Feasibility and acceptability of cervical barriers/Fiction review


Hardy E, de Padua KS, Jimenez AL, Zaneveld LJ. Women’s preferences for vaginal antimicrobial contraceptives. II. Preferred characteristics according to women’s age and socioeconomic status. Contraception 1998; 58: 239–244.


Montgomery CM. The role of partnership dynamics in determining the acceptability of condoms and microbicides. AIDS Care 2008; 20: 733–740.


This is a love story that is narrated as if it takes place spanning a day from morning till nightfall. Yet the actual story is spread out over months. The narrative gives the reader glimpses into the lives of the characters, starting with a scene in the morning and ending with nightfall.

The main characters, Laura and Ben, meet after a long time apart in a chance meeting at the platform for Ben’s and Bobby’s characters. In their private lives, they affect their lives, privacy, sexuality and relationships. Seemingly they are free to do as they please but cannot because of the position they find themselves in.

I found the book easy to read with simple themes and a believable story line. The author gave Ben the profession of a GUM doctor but I felt disappointed that this aspect of his role did not receive the weighting it could have. Perhaps the themes of homosexuality, HIV and GUM are intertwined in the story for the purpose of setting the platform for Ben’s and Bobby’s characters. In all, an enjoyable read!

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