



The Expat Diaries: Single in the City

Michele Gorman

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FROM THE AMAZON #1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR IN HUMOR, TOP 10 IN WOMEN'S
FICTION

Take one twenty-six-year-old American, add to a two thousand year old city, add a big dose of culture clash and stir.

To think Hannah ever believed that Americans differed from Brits mainly in pronunciation, sophistication and dentistry. That's been the understatement of a lifetime. She lands upon England's gentle shores with no job, no friends and no idea how she's supposed to build the life she's dreaming of. Armed with little more than her enthusiasm, she charges headlong into London, baffling the locals in her pursuit of a new life, new love and sense of herself.

Fans of Sophie Kinsella's Shopaholic series are in for a treat with the Single in the City Series.

This novel was originally published as Single in the City.

Praise for Single in the City

"Single in the City is like Sex and the City told through the eyes of an American Bridget Jones and it was so funny that I laughed out loud throughout this delightful chick lit novel." --*Novel Escapes*

"If you love chick-lit then you need to read this book. Actually, scratch that... if you enjoy a well written book with a fun and uplifting plot that takes place in England, then you will love Single in the City." --
Paperback Dolls

The Expat Diaries: Single in the City Details

Date : Published January 26th 2014 by Notting Hill Press (first published June 4th 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Michele Gorman

Format : Kindle Edition 251 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Fiction, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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Shelby says

Single in the City by Michele Gorman was without a doubt the best book ever! I rarely read books that are based in other countries (mostly because not a lot of authors write books that are mainly based in another country). Reading this book just made me want to go to London even more! I've always wanted to go to London to see all of what's there and reading this book kinda gave me a glimpse of what London has to hold.

Single in the City is about a 26 year old American who flies to London on the spur of the moment. She has no job, no friends and no clue on how to "build" her dream life. While in search of new love, new life and a sense of herself, she meets new roommates (who are from Australia) and new friends who all help her as she goes on the search for Mr. Right.

Things I loved about this book, what's not to love? I loved it all! It was funny and it was fast-paced. Reading this book, I could actually put myself in Hannah's place and see it all in my mind as if I was living that life. I was reading this late last night and everyone was asleep and I had to hold my laughter in because I didn't want to wake anyone up. There wasn't any thing that was bad about this book. I didn't get confused at any parts throughout the book or have to go back and reread something because it didn't make sense or anything. The book just flowed along and there wasn't a single boring part in this book!

Kell says

I don't usually read much chick-lit, but occasionally I'll pick one up and more often than not, I'll enjoy it at least a little. On this particular occasion, I enjoyed it rather a lot!

Hannah is a quirky and lovable character who doesn't have a load of money to spare, doesn't have a high-flying career, and doesn't have a clue – which makes her all the more accessible and easier to relate to for us mere mortals who don't live on the pages of your usual, run-of-the-mill light novels aimed at women. She's a fish-out-of-water who makes mistakes – lots of mistakes – and that makes her human.

It's a fun look at something we all wish we could do – relocate somewhere exciting and start afresh – and it doesn't shy away from the problems that can occur, both funny and not so nice, but focusses on Hannah evolving without even realising she's doing so.

There are a lot of laughs along the way as cultural differences between American Hannah and her new English friends (and some Aussies too, strewth!), and it seems that our common language often seems more like a foreign one, with everyone speaking at cross purposes.

This is Michele Gorman's debut novel and it shows a very promising start. It's even left tantalisingly open enough for a sequel... will there be one?

Connie says

This is a hillarious fun to read romance novel! I loved it from the beginning to the end. I have already "loaned" my copy to my daughter and I know she will enjoy it as much as I did.

FTC disclosure: I was given a copy of this book by the author hoping I would review it.

Tonya says

Outstanding! If you read one more book this year, let this one be THE ONE!!! You won't be sorry. Hannah is like each one of us. You will love her fly-by-the-seat-of-her-pants attitude, which she has from beginning to end. I mean who does that? Who flies to another country, not knowing anyone, just wanting something different??

You tend to think everyone is like us, in the US. But they aren't! Totally different meanings to words -- This book will have you laughing and laughing, and reading parts to whoever is around you, if you can stop laughing!

Hannah makes a life for herself over in London. She never gives up her quest to find Mr Right.. her adventures will make you want to pack a bag and follow her!

Will you follow her on her next adventure?? I know I will. If you read this, you will find out what Michele has in store for us readers... Don't miss out!!!! You will miss out on a book that you will be sorry you didn't read!

Nicola says

Single in the City is the debut novel of author Michele Gorman. I was first drawn to this book by its cute cover, and its description definitely made it sound like the fun, light reads I love to devour. Needless to say, I was happy when I saw this sitting on the library shelf and was intrigued enough to check it out.

I'm going to get the negatives out of the way first, as I really can't ignore them. The footnotes! I have never come across anything more annoying in a book than the footnotes this novel. Scattered throughout this book are footnotes explaining American terms and pop culture references. They are so annoying! I may not be American but I certainly do not live under a rock, and I assume neither do most Europeans. I do not need footnotes explaining mundane things like "dust bunnies" (really, who couldn't figure that one out?), "Oodles of Noodles" or, obviously, "Dr Seuss." Why the author felt the need to use these footnotes is beyond me. Most people have plenty of exposure to American culture (be it from books, movies, TV, music, magazines, friends, news, the internet) and most of the references were things or people which are famous all over the world. I read books with characters from far more exotic places than the US and get on just fine without footnotes. All these did was interrupt my reading every few pages and make me feel like I was being talked down to. Apparently the author has taken the footnotes out for the US edition but she could have done it for the European edition as well!

Okay, that aside, I actually did quite enjoy this book. It follows the life of a young woman, Hannah, who has

decided on a whim to move to England- without having a place to stay or a way to earn money. A bit of a whacky premise but the sort of crazy thing you expect from books of this sort so I didn't mind that at all. Hannah has a lot of trouble fitting into England and messes up quite a bit in the first few weeks. It was amusing to watch her stumble her way through each day, confused by everyone and everything. She does start to slot in quite nicely though, once she starts meeting people (I was certainly impressed by how outgoing and upfront she was!) and making connections.

She gets herself a job and a place to live and starts to thrive in the city. The rest of the book follows her antics with men and friends, clients and parents. I did enjoy reading about all this and I was certainly interested enough to keep reading and see where everything was going to go. Hannah struck me as slightly narrowminded and naive at times and was unreasonable about perfectly reasonable cultural differences but I guess there is no law saying you have to like the protagonist! She was well written and believable, even if she was annoying at times. Sometimes I felt sorry for her and sometimes I wanted to shake her and tell her stop being so silly!

The writing itself is great and I was very impressed. It flows incredibly well and the voices of all the characters were strong and individual. This author certainly has talent and I am interested to see what else she has to offer. This was quite an unpolished novel but could have been made SO much more enjoyable with just a few adjustments (i.e take out the footnotes and stop treating the reader like they're clueless!). There is going to be a sequel to Single in the City and I know for certain I will be checking it out.

Would I recommend this novel? Yes- but go for the US version without the footnotes unless for some bizarre reason you've never even heard of America and really need to be told who Dr. Seuss is.

Jessica says

A fast-paced read with funny, quirky characters. I liked it!

Kate says

This book let me down. I was hoping to like it more...granted it is considered "chick lit" I generally enjoy reading novels like this once in a while for various reasons. Not that I was expecting the next great American novel or anything, but here are a few things which turned me off from this book.

- 1) There was not much continuity between chapters, and sometimes even between paragraphs/sections within the chapter.
- 2) I felt like the autor was trying too hard to be witty/clever, and therefore most of the writing was of the inner thoughts of the main character, which I did not consider funny/amusing.
- 3) Yes, I realize one of the main purposes was for the main character to find a boyfriend/future husband when she moved to a new city to start a new life...but it was too much, and I thought she just threw herself at different boys and had like 4 things going on with each man. I knew which guy she was going to end up with..but when she did it didn't turn out to be what it was built up to be. I guess it was built up to have a sequel.

That being said, I did think that as I got toward the end of the book it got better, and I enjoyed it more than in

the beginning. I also read the Nook version, which turned out to be annoying because the format was double spaced and you can't control that.

Alycia says

I received this book while completing an internship at Penguin in London. I expect that the american version might have different footnotes than those in the UK version (since obviously Americans understand the Americanisms). I read this book while on vacation in Cyprus and it was the perfect beach read. I often laughed and shared the funny incidents with my friends (one who is American and one who is British) and we compared experiences. If you want to know what living in London is like, you just need to read this book. Every experience from ordering at Subway to the 'you alright?' is true. I think that's why I liked this book so much-its so true! However, the main character is a bit too bright eyed and naive for my taste. Also, I am pretty sure it's impossible to move over to the UK without a job visa already secured. The romance is cute and some of the embarrassing moments are horrifying. It made me laugh and I really enjoyed reading it because it so very realistic and I could sympathize with her. All in all, an enjoyable read.

Susan Linklater says

The worst thing about this book is that the author seems to have only written one! I've been looking for another writer to entertain as much as Sophie Kinsella, and I've found her.

I loved the main character, Hannah, who reminded me of a (slightly) less ditzy Beckie Bloomwood from the Shopaholic series. Hannah isn't as shopping-obsessed though and the trials and tribulations of her recent move to London, her attempts at dating and keeping her job had me laughing out loud through the whole book! There is hope though, at the end of the book, since it seems open to a sequel. Hurry up Ms Gorman and write one!

Jenny / Wondrous Reads says

I don't read a lot of adult chick-lit but, when I do, I like it to be of the lighthearted variety. *Single in the City* was a fun, humorous read about a subject that interests me: the difference in US and UK culture. Gorman is an expert transitioning from one continent to another, and it definitely showed through in her story.

Single in the City started off a little bit slow for my taste, and I did wonder if I'd like it. It took me a good 50-75 pages to warm to Hannah and her decision to move from Connecticut to London, and it could quite well be because she was older than characters I usually read about. I'm used to high school drama, not 26-year-old life-changing decisions. I quickly got used to reading about (shock horror!) adults and adult problems, and soon enough I was invested in Hannah and her hilarious adventures in England.

Now, as we Brits all know, we're very different to our American friends. We have strange foods (not strange to us, obviously), ridiculously ancient buildings, a habit of saying "sorry" a lot, and a Queen complete with a whole Royal family. An American moving, or even visiting, here for the first time would see many cultural differences, and not all of them for the positive. Gorman did a top job of highlighting the randomness of England, and I did feel sorry for poor Hannah as she tried to navigate her way through it all.

From questionable men to crazy Aussie roommates and a boss that should be removed from the country, Hannah experienced it all. In fact, there was never a dull moment with her, and she had her fair share of embarrassing occurrences. I mean, seriously, who flies over the handlebars of a mountain bike because they don't know how to use it?!

Gorman has written a great story about making friends and fitting in, and it should be an inspiration to anyone with a hankering to dramatically change their life and/or move here to sunny England. The characters were realistic, the setting familiar and the plot fascinating. Whether you like to read adult chick-lit or YA, Single in the City is definitely a book worth devoting some of your time to.

3.5/5

Felicia says

Words can't even describe how much I loved this book.

Hannah is looking for an adventure and a life changing experience and that is what she got when she London. This book was a laugh out loud. There were times where I as the reader was like what is she thinking and then there were other times where I was like I feel your pain.

Over all Muchele did a wonderful job writing the book and I can't wait for the sequel.

Cailin Deery says

I was at the library and saw this book and thought, nunca en mi vida. Then I noticed Big Ben and the Eye were part of the swirly cartoon drawing on the front, so I picked it up to read the blurb and roughly, "Hannah has left her frens and family in the US behind and is following her dream to live in England. Dream life? Should Hannah just dream on? She wanted a big change but maybe it would have been simpler and cheaper to just get a haircut. Was she mad to move 3,000 miles away from everyone she knows? Will she ever find love and her perfect life in England?" I was like, ugh, I am going to read this dumb book. I started reading the first few pages to make sure and sadly it's ... pretty funny. But I had to check out with another book too to assure myself that my brain isn't going to rot. (Is this called... vanity?) I didn't exactly identify with the main character in many respects, but I have shared many of her experiences of incomprehension. I can't imagine moving here the way she did (just buying a plane ticket without having a place to live / job / visa / friends or any contacts in the UK), but the story is feasible and I like her attitude.

Rosie says

I don't actually know where to start with this book. When I got it I was excited to read it because it sounded interesting, it had a good looking plot. A couple of chapters in and I was smiling, giggling, but I can't say that it lasted through the whole book...

We start the book when Hannah moves to London from America, instantly she's confused with the difference. Which is one thing that annoyed me, when she was showing the difference in language she was

using words that we don't even use in England and I've lived here for 15 years and did work experience in London for a couple of months... I just didn't like the way she was portraying the English. To be honest I didn't actually like any of the characters, well I did like Sam. It's so hard to read a book when I don't like the main character. She was just tiring. Constantly after a new man, most of the time it was like she didn't even want a relationship - she just wanted sex, but then got annoyed if the guy wanted the same thing. I just really didn't understand her. She also waited far too long for the right guy.

The book just seemed tiring and repetitive, there wasn't anything really dramatic in the plot or anything, no twist, nothing really interesting. It took a while for me to get into the book and sometimes I felt that just picking it up to read it again was a chore. The only reason I stuck with this book is because I don't really like leaving books half finished. This story didn't have me gripped and I was easily distracted when reading it, it just didn't keep my attention. The plot sounded really good but it was too focussed on Hannah and her trying to get a man, whether for an actual relationship or into bed.

It wasn't just the plot, though, it was also the way it was written and it really annoyed me. The footnotes. Seriously, what was the point? Nearly everything she footnoted was common sense for even the simplest of people! I just go so frustrated with them, I know she's just doing it so people understand the comparisons and things she's making but if it bothered the reader so much they could have just looked it up themselves, or if she did have to put them into the book, she should have put them in a glossary at the back so I could just skip them all together. It felt like the author thought that she knew everything and wanted to educate other people - I understand you have the benefit of living in two countries but at the end of the day, we're not idiots and I don't really like being treated like one...

The way the book ended there could easily be a sequel for it, however I'm surprised she didn't stay in London as I was under the impression that she would. If there was a sequel I doubt that I would pick it up to read it. The book was okay, I'm pleased I've finished it so now I can move on and read something else.

life's a fairy tale says

I am a huge chick-lit lover, but this book completely disappointed me.

I admit, it started out really good... but then took a turn for the worse.

Hannah moves to England from CT to seek change. The beginning was great - she was brave, she met a guy, etc. Then, it all went downhill.

About a quarter of the way through I ended up hating Hannah so much it was rough to finish. I hated her {as a person}. She was annoying, selfish, shallow, desperate, and showed zero growth throughout the entire book.

She continually threw herself at different guys attempting to just find SOMEONE. When she finally did I felt like there was no connection. To make matters worse, there were zero gratifying romantic moments. NONE.

I have to say it again because it just came across this way SO MUCH. Hannah was so desperate it hurt to read. I couldn't help but eye roll at my Kindle. I feel like there are girls in high school who are smarter than her. I cringed most of the time at her daftness. How stupid are you, really? Just take a break from guys and stop being so needy and easy! You can't force things! And maybe if she wasn't so self absorbed and picky

things would turn around for her.

At the end of the book you learn there's a sequel {big surprise, she follows a guy she barely knows (but is OH so in love with) to a new place - SHOCKER}, but I literally can't do this to myself again. Bye Hannah, I will NOT miss you!

Leah says

Hannah Cummings has left her friends and family in Connecticut and has moved 3000 miles away to London, England. Hannah is looking for the perfect job, the perfect friends and the perfect man, but first she must get to grips with the English language. As she struggles to get to grips with a whole new world, Hannah not only manages to get herself a job but manages to make a few friends along the way. The perfect man however continues to elude Hannah as she finds herself dating a range of men trying to her Mr Right. As Hannah begins to settle into England, will she be able to adopt the city as her own or will she end up heading back to America with nothing to show for her efforts?

Single in the City is the debut novel from Michele Gorman, who is an ex-pat herself now living in London, and I must admit when I heard about it, I thought it sounded interesting. I do like a good story of someone moving from one country to another and the differences that can sometimes occur can produce some hilarious results so I was looking forward to getting stuck into the book when I received a copy. Unfortunately for me, though, this is yet another ex-pat story that just doesn't click with me.

The book does however get off to a good start, with an interesting conversation taking place between Hannah and a man in the deli as she tries to order herself a sandwich. It made me laugh, and I've read that scene about 5 times now, but it just seems that such a promising start wasn't able to be fulfilled. It's always interesting for a writer to take a character and plonk them into a difficult situations and moving from America to England probably qualifies as a difficult situation. So what I was expecting from the novel was for Hannah to soak up everything there is to know about London and England. I wanted to see London from somebody else's eyes. I wanted Hannah to take the bull by its horns and explore the city, and we would follow her adventures step by step. Because despite being English, I've only ever been to London once and I can barely remember it so I was looking forward to learning about the capital of England.

Unfortunately, Single in the City takes the rather predictable route of Hannah and her quest for Mr Right. I did expect some romance, don't get me wrong, but I didn't expect Hannah to fall in love with four separate people over the course of the novel. Seriously. Every single time she met a new man, she thought he was perfect for her and they would be marrying within the week. It was mildly embarrassing to see her hanker after men she didn't even really know and I found it difficult to take Hannah seriously. First up was Mark, whom she slept with after meeting him in the pub on her first night in London (I mean, come on!) then we had Potential, who I didn't even know was a character until Hannah started talking about him properly, who is named Potential?! and then we had Barry who is perfect in any way and Sam, a 'bus boy from Wyoming'; "As if I've moved 3000 miles to date a bus boy from Wyoming" was Hannah's take on Sam, a bit cattily if I do say so myself considering as far as I was concerned he was the best of the lot.

I didn't like Hannah to be perfectly honest. Her stupidity (or naivety) at the British way of life was astounding. Are American's so up themselves that they never watch anything British at all? Because from what the novel tells us, that answer is no, they clearly don't know anything about Britain, because Hannah can't understand the language and she can't seem to understand anything British. I'm in no way expecting her

to go on Mastermind about the topic, but a little knowledge about England would have been nice. Fact is, I'm British and I know tons about America. To be frank, why would anyone so inept about a country really move to it on a whim? You'd have to at least know something and Hannah's lack of knowledge was embarrassing. The only character that I could stand was Sam-the bus-boy-from-Wyoming. He was the only character that had any shred of dignity about him and was the only character that seemed at all real. Mark, Potential and Barry were all a bit nauseating and a lot was made of Hannah's Ozzie housemates but we rarely saw them so I can't really tell. I suppose Chloe, a friend Hannah makes, was OK, but again, I'd have liked to have seen more of her.

To compound how stupid Michele Gorman must think us Brits are, there are footnotes at the bottom of some pages telling us what dust bunnies are, who Julia Child is, what Chuck E Cheese is and what NFL means, et al. That may have been helpful about 20 years ago, but these days I'm fairly sure most Brits are au fait with dust bunnies, Julia Child and Chuck E Cheese. Even if we didn't know what Gorman was referring to, we could very easily look it up and I think the footnotes were totally unnecessary and insulted our intelligence. Her publishers would have been better to banish them to the scrap-heap because I learned absolutely nothing from 44 different footnotes. Single In The City should have been a fantastic read as I followed Hannah around London as she learned how to navigate a city she has never been to and what I got was a bit of a dull, run of the mill ex-pat story. It all seemed a bit cobbled together to be honest and the ending was a bit out of left field. So my quest continues for a good ex-pat story. I'm kind of worried that there's actually no such thing.
