



# **The Debt & The Doormat**

*Laura Barnard*

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## **The Debt & The Doormat** Laura Barnard

Poppy and Jazz have been best friends from the first week of university. Whenever these two get together trouble isn't far away and things haven't changed much. When Jazz gets herself into financial trouble Poppy, being a good friend, offers to help. She instead ends up being talked into swapping lives, with Jazz insisting it will be good and help her get over her broken heart.

Poppy is thrown into a new life, full of crazy housemates. There's fitness freak Izzy, horrendously beautiful bitch Grace and the slightly gorgeous, if not incredibly grumpy Ryan.

Quickly, with the help of Jazz, her life is thrown upside down. Madness ensues and her need to please everyone gets her in more trouble than she could ever imagine.

Before she knows it she's got a fake boyfriend and is hiding so many secrets she's scared they'll spill out any minute. With a bullying boss, a sex crazed colleague, a mental mother and three brothers each with their own dramas, life has gotten pretty difficult for Poppy. And all of this would be much easier, if she could just stop falling over.

Will she get her life back to normal before her brother's upcoming wedding? And will she want to?

## **The Debt & The Doormat Details**

Date : Published July 23rd 2013

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Author : Laura Barnard

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# From Reader Review The Debt & The Doormat for online ebook

## Gayle says

loved this book. was laugh out loud funny. easy to read.

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## 2OCC Reviews says

This book was absolutely brilliant. I was up until 2am reading as I just could not put it down.

This has now become my new favourite go-to read, when I need a laugh I'll definitely be re reading The Debt And The Doormat.

Poppy is hilarious, she's constantly getting herself, and others, into trouble just by being too nice and not saying no when she should.

Jazz is brilliant, stubborn and deep down I think she's lost.. I'll have to read book 2 to see if I'm right!

Ryan.. swoon! Although he has quite a few mood swings, he's still Hot, funny and loveable and genuinely a nice person.

This book is witty, charming and completely unique. I'm a Brit myself so I adored this dry humour. The character developments are great, the writing was flawless and the storyline was exceptional.

#2OCCAB

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## Gemma says

refuse to carry on reading a book which takes chunks of the TV show friends and adds it to the book. only 30% in and there have been so many quotes word for word, on one page it was a whole scene almost!!!

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## Yessi Smith says

I can honestly say that there wasn't a single moment of The Debt & the Doormat that I did not completely love. Poppy, the most random character I've ever come across is hilarious. And the things that happen to her had me literally laugh out loud (I might have even snorted a couple times). The things that fly out of her mouth had me covering my own, because omg – this chick is a riot.

She also an amazing friend to Jazz. Jazz is a mess and I absolutely love her. After managing to put herself in huge debt, she convinces Poppy to switch lives with her and pushes Poppy out of her comfort zone. What ensues is a whirlwind of crazy fun with a surprise ending.

Ryan is moody but sweet. A heroic martyr of sorts. He's protective and is there for Poppy when she really needs him, but then he would turn so cold, I wondered if maybe he had some sort of bipolar disorder. But no, he's just charming, grumpy, misunderstood Ryan.

Each character was very well developed and I loved how different they were from one another.

This is a 5 star laugh out loud must read. In fact, I think I just may have to reread it.

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## **Ann Walker says**

Ahhhh what a lovely read. I laughed out loud in quite a few places at poor Poppy who was rather accident prone and always seemed to end up in tricky situations, bless her.

All the characters were great and complimented each other perfectly. This is a super read if you are in the mood for something light that will have you chuckling along the way.

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## **Joan says**

I stopped reading when I got to the line that said - 'dry as a nun's vagina'. No thanks. Off-putting, crude and pointless. I was looking for light-hearted froth, not the sort of language used by rugby players.

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## **Sarah says**

Awkward and predictable humour

The blurb gives so much promise and follows the “rules” of a typical chick flick novel. But instead, you are presented with a predictable storyline and humour that just makes you cringe and feel quite awkward. It felt like I was watching a comedy film – you can see where and when the punch line is coming and when it does, you end up feeling sorry for the characters involved, rather than laughing at the predicament.

Don't get me wrong, it's an easy read to get in to and you want Poppy to finally sort herself out by the end of the novel (if nothing else, just to relieve that never-ending awkwardness that is prevalent throughout the story). The predicaments she finds herself in are quite lame and unbelievable; it made me question how Barnard was inspired to write this because it becomes quite far-fetched. For example, Poppy tells her mother that she is pregnant in order to escape meeting a pretend boyfriend in the city (they actually end up visiting this poor random bloke's office and the situation is quite cringe-making), and this is still circling the gossip mill at the end of the story. Each time I wanted Poppy to have the balls to stand up to her unbearably controlling mother and just get on with life. Seriously, how could anyone manage to get themselves in the situations she finds herself in?

Another irritation for this story is that whilst it starts out with Poppy and her best friend, Jazz, swapping lives (clothes, way of living and where they live), this just seems to continue in the story, even though it is evident that this life swap has clearly got out of control. Fuelled, it seems, by going out every night to get drunk, I wonder just how far Barnard's readers can relate to this. Again, surely common sense and self-belief would prevent anyone from acting in the way that Poppy does?

Perhaps I have missed the point of this novel and taken it far too seriously. Trust me, I could definitely see where Barnard was trying to go with this story but it really didn't pull me in. The attempts at humour seem reminiscent of Sophie Kinsella and it is this that brought me to the conclusion that either the writer is trying too hard to create a chick flick novel, or has taken elements from different chick flick novels to combine it into her own... just not very successfully.

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## Jo says

Poppy has her life sorted, by not going outside her nice quiet/careful life she is not going to get hurt again, like Stuart hurt her. Jazz her best friend is in a lot of debt. So on a night establishing how much debt Jazz is in they somehow decided that they will swap lives and have to do everything the other one instructs ... So Jazz moves into Poppy's lovely flat and Poppy moves into Jazz's house-share with Grace, Izzy and Ryan (the perceived man whore as Poppy christens him)

To say Poppy is a clumsy girl is an understatement, she also says and does things before assessing the consequences - landing herself in ridiculous situations that could so easily have been avoided!

Poppy's family, well her Mum is quite a character she doesn't listen to poppy and decides her version of reality - telling everyone what she wants - Poppy is too "polite" to say otherwise

A fun frolick, with several laugh out loud parts, and quite a lot of cringing through Poppy's life - I really enjoyed this book and would happily read this author again

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## Megan says

Plagiarises the sitcom FRIENDS all the way throughout the book, i can't believe it was ever published, the protagonist is very unlikeable too. Terrible book.

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## Rose says

For a chick lit, this is quite chunky with its almost 500 pages. But I still managed to read it in two days. And that says something about how fun and addicting *The Debt & The Doormat* is.

After Poppy's best friend Jazz gets into money trouble, they decide to switch lives for a while. They make a deal that they'll have to do whatever the other wants them to do, be it having an one-night stand for the first time or saying "yes" to everything for a day.

Even though this is pretty much the basic of the story, in the end the life switch ends up being less about helping Jazz out of money trouble and more about Poppy having her best friend challenge her to step out of her comfort zone and do stuff she normally wouldn't.

At times this reminded me a little of *The Dr Pepper Prophecies* because our main character Poppy is just as much of a klutz as Mel from TDPP, if not even a bigger one. Though if I'm honest, when comparing the two books, ultimately *The Dr Pepper Prophecies* wins.

Was this fun? Sure. Was the love interest swoon-worthy? Yes. Was it everything I look for in a chick lit? Yesyesyes. Did I love the fact that I, again, discovered a freebie-on-Amazon gem? *Yesyesyesyes*.

But in the end, I just can't give this book more than 4 stars. Poppy is so extremely judgmental at times, slut-

shaming women left and right who either have/had a thing with Mr. Love Interest or those who are beautiful and/or showing a little skin. And I'm just not the biggest fan of that.

Even if utter bullshit leaps out of Poppy's mouth at times (she thinks quite a lot of crap as well), I still couldn't help but love her. Maybe I would be less forgiving if this book wasn't exactly what I needed when I read it but I don't care, I loved it and I'm not ashamed to admit it.

I thought about writing that toward the end, the story started to drag a little but when I think about it, it actually didn't. I enjoyed every of the almost 500 pages, even if Poppy's slut-shaming/judging at times frustrated me to no end but I was kind of able to forgive it.

The cast of characters are so much fun and I laughed out loud so many times while reading this, which is why this still gets 4 stars from me. I don't know how I'd feel about it on a reread but right now, I can safely say it's among my favourite chick lit.

Overall, slut-shaming and the judginess of our main character aside, this is quite the awesome chick lit. If you're looking for a fun laugh-out-loud kind of read, I highly recommend *The Debt & The Doormat*. Even if this is quite chunky for a chick lit, the pages fly by like nothing and in the end I wished there were more. So hearing that there's going to be a sequel makes me quite happy. If there's less (or ideally NO) slut-shaming, it might even get 5 stars from me.

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### **K.M. Lowe says**

I really hate to write reviews like this...This was the first book that I have read by this author and I picked it up because I wanted a funny, light hearted read. Unfortunately I didn't like it. I hated it. I hated the characters, the plot, I just didn't get it at all. I also didn't like how there was a few occasions that slagged off disabilities. I know it is supposed to be a funny book, but I didn't like that in it.

The beginning I thought was going to be good, but then it went too far fetched. Only in a novel can someone go from being locked in a bathroom by a guy, to be rescued by her house mate, to be in a armed robbery a page or two later...to then going to a hospital to get told her housemate died, but he was in the next room alive and kicking.

Some of it was funny and could have been a good novel, but I just couldn't get into it. I wanted to jump into the book and slap some sense into the main character. She was so childish and irresponsible.

I do have another two books on my kindle by this author, and I will read them and hopefully enjoy them.

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### **Sheryl says**

This was so a cute, fun read. I thought it was a hoot.

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## **Nikki Summers says**

### **Average story and borrowed humour**

The book was funny in places but only because so many of the quotes, quips and one liners were taken from the tv series Friends! Disappointing that the author had to use other sources rather than their creativity or imagination. Also noted a fair few spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. Won't be reading any additional books I'm afraid

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## **Monique says**

I asked my book buddies to recommend a funny book because I was sick in bed and needed a lift. This is what they told me to read. What a treasure! And lift my spirits it did. I am an Aussie, so the British humor is just up my alley, it's very dry and extremely funny. I was laughing out loud so many times, I nearly spilt my tea!

I just loved Poppy. She is a Bridget Jones type character that unfortunately bad luck follows her everywhere she goes. And it is hilarious. She has a BFF in Jazz who is her polar opposite, but just as funny. Jazz has the idea to swap houses, so she can save money to pay off her debt. Poppy is not totally convinced, but being a "doormat", she goes along with it. Jazz's flat mates, Grace, Izzy and Ryan are a bit shocked, but accept her into their fold. Crazy things will keep you entertained with this book. Some will think the relationship with Poppy and Ryan is a bit annoying, but I didn't. I felt that Poppy was the one who was unsure and gave mixed signals to poor Ryan. But all's well, that ends well, and this finishes brilliantly.

I would highly recommend this book for an entertaining read.

Reviewed for JoandIsaLoveBooks Blog.

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## **Andie Long says**

Loved this book. It was absolutely hilarious. The scrapes Poppy got herself into had me cringing with her and laughing at her at the same time. I adored Ryan and was shouting at the book for him to wise up! Looking forward to reading the rest of the series. Laura has built a host of characters that feel like family friends.

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