all feel so alone. We are afraid to open up lest we be judged or rejected. Yet shouldn't the person we chose to spend our life with be privy to our entire selves? The walls we build to protect ourselves from rejection and pain are the very walls which keep us from feeling comfort and wholeness with the people we care about most and want to be closest to.

You can read more of my rambling thoughts and attempts to make the world a better place for men, women, couples and occasionally pets, at my website [EMBosso.net](http://EMBosso.net). Please swing by and check it out. Please sign up for my mailing list so you know when the next books are being released. I promise I won't pester you with spam; only important stuff.

Once again, thank you so much for reading SMAFU. Hopefully you've enjoyed it enough that you will rush to pick up my next novel as soon as it is complete. Like every author on the planet, I can't tell you when that might be... but I promise it's in the works! Lol.

## ABOUT - SoulMates - (from the end matter)

When I wrote the original SMAFU, what seems like decades ago although it's only been few years, I had no idea the response I would receive. I was shocked when messages from women, and surprisingly even a man, started to arrive saying I had somehow reinvigorated, saved, or otherwise helped make flagging marriages somehow new again.

Who would have thought a novel intended to be a bittersweet tale based on mid-life crises, could have such a dramatic effect on so many? It was a novel about a couple in trouble and a wonderful old lady with experience, wisdom, and hope—mostly hope—to share. It was never intended to be "guide for a better marriage." Cherisse, certainly, must have known what would happen because she struck a chord with both men and women alike. That she was universally loved didn't surprise me though, because she is an amalgam of many of my wonderful, some elderly, clients and I've loved them all. I've learned more about life, from our years of hour-long meetings—which, it turns out, had little to do with the financial matters originally intended—than perhaps any man on the planet. I was a captive audience after all, and they weren't letting me go until, "We've had a nice cup of tea, darling." And all that tea apparently entails. I've loved every minute of it.

I have other kinds of clients as well, and that's where SMAFU Soulmates finds a lot of its life. These are clients whose marriages ended in divorce, some amicably, but most with a great deal of bitterness. The nature of my profession means I generally stay in contact with both parties, sometimes finding myself in a sort of middleman role, where I hear the frustrations firsthand from both sides. Usually, these couples haven't experienced abuse or infidelity, but have simply decided that what they once had was gone, and it was time to search for happiness and fulfillment elsewhere. Sometimes, they part as friends, but more often than not, they forget in those heated moments what they once meant to each other; what they shared over the years; and that at one time, there *was* love there.

I asked myself, what would their lives be like if they had met Cherisse *after* the divorce? What would she say? How would she be... Cherisse?

SMAFU Soulmates is a book for both the divorced and the still-married who are wondering, "Why? Just why?"

Perhaps it will provide peace and hope to those struggling to move on from their exes. Allowing them to focus on what was good in their shared past, finally putting anger and frustrations to rest.

For those still married or together and wondering why, I hope it helps open up an honest, forthright, *ongoing* conversation with your S.O./ spouse. A two-way dialogue which allows you to delve into each one's hopes/dreams/wants/desires/expectations, both individual and combined. Sounds like a humongous undertaking, right? It sure can be, but if the payoff is that the "undertaker" runs off with "the corpses," those things that weren't working for you anymore? Sounds like a net gain of relationship "life" to me.

There's always risk. That's another thing my profession has taught me. Once you discover where you're at as a couple, one or both of you could well decide they don't want to stay there any longer. Which is also sad, but perhaps in the long run, could allow them to each make their *own lives* more rich and full.

Whether you have to work really, really hard to build a relationship together, like Jen and Keith, or "somehow manage" to find a highly compatible mate out of pure "luck" who lights your fire... everyone deserves a SOULMATE.



## Praise for SMAFU - Situation Married All F'd Up

Weird title right? ... perfect for anyone who has been married longer than five minutes (or in my case twenty-nine years!) ... almost wrote the shortest review ever when I finished SMAFU.... "I NEED a Cherrisse" and "You NEED to buy this book ... SMAFU is funny, heartbreaking and uplifting (and that's a lot for any author to achieve) ... wonderfully sad and at the same time, inspiring ride through a marriage which, surely, will resonate with a large proportion of the population....When I grow up, I want to be Cherrisse!  
— Tracie Delaney, Author of A Winning Ace

Written by a man which makes everything take on a different (I could say even fresher) perspective ... a must for both women and men, married and single.  
— Sandrus Magister, Founder of Circle of Books

Sagacious insights from a uniquely male perspective that helped me see things from the 'other side of the coin'.  
— Cynthia Morgan, Author of The Dark Fey Trilogy

Impossible to put down. As a man who has been married twice, I would recommend this book to all couples.  
— Charles Vickery

Caught myself laughing out loud ... suggest anyone in a relationship to read and take to heart ... thank you for the serious lessons taught in a lighthearted manner!  
— Ann Jones, Author of Missing

Like a story your good friend may share with you over coffee, or your buddy might spill during the course of a few beers ... has you nodding your head in agreement and saying things like, "That's exactly what my husband/wife does!" And, "I feel the same way!" ... hits the marriage nail on the head in regard to how people take each other for granted. How we become insensitive to the feelings of our significant oth-

er. How we let ourselves fall into complacency, and how we finally just give up ... SMAFU is a debut novel worthy of high praise. Mr. Bosso's male perspective on marriage is refreshing as well as unique.

— Deb Markanton Founder of Extreme Delusions

A book that will make people shout out 'Thank You', thank you for making my rocky moments real!

— The Writing Garnet Book Review

Author is again a winner as he paints the picture of a floundering marriage with such skill that I couldn't help but relate ... how I wish I had a Cherrisse ... an eye opener to the inner workings of a relationship; how communication breaks down, how things are misinterpreted and people taken for granted. It's a book that I wish I'd read years ago, before I took the plunge myself. ... recommend to anyone going through similar stuff ... more so than a self-help book, as this is a fictional story and the message is subtle. You'll take of it what you need and discard what doesn't fit more easily than a text book. Oh and it's a cracking tale in itself!

— Ashrae, Amazon top 1000 Reviewer

Marriage... from the male perspective.

— Jessica Johnson

To sum up this book in one word: Perfect ... one of the most beautifully written books I've ever had the pleasure to read ... Michael Bosso is extremely perceptive!

— Miss E. Hayes

Recommended for anyone losing their way in a relationship. It has some real laugh out loud moments but also has a serious message.

— Saffie

Captivated ... from the first paragraph!

— Lisa Singh

Not the typical contemporary romance...[has] you going back and forth between cheering him on... or wanting to wring his neck!... Like most men who don't understand women, he cannot see the clues laid out in front on him. Can Cherisse impart all her wisdom and experience into Steve and Mary before it's too late? More realistic than most books I've read in a long time. His character really resonated with me and speaks to my own life experience. I really wish there were more books out there like this, the kind that reminds people what they already have at home.

— David Bibby

A wonderful book by Mr. EM Bosso which has stayed with me. I will continue to hold these characters in my heart and remember the lessons when life is getting lost. This is a book of gentle actions with far-reaching consequences which I highly recommend.

— Gen

Great book! Very insightful and thought provoking I didn't want to put it down

— Leslie McCallister

Cherisse is very memorable ... many of us could do with her in our lives ... we'll just have to stick with the next best thing and read this excellent book! — Frances Pearson

Very moving ... shed a few tears but also laughed from beginning to end ... absolute gem ... highly recommend this brilliant book.

— Audrey Gibson

E. M. Bosso's perspective was fresh yet realistic and pragmatic. I highly recommend this novel.

—Montegirl

I found the husband utterly exhausting one second and then loved him the next ... a great story that sucked me in within the first few pages! I would recommend to friends!

— Kayleigh

Romance but not in the "hearts and flowers" sense ... the whole way through the book I was rooting for them.

— Karen Farrow

This book makes you think...

— Sharon Mckinlay

## Praise for **SMAFU - SoulMates**

This book will stay with me forever!!!! Cherisse has a special place in my heart ... my favourite female fictional character by a mile ... pulled at my heartstrings but most of all it made me laugh from beginning to end ... fantastic sense of humour ... shines through in his writing.

— Audrey Gibson

a very nice, positive read ... I love the remarkable Cherisse ... she certainly awakens a latent spirit of adventure with the way she lives life, age no barrier! To talk about important life issues like love, marriage, dreams, success, failure with that underlying touch of humour is an art, and the author got it right with this one.

— Priya

We all need a Cherisse in our lives ...This is a great feel-good book ... I think a lot of us can identify with the lack of self-confidence stopping us living our lives as we would wish.

— Gail Atkins

Nothing a hot cup of tea can't fix!

— Ann Jones, Author of Missing

Belies a deep understanding of human nature, and this is perhaps where it scores over many other, similar, romance tales.

— Roz White, Author of the Acclaimed Sisterhood Series

A very nice, positive read ... I love the remarkable Cherisse ... she certainly awakens a latent spirit of adventure with the way she lives life, age no barrier! To talk about important life issues like love, marriage, dreams, success, failure with that underlying touch of humour is an art, and the author got it right with this one.

— Priya

We all need a Cherisse in our lives ... This is a great feel-good book ... I think a lot of us can identify with the lack of self-confidence stopping us living our lives as we would wish.

— Gail Atkins

Well-written and feels real, several parts have been highlighted as EM Bosso puts into words, feelings I haven't been able to explain before.

— Sarah

Very real-world ... most of us can relate ... fun and thought provoking. This was a great read.

— Karen Carter

Belies a deep understanding of human nature, and this is perhaps where it scores over many other, similar, romance tales.

— Roz White, Author of the Acclaimed Sisterhood Series

Well-rounded characters ... drive the book, hold your interest and keep you engaged. Sweet, thoughtful and thoroughly enjoyable.

— Deborah Dobrin

I really loved ... how real the characters are. The author has definitely got some wicked observational skills and probably a degree in people watching.

— Ashrae, Amazon Top 1000 Reviewer

# but don't just take my word for it



[embosso.net](http://embosso.net)