

## SYNOPSIS

### *The Coyote Sun* by Julie Tosh (3M, 3W)

Aggie Most wakes as her husband Bill arrives home late from work and late for a business trip to Paris. After an early morning visit from Claudia, a woman at Bill's office, Aggie knows her marriage is in trouble. Claudia shows them both a brochure for The Coyote Sun Ranch in New Mexico, a place where women go to forget their troubles. Claudia looks forward to time away, enjoying the heat of the New Mexico sun, and teasingly suggests that Aggie might find the desert a fruitful retreat as well. Fearing that her husband's marriage vows may also be forgotten there, Aggie goes to the ranch where she finds Claudia but also Claudia's husband Greg and her own husband Bill. She is then pursued by a band of Coyote Women who mock her choices and lead Aggie deeper into the crevices of unrequited longing and stagnation. As Aggie tries to untangle the myths surrounding a good marriage, she meets a young Ranch Hand Irmalou whose coming of age story spurs Aggie on to confront Bill and to finally accept a future without Bill when she looks at the rise of the Coyote Sun.

Steeped in loneliness and her definition of the perfect marriage, Aggie cradles her vision of what she thinks the world should be at the expense of what it is. Her reluctance to embrace the events around her makes her story a coming of age journey for a thirty year old woman. As she learns to toddle on the edges of her convictions, she understands that life doesn't dish up the answers and that the biggest antagonist may be inside her own head. She must untangle her beliefs, even if she's unwilling to see how they have controlled her, and will eventually learn that acceptance is the elixir that will lead her on to the next phase of her life.