

The Trouble With You by Ellen Feldman is a fascinating novel about a young widow facing life alone in the early 1950's. Fanny Fabricant is a senior at Barnard College when she meets her future husband, Max, a medical student at Columbia University. They marry in 1941 and about two years later he leaves Fanny and their eight-month-old daughter Chloe to join the military. Max survives the war but tragically dies at home in 1947. Fanny is left with a six-year-old daughter and a house she cannot afford. She turns to her stalworth Aunt Rose for guidance. Rose is a successful single woman with her own thriving alterations/design business. Although Rose has never been married, she enjoys life fully. She gives Fanny sound advice and models how to live a self-sufficient life. Fanny sells her house in the suburbs and moves to a small apartment in New York City. Rose helps Fanny get a job as the assistant to a woman who writes three successful daytime radio serials. Fanny's new life begins to take shape. She enjoys her work and befriends the actors and writers. Unfortunately, some of her cronies are under attack by Senator McCarthy and the HUAC. Fanny witnesses McCarthy's persecution destroying the lives of colleagues she cares about. How can she help them without putting herself and her daughter at risk? Fanny has other concerns about her future. She enjoys dating a man that would be a great provider and stepfather for Chloe. However, she is also attracted to the "bad boy" writer she knows through her job. Fanny is constantly confronted with troubling choices that she faces with aplomb. Feldman has written an entertaining and thought-provoking novel. ***The Trouble With You*** has only one problem- it is difficult to put down.