Ryan, Meg (1961-) Encyclopedia Article

Ryan, Meg (1961-)

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Ryan, Meg (1961-) Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Ryan, Meg (1961—).....3

Ryan, Meg (1961—)

Meg Ryan became the queen of romantic comedy by faking a very public orgasm in the memorable restaurant scene of *When Harry Met Sally* (1989). Later, *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993) strengthened her status as America's favorite girl-next-door. Since then Ryan has held her throne against the competition of younger comedy stars Julia Roberts and Sandra Bullock. Her uneven filmography reveals, however, a clear underlying tension between the audience's preference for her romantic roles and her own wish to explore her talent for drama. The revengeful Maggie of *Addicted to Love* (1997) should be seen, thus, as her last unsuccessful attempt to leave her sunny persona behind. The failure of her brave performances as a Gulf War heroine in *Courage under Fire* (1996) and as an alcoholic wife in *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994) to impress the audience seems to have oriented her career definitively towards romantic comedy.

Further Reading:

Abramovitz, R. "Private Meg." *Premiere.* May 1996, 52-56.

Collins, A.F. "Faces of Meg." *Harper's Bazaar.* December1994, 120-123.

Sassums, K. "Maximum Meg." *Vanity Fair.* May 1995, 104-111.