



The Ex-Debutante

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When Carlisle Wainwright Cushing left her native Texas to start a new life in Boston, she had no regrets. The former Texas debutante, who never felt at home in her Southern skin, had found liberation--or so she thought. Until the day she gets an urgent call from her mother, reporting that: one, the Symphony Association Debutante Ball, which Carlisle's family has sponsored for years, is about to be called off; Two, her mother's divorce has the whole town talking; And three, the family's good name is at stake and Carlisle is the only one who can fix it all. So Carlisle takes a leave of absence from her law firm and goes to Texas to help. Her fiance, who has no idea she's an heiress, can't know that she's organizing the ball, handling the dramas of the girls involved, settling her mother's suit--and coming face to face with the true love of her life, whom she ran out on when she left Texas. Her trip home challenges Carlisle's sense of herself and brings the pieces of her past together, so that when she finally re-meets the man of her dreams, she's in a perfect place to tempt fate.

The Ex-Debutante Details

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From Reader Review The Ex-Debutante for online ebook

Cari Schaeffer says

Thoroughly enjoyed the book. I took away a star only because there were several "f" words and I never find that to be necessary. I like this author's writing style and sense of humor - always on point!

Claire says

I found this book to be annoying and frivolous. The characters were superficial and lacked depth. But maybe I have my preconceived ideas about debutantes and the Texas elite. I found this very hard to finish.

Dana says

The Ex-Debutante had a recently unemployed Carlisle back in her hometown where she stumbled into representing her mother in her dissolution proceeding and taking charge of a Debutante Ball. This could have been a funnier chick lit read, but instead it had a much more serious tone to it.

Carlisle had a hard time getting women to want to join the decades old club, and I expected that the women who wanted to be a part of the Debutante Ball would provide a degree of humor based on their unique social upbringing. I looked forward to being immersed in a culture which is so foreign to me, but that didn't happen. Carlisle had an easy time recruiting girls to be debutantes, or debbs, and they were catty, immature teenagers who were annoying to listen to. None of their conversations were funny. Instead, they were just mean to each other and their dialogue was grating.

Even Carlisle's rekindled romance was too tepid to energize this novel. This book might just have caught me at a bad time, because after recently reading several other chick lit books, I've gotten a little sick of a female protagonist going home after losing her job. Can't an author come up with any other catalyst for a story? I'm also tired of reading about women desperate to conceive, like Carlisle's sister. I think it is too stereotypical when the sole plot for a female character is her desperate need to have a baby.

Ugh. This was such a disappointment. I guess I expected more humor and a lighter read in general.

Please read more of my reviews on my blog: <http://fastpageturner.wordpress.com>
or follow me on twitter at @dana_heyde

Jenni says

The Ex-Debutante is a cute, fun and quick read. While the cover makes the story appear to be overly cliché, it really isn't. Carlisle has returned back home and gets roped into hosting the annual debutante ball as well as acting as her mother's own divorce lawyer.

This story has several layers including lost loves, family dynamics, jealousy, and stereotypes. While the story follows Carlisle's return back to her family, it delves more into human nature which was rather refreshing.

Don't let the cover or even the synopsis fool you: This book has more to offer than it shows.

Reba says

So, here I am in 2017, tackling my 2012 "to-read" list from Goodreads. Anyway, it is *The Ex-Debutante's* turn. Funny, because as I started this, I thought that it seemed a bit long. After like the first two chapters, I figured we could have some drama, a hot and heavy sex-scene or two, and wrap up the happily ever after. I found myself intrigued about what Lee could have to write about that would take up the rest of the pages. But, about a third of the way in, I find myself enjoying some of the plot development and twists, and characters, and just going along for the ride. Predictable? Light and fluffy? Sure, but as I have stated before, ad nauseam, to defend my somewhat questionable taste in literature, sometimes we need dessert along with out meat and potatoes.

Christa says

The Ex-Debutante was a cute, enjoyable book that appears to be a light read through most of the story. It had quite a bit of humor, and was quick to read. Toward the end of the book, I understood that the story delved deeper than I had realized, the light tone masking the more serious issues about relationships and family. I enjoyed quite a few of the characters, but I became slightly frustrated at times due to the dynamics between the hero and heroine. When I finished the book, I was left feeling satisfied by the story and how all of the issues were resolved.

Carlisle Wainwright Cushing escaped from her life and heritage as a privileged Texas debutante three years ago and forged a new life as an attorney in Boston. Her mother's impending divorce forces Carlisle back home, where she suddenly faces a number of challenges including - the opposing council in her mother's court case is Carlisle's former lover, the 100th annual debutante ball that has always been presided over by her family is headed for disaster, the symphony supported by the debutante ball faces bankruptcy, her brother and sister are both living in the family home, and her secret fiancé is pushing to set a wedding date. Is it possible for Carlisle to save the day, keeping her mother from losing a large portion of her fortune in the divorce while also planning and implementing a successful debutante ball? Her life is further complicated by the fact that her fiancé and Boston coworkers believe her to be a poor girl who has "pulled herself up by her bootstraps." Carlisle is having a terrible time keeping herself from throwing herself upon her now engaged former lover, and she doesn't always succeed. She must work to resolve the challenges that she faces, learning about herself, her family, and her other relationships along the way. The emotions she fears have to be dealt with in order for Carlisle to have a chance at finding happiness.

This book is really all about relationships of various types. There are several characters in this story who must confront tough issues and problem relationships. I enjoyed the character development and seeing Carlisle grow as her various relationships evolved. I liked the character of Jack, although his prolonged involvement with and attachment to another woman throughout the story was disappointing. I was afraid that I was not going to be happy with the ending of the book, but everything was pulled together quickly at the end for a pleasing conclusion.

Sep says

Ms. Lee made the whole debutant tradition heartwarming and coming-of-age story.. Carlile, who despite the title was a very poor debutante, is railroaded into returning from Boston, helping her mother win her 4th or 5th divorce, and (worst of all) running Willow Creek, Texas' 100th debutante ball. To start off, her being in charge infuriates "Old Money" Willow Creek and they boycott. So do the new rich who were excluded for generations and have always debuted their daughters elsewhere. This leaves Carlile scrambling until she ends up with the most unlikely group of girls ever to aspire to be introduced to society. The novel is about teaching the girls all the skills debutantes need to know but it is also about mothers, daughters, sisters and sisters-in-law and, did I fail to mention, Jack Blair, the man Carlile left behind.

Book Concierge says

ZERO stars

From the book jacket: Carlisle Wainwright Cushing – of the old-moneyed Willow Creek, Texas, Wainwrights, is the daughter of larger-than-life Ridgely Wainwright ... Cushing-Jameson-Lackley-Harper-Ogden. Given her mother's predilection for divorce, no one is surprised that Carlisle becomes a divorce lawyer and runs far away to Boston, where nobody, including her fiancé, knows she's an heiress. But now, three years later, Carlisle is lured back to Texas to deal with her mother's latest divorce and the family-sponsored hundredth annual debutante ball, which is on the verge of collapse.

My reactions

Where to start? Cardboard characters. Tortured dialogue. Ridiculous plot. "Clever" writing devices that aren't. This is just a disaster.

I read another book by Lee which had some problems, but was far more coherent than this mess.

🔪 Stacey "The One Night Biter" says

I wasn't sure about this book at first.. But as it carried on, not only did I get into the story, I actually started speaking with a Southern Draw (and this isn't abnormal for me). Great plot twists, great ending and truly worth the time to read this book..

Andrea says

This book did not capture my attention as well as The Devil in the Jr. League. I did find segments entertaining, and being from Texas, I could identify with a few of the characters. The picture of the author on the front cover leads me to believe that the story is somewhat autobiographical. Whether that was intended or not, I have no idea! I thought it was rather silly.

TX Poppet says

The Ex-Debutante is the story of a young moneyed Texan who chose to move to Boston to practice law and make a fresh start. When her mother calls her home three years later with a family emergency, Carlisle finds herself sucked back in to family drama including her crunchy sister in law's struggles with an orange-haired teenager, her sister's all-consuming fertility battles complete with hormonal mood swings that make Sigourney Weaver's alien look like a lap dog, and her mother's umpteenth divorce. Somehow in the midst of all this she gets roped into organizing a debutante ball and coaching eight very challenging young women for a presentation complete with the dreaded "Texas Dip". Oh! and did I mention the sizzling lawyer in tight jeans representing her mother's husband?

Yep, I loved this book and most especially I loved how the characters ring true. In turns funny, outrageous, and very touching, The Ex-Debutante is a one sit read. You don't have to be a Texas deb to be unable to put this book down.

Lanette says

Some books would be so fun, if they weren't so immoral:)

Susannah Carleton says

A heart-warming story of love, family, and dreams, that proves that what is best for a person or family or community is not necessarily the old tried-and-true approach. The characters are intriguing, and the plot twists and turns will keep readers turning pages long into the night.

Jenk says

Repetitive plot that just kept swirling around the same few topics. Not much character development. I wasn't excited to see how any of the events turned out. The ending was predictable and boring.

Meryan says

I loved it, the kind of book that makes you laugh out loud. Carlise Wainwright Cushing is a Lawyer from a very prominent Texas Family who's family drives her crazy, so she moves to Boston to practice law. No one knows she comes from a rich family, not even her fiancé Phillip Granger. She has to represent her Mother in her latest divorce and take over the planning of a debutante ball that she wants no part of. The Lawyer representing her mothers latest husband is Carlisle's ex-boyfriend who she ran out on 3 years ago. Her sister Savannah has been trying for years to have a baby and can't. Her brother and his wife Janice have 4 uncontrollable children. They all get together and hilarity ensues. Her fiancé decides to make a surprise visit

and thinks her mother is the maid and her mother is happy to play along. That's just one of the hilarious situations that come up.
