



Can't Buy Me Love

Summer Kinard

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A tale of love, friendship, and lucha libre

Hurts from her past keep freegan Vanessa Fauchon stuck in a dead end relationship that feeds her heart about as much as an unvarying diet of stale bagels feeds her body. When she digs a scrapbook from the dumpster, the last thing she expects is to fall in love with the sexy Latino man in its pages. With the rich friendship and hands-on love of her strong and zany female friends – a luchadora, a yarn-bombing midwife, a professor and foraging partner, a psychic Jewish grandmother, a savvy fellow bartender, and her deeply religious, unofficially adopted mothers – Vanessa heals from her past and begins to build the graceful life she thought was out of her reach. Her love story with Javier seems on course for a happy ending, until Vanessa is publicly humiliated and loses Javier's trust. Faced with losing Javier for good, Vanessa must decide if she's willing to fight for what she loves.

This is a tale of romance, friendship, and healing the hurts of the past. Fans of *The Sugar Queen* (Sarah Addison Allen), *The Lost Recipe for Happiness* (Barbara O'Neal), or *Julia's Chocolates* (Cathy Lamb) are sure to wrap themselves around *Can't Buy Me Love*.

Can't Buy Me Love Details

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From Reader Review Can't Buy Me Love for online ebook

Andrew Kinard says

Definitely a page-turner full of surprises. The characters are quirky and vivid. This book an inspirational, at times hilarious, heart-felt story of healing and romance. It was quite difficult to put down, in fact I picked it up and did not put it down until I had finished it (rather like a full meal with a very tasty dessert).

Vânia Nunes says

I did not know this author and I ended up discovering that she also brings conflict on her pages and searches more than common finding in there.

A personal search history, amid so many heartbreaks and disappointments. But at the same time brings the beauty of how friendships can help to overcome a bad phase.

I liked the story, but I confess that, although the book is not long, I found some parts difficult to read. And the friends were so many that I got lost between them.

The love story between the protagonist, Vanessa, and Javier, is beautiful and controversial.

The author brought an interesting idea, but I felt no connection that I thought I would feel when I read the synopsis. And, despite the similar name with The Beatles' song, there's no relation ...

3 stars.

Colleen says

I received this book as a good reads give-away. I always feel like I am supposed to give it high ratings since they let me read it before it comes out. I did like this book and I enjoyed most of the characters. I felt for a book of about 260 pages there was a lot of characters and it made it feel busy. I wanted to know more about some of her friends and less about some of the fringe people. Some could have just been left out and it wouldn't have hurt the story at all. I did like Vanessa and Javier and their whole love story. I liked the unrealistic way they came together, because that is really the joy of reading, to have the impossible dreams come true. I liked the way it ended and am interested in reading more by this author.

Betty Turnbull says

White this wasn't a book I might have normally read, I'm glad I did! It took me a couple of chapters to really get into it, but I must say that once I did, I kept turning the pages to find out what happened next. The author does a great job of connecting the reader to the characters. I finished the book thinking, yeah, I know those people. It's a wonderful plot with a great message of redemption. I think two of the strongest messages are those of hope and the ability to change. Summer Kinard has a winner here!

Summer Kinard says

Obviously, since I'm the author, I love this book! I love the characters, I love the setting, and I love the story. I'm writing this review for those of you who might want to know more about the inspiration for the rich friendships that, along with the love story, make up the heart of the novel.

The core friendships in the book center around the women of Fructus, a women's group that meets every week to talk about their lives in a safe, nurturing, challenging, and fun environment. I chose the name based on the Ave Maria, "et [and] benedictus [blessed is] fructus [the fruit] ventris tui [of your womb]." I wanted to nod toward the Catholicism that is important to several of the characters, but I also wanted to evoke a connection to the womb. Good friendships are where we are reborn.

When I was in seminary, the liveliest, funniest, most healing experience I had was in my first year Hebrew study sessions. I not only learned better and deeper with that diverse group of friends, but Cheryl, Rodney, Rachel, and the others made me laugh. I understood then that to have a mouth filled with that kind of laughter was to have a mouth filled with God. Cheryl and Rodney and some of the others went on to be pastors in the Methodist Church and Holiness traditions. Rachel was an undergrad rabbinical student. While we were learning to read backwards and figure out the roots of words that had grown into our faiths, we managed to really see each other. That kind of love is what I look for in friends, and what I wanted to share in writing about the women of Fructus.

Some of the characters are a nod to specific persons in my real life, but I think I'll keep those references to myself for now. What I want you to know is that it's possible to really be seen and also loved, that it's possible to be healed. I want you to eat and drink and relax with the story, and above all, I want you to enjoy it! If it makes you laugh, I hope that laugh sinks in good. I hope you go on your way thinking, "I was made for joy."

Laura says

I really wanted to like this book, as it is set in the city I live in. However, I found the story very unbelievable - sexy Latino Doctor falls in love with a woman who goes dumpster diving? And I found the local references to be very overdone. Rolled my eyes several times while reading it- not a good sign.

Lisa says

Aside from the whole freegan lifestyle, which is ... Interesting, I stopped reading because of all the typos, unexplained people and things. I can't remember if I got this for free or paid for it but I sincerely hope it was the former, because my love wasn't bought with this book.

Christina Franklin says

I received this book free through a Goodreads giveaway and regret to give it only 2.5 stars. It's a quick read coming in at 267 pages and while it did have some nice aspects about it, I unfortunately just didn't love this book. It's a unique idea to use the Freegan lifestyle as part of the story, and has enlightened me on the subject. But to give some constructive criticism, I thought for this size book there were far too many characters. I had a hard time remembering who was who. What added to this frustration for me was the use of similar names. For example, Perla and Percy, who were in the same woman's group. Their names being so similar I would have to pause to remember who each one was. Likewise, Ma and Mom (the one character's two mothers). I thought it would have helped if she used distinctive nicknames for them. Another thing that I personally struggled with was the numerous foreign words and phrases. Not knowing the language, I unfortunately felt as though I was missing parts of the story and thereby disrupting its flow. The book also felt overly busy mentioning so many underlying topics and viewpoints that I believe it took away from the truly charming part of the story. I felt that it was almost there, but fell slightly short.

I hope that the author takes this review in the spirit it has been given, because I commend and congratulate her for being published and acknowledge the time and effort she put forth in telling this story.

Lorraine says

I usually read crime thrillers so this was a very refreshing change. Great characters in the book, written so you felt like you knew them. A lovely romantic story with lots of humour through in. Definately recommend it.

Kim Swanson says

Can't Buy Me Love by Summer Kinard was a fun, heart-warming read packed with personality. Being from Durham, where the book takes place, I appreciate how the author holds true to our quirky town. I found myself laughing out loud on several occasions because of the fun descriptions and scenes Summer sprinkles throughout the book. I would definitely recommend it to my friends for an entertaining summer read.

Elizabeth Turnbull says

While 'Can't Buy Me Love' has a fabulous romance as the main storyline, what really grabbed me was the cast of quirky, zany female characters. The women in this book have a friendship so strong that it will leave you wanting your own yarn-bombing, dumpster-diving, lucha libre-fighting group of girlfriends. Of course, the steamy hot latino doctor and the unlikely romance he finds with a freegan overcoming a history of abuse will have you turning the pages well into the night as you root for a happy ending. This is a contemporary romance where the characters truly develop throughout the book and the love story is one for the ages.

Akbarnett says

This is the best book I've read in a long time. The characters are so quirky and familiar. I fell in love with them right away because they are good, like the kind of people you would look to as good friends and role models in real life. Summer Kinard includes several strong female characters in this novel which is a great change of pace from some other recently popular novels. And Javier, the lead male character, is the perfect gentleman, kind, loving, respectful, and sexy! Summer fills her story full of hope and humor, which are two things we all could use more of. To see so many of the people in the book strengthened by real love is inspiring. The healing brought about by this love is very comforting. Summer shows us through her characters what behaviors and relationships we might look for in the world to imitate and partake in so that our own faith may be strengthened. This is a book is so much fun to read. I will be gifting it to friends and family at every opportunity!

glitrbug says

Unusual

It starts like your average chic-lit plus a bit of smut but turns lightly religious. I enjoyed it more than I thought I would.

Leslie Herman says

I can't imagine someone giving this mixed up plot with thrown in characters and stories more than 1 star! DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME READING THIS VAPID GARBAGE.

Donna says

This book is hard to classify, except that I really liked it. It took me into places I'm unfamiliar with, which is a good thing. I knew nothing about the subculture of freegans and now I have to go drink some chocolate like the varieties described in this book! The eclectic group of friends that surround, support and are family to Vanessa drew me in as well. The characters are well drawn and 3-dimensional. Wait until you "see" Javier. I can't remember any books that have given me a glimpse of luchadoras and dumpster diving and home shrines. You're in a whirlwind of a treat with this one.
