



Starting Over

Robin Pilcher

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Robin Pilcher, bestselling author of *An Ocean Apart* returns readers to contemporary Scotland, where the "simple" life has grown somewhat more complicated, but the shortest distance between lonely hearts will always be love...

Sometimes The Hardest Thing In Life...

Liz Dewhurst has witnessed quite a bit in her thirty-seven years: the birth of her son, the death of her mother, the waxing and waning days on the farm where she was raised...the sight of her husband in another woman's arms. Suddenly, she's feeling worn down and used up by the very lifestyle upon which she once thrived. Bitterness at her broken marriage has distanced her from her son, Alex—even as she's poured all her remaining energy into battling the development company that wants to purchase her family's land to build a golf course.

...Is To Live It

Now Liz must confront a few things, including the fate of the farm, her feelings for her ex-husband, and a trip to Spain that rekindles a fire in her she had forgotten existed. The Liz who returns to Balmuir is a different woman. Now, in the wake of a near-tragedy, she must draw on her newfound strength to make a difficult choice. To look at her life in a different way, standing tall, and...

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Starting Over Details

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From Reader Review Starting Over for online ebook

Pearson, says

Lovely recreational read. All the necessary elements.....

Jesi says

Liz Dewhurst was born and raised on a farm in rural Scotland, near the iconic St. Andrew's Golf Course. When her husband publically runs off with another woman, Liz and her son move across the fields and into the farm owned by her father. Unfortunately, the neighboring farms are tied together financially and both are sinking fast. When developers offer to purchase the land for a new golf course development, it has the potential for bailing the family out, but at the expense of losing the land they've lived on for five generations.

At the beginning of this story, Liz is bitter and worn out. She is in desperate need of getting her groove back. In fact, at the start of this novel all of the characters seems gray and dreary. (Understandably. They are dealing with some tough stuff.) However, through some chance encounters with foreign strangers, the family is given new life.

I loved the tie to the land that this family had. Coming from a farming area of the country, I know how the family farms struggle. It was nice to see how the characters coped with the inevitable demise of their livelihood and sought to carve out new niches for themselves.

One of the things I thought the author did well was including all of the family in on the story, even Liz's wayward husband. The character development of Liz's father was especially touching. I have to say though... Liz makes an extremely poor decision near the end of the book that made me want to hurl it across the room. Oh, well, characters will break your heart sometimes.

Overall, I give Starting Over...

Plot – 2 ½ bookmarks

Character Development – 3 bookmarks

Love Story – 2 bookmarks (This is hard because there are multiple love stories going on at the same time, yet none of them dominate the plot.)

Dream Cast (otherwise known as who I pictured while reading) – Tilda Swinton (Liz), Daniel Craig (Will), Cherry Jones (Roberta)

Sue says

Liz is a farmer who lives near St Andrews in Scotland. An American firm want to build a golf course on her land. Not the normal setting for a novel, but it's a great book of endings and beginnings, lovely characters, and very believable.

A little confusing in the early chapters as characters are introduced in quick succession, including an unexpected leap to Australia. But the storylines soon weave together in expert fashion.

I found rather too much description about places, farming methods and golf courses, which felt a tad too deliberately educational. And there was a little more bad language than I'm comfortable with. But all in all, I enjoyed this very much. Re-read after fifteen years, by which time I had entirely forgotten the plot resolutions.

Aline Soules says

Okay but not great

The story's okay but the long descriptions are often clunky and I wouldn't read through all of them. Skip it. Not his best.

Chimi says

First & a few more pages made me feel that it's just not my type. Then i got the grip and the way Liz dealt with her broken marriage followed by the death of her mother had made me put myself in her shoes & reflect how i would have reacted. To me if someone walks out you just close the door behind them. However, her actions taught me there is a lot more to consider than your impulsive actions. All in all, with the unexpected twist in the end it was worth reading especially for yet-to -be-wives. :)

Kim says

2.5 stars The blurb on the back of my version of this book was misleading. I was expecting more of a romance and mainly only one main character. There were about 5 mains and very little, or too subtle romance. I might have enjoyed it more if I'd expected this type of story. But, then again, maybe not.

Mary Ann says

I really enjoy books by RObin Pilcher. It must be in his genes and he takes full advantage of making the story such a fine read. I went on to read several more by him.

Bonnie says

This book started out very good I thought, and went down hill. By the time I was 2/3 of the way through I scan-read the rest.

Virginia Markhart says

I liked that the book was based in Scotland. Nice lingo. It was a good story. Kind of dragy in places. The main woman was recently separated from her cheating husband. Went off on a vacation with a professor friend and had a brief fling with the professor's son. hm. He farther was a prominent figure in the book also. He also got into the romance scene with a golfer woman who had recently lost her father. Some interesting scenes. I like the laziness. Then again I got bored with it as well.

Lorraine says

This is a lovely book about getting over the bad things that happen to us and learning to know yourself again. Liz Craig is a woman whose husband has left her for another woman. She lives with her 18 year old son and her father on a farm in Scotland. The farming business is a losing proposition and a local group has opted to buy her farm, and her husband's farm, to build a golf course. She is very opposed to this, but has no choice but to sell. Then an unexpected chance of a trip to Spain gives her a chance to get away from home for the first time in her life, and she begins to see her life differently.

Teresa says

So here's the thing....there is nothing great about this book. In fact, it's very mediocre. It's a light, quick read, not particularly well-written, it's sentimental, sappy and the premise is highly improbable. But I LOVE this book. Why? Simply because it made me feel good. After I read it I didn't read anything else for a couple of days because I wanted the feeling to last. I never had that feeling before and I haven't had it since. I don't keep many books, but this one I kept because I want to be able to go back to it, and do, every once in a while.

Bev Taylor says

liz has lived on a scottish farm all her life, first with her family then after getting pregnant and married with her husband

h/e it all starts falling apart when she separates from her husband, they r losing money with the risk of foreclosure and their land is wanted by an american company to turn into a golf course

then other people enter their lives and their future is strangely reshaped - but is it for the better or worse?

just surprised that they did not push for more money as the consortium were obviously desperate

bev

Mich says

Ok

Ferne says

Added above the title are the words, "rediscover the power of family, friends, and love...". Robin Pilcher shares his story with rich descriptions of his beloved Scotland and a warmth and thoughtfulness to each character he introduces into the storyline. The characters come alive to the extent that I wish I could go and spend some time with them. I would especially love to have some girl talk with Liz and Annabelle. For someone that loves golf, they might be thrilled to spend some time with Roberta or Alex.

For anyone that has been through the heartache of a broken heart whether through a cheating partner, a separation, divorce, or loss of a loved one in death, this is a story that could suggest stepping away from the close-up view of one's own heartache perhaps with a small journey or perhaps with empathy as a listener about another's world. Hopefully those first steps might encourage one's own heart or inspire one's own thoughts to consider forgiveness or at the least an understanding be their bridge to the next steps of their life journey where strength, love, courage and the hope of new days and new dreams begin.

Sidna says

Years ago I read a book called "The Shell Seekers" by Rosamunde Pilcher and fell in love with it. After that, I read several of her other books. Some were better than others. When I saw this book on the shelf in the library used book store, I wondered if Robin Pilcher was related to her. Turns out he is her son.

I mostly enjoyed this book, although I had a little difficulty getting into it at first because there is a lot of detail about golf and golf courses, which did not interest me. Rosamunde's books mostly take place in Scotland and this one does, too. The main character is Liz, a woman living on a farm in Scotland that her family has owned for generations. She has been married to the man whose family owns the next farm and the two families have been in business together since their marriage some 20 years before. However, they are now separated and her husband is living with his mistress in the house where he and Liz lived together. Running the farms together has become complicated. Liz lives with her father and son, who is in college, on her family farm next door. To add to the tension, a group of investors wants to purchase both farms to build a new golf course. She doesn't want to let the family farm go, but her husband wants to take the money.

I'm not sure why she is hanging onto the farm so desperately. Her son is on the college golf team and wants to play golf professionally. He certainly doesn't want to farm. To top it off, neither farm is doing well and the bank is about to foreclose on both of them. The golf course offer sounds like the ideal solution to me.

Liz gets involved in a couple of romantic entanglements which are new to her since she has known her husband all her life and had never dated anyone else. There were a couple of problems with the book. Liz's son invites a man he barely knows to live with them when the man is thrown out of his lodgings because he is difficult to live with and the woman who owns the boarding house is mean. Liz's father also invites a woman he has met once to live with them because she is in the same boarding house and the landlady is mean to her. I don't know anyone who invites strangers to move in so quickly or people who would quickly

move in with people they don't know.

The ending was a huge disappointment. It really came out of the blue and didn't make sense. The book is 386 pages and I had the feeling that the author just got tired of writing and threw in the most convenient ending he could find. The book was going a completely different direction which would have been more satisfying.

To my surprise, Robin Pilcher has written several books. I would enjoy reading another one of his books.
