



Before She Was Mine

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Freya is torn between her two mothers. Liv, her adoptive mother who nurtured and raised her, is earthy, no-nonsense. The total opposite to Melody: with her vibrant, explosive personality and extensive, brightly coloured wardrobe, Freya's birth mother is still apt to find herself thrown out of Top Shop for bad behaviour. Hard as it has been for Freya to try to reconcile her two families, it has been harder for her mothers. Proud of her mature and sensible adoptive daughter, Liv fears Melody's restless influence. Meanwhile, forced to give up her baby when she was just a teenager herself, Melody now craves Freya's love and acceptance - but only really knows how to have fun.

Then tragedy strikes, and the bonds of love that tie these three women together will be tested to the max. Can they finally let go of the past, and pull together in order to withstand the toughest challenge life could throw them?

Before She Was Mine Details

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From Reader Review Before She Was Mine for online ebook

Catherine says

Yet another great read from Kate Long.

Freya with 2 mothers to juggle - her birth mother and her adoptive mother - has to meet the demands of both mums as they each go through their own personal crisis. Thrown into all the turmoil is her best friend's upcoming 'perfect' wedding to the 'perfect' man - will anyone really notice if she wears her beloved Doc Martens under the bridesmaid dress?

As usual Kate manages to bring to life her characters and combine the humour with the heartache, to make this a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining read.

Would definitely recommend.

Molly says

Loved it. "Warm, witty and wise" - just what it said on the cover!

Donna Irwin says

A really Good read. Enjoyed this very much. Great writing as it explored the various relationships between the central character and the other characters. Warm, funny, sad.

Judy says

I've just read this over a wet Easter weekend and it proved a good novel to curl up on the sofa with. Interesting and well drawn characters, with an unusual take on mother-daughter relationships. Well written.

Wsclai says

It's a book not only about mother-daughter relationship. It's about all aspects of a woman's life - dating, getting married, choosing partners, being oneself, parenting, facing illness, pursuing dreams ... etc. It's a stew of everything essential and whoever is female will surely identify with the book somewhere.

The story is touching in many places and funny in some. The characters are believable and close-to-life. What I find odd, perhaps, is the ending - is a complete twist to what happens earlier in the story when Frey is busy juggling between her two mothers.

Sally Quilford says

Once again Kate Long proves that when it comes to family politics, no one writes better. *Before She Was Mine* is an affectionate and touching look at twenty-three year old Freya, who is torn between her fun-loving biological mother, Melody, and her adoptive and literal Earth mother, Liv. When both suffer a crisis at the same time, Freya is torn between wanting to do the best for both of them, whilst being unable to split herself in two. Add to that her friend, Nicky's impending nuptials and the issues surrounding that, one begins to wonder if Freya will ever have time or energy to sort out her own problems.

Peopled with a cast of very believable characters, the novel is a beautifully written and beautifully observed look at family in all its forms.

Alex says

Once again Kate Long has added another cracker to my bookshelf! Finished within a day, incredibly difficult to put down (BE WARNED), and one of the more riveting story lines to grace my eyes. My only complaint? That Kate Long can't write a book a day! Definite recommend!

John says

Really enjoyable

Tara Russell says

Kate Long excels at writing families. Her explorations of relationships, particularly between mothers and daughters, are pithy, wryly observed and vividly realistic. This book centres around Freya and her two mothers, one adoptive and one biological. Very different characters, they both have a profound influence on her life, particularly when both mothers find themselves in traumatic situations.

I didn't cringe as much with fascinated self-recollection at scenes in this book as much as I have in previous books; but it certainly doesn't shrink from the more painful side of human emotions.

Kathleen McGurl says

I loved this book. Very warm, some unforgettable characters and a brilliant exploration of what it's like to be adopted, and to be in touch with both your birth and adopted mothers.

Pauline says

Almost finished, but have to say what a brilliant read! The characters are so believable. I was actually in tears at one point, moved over the baby scene, which made compelling reading. Freya is torn between two mothers, and those mothers are completely different: no cardboard characters in this novel.

I do like the sense of place, and the style.

Now, to relish the end.

Rosie Lovell says

A warm, funny yet poignant story - couldn't put it down.

Tracy says

This is my introduction to Kate Long's writing and I am keen to next read *The bad mother's handbook*. Loved the voice of narrator Freya and how this cleverly interweaved with Liv's diary and the social worker's notes on Melody (Freya's birth mother). I confess to reading this all virtually in one sitting, spending a wonderful Sunday afternoon immersed in the characters' lives.

Freya bounces back and forth between her birth mother and her the woman who adopted her trying to find her own direction in life. Both her mothers have problems to overcome in their lives and these are sensitively handled by the author. Freya is portrayed realistically as a introverted, security seeking young woman scared to venture out of her comfort zone. Thankfully there is satisfactory resolution to all the story strands and Freya finally realises what the reader has sussed long ago, that love was right under her nose.

A terrific read: funny, emotional and full of heart.

Regina Bubb says

Tragedies and drama happening all at once is always over-whelming. Freya really became an admirable character for me because she tried her best to help wherever she was needed. She didn't realize her own true potential and when she finally turned to herself she accepted what there is to come for her.

Jolie says

Very predictable story about a twenty something girl dealing with dynamics of birth and adoptive moms. I took a long time to get into the story and really only finished because it was the only book I had on hand.

