



March to November

Byddi Lee

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Five people. Eight months. Lives end. Lives begin.

March to November navigates the entangled points of view of Tracey Duggan and her circle of friends and foes in modern-day Belfast, Ireland as they struggle with bereavement, broken marriages, broken dreams and broken minds.

All Tracey wants is a normal life. All she has, however, is violence and betrayal from those closest to her. Can Tracey escape the pattern of destructive relationships that plague her? Will her new boyfriend Tommy decide to be right or be happy? Will her sister-in-law Molly find the strength to deal with her new situation? Will her brother, Dermot let go of his past and man up to his mistakes? Can Dermot's lover, Sheila really have it all?

Belfast is not the city of bombs and bullets of their childhood, but it's still full of trouble for these five as they alternately walk, run and stumble along the road toward a shocking finale.

March to November Details

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Author : Byddi Lee

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From Reader Review March to November for online ebook

Cc says

The characters pull you in to their lives in Belfast in this excellent book - love the trip to Donegal too. Don't want to give anything away but this is definitely worth reading.

Claire Hill says

Wow what a great book from Byddi, if you are a friends fan and are even old enough to remember “Cold Feet” then this is the book for you. The book has been written with great balance between drama and humour throughout the pages.

The main character is Tracey Duggan and her family and friends living in Morden Belfast and lives unfold throughout the book. Tracey has just come out of a violent relationship, it seems that Tracey pattern of picking the wrong men in her life but is trying to move on and find her prince charming.

One morning we see Tracey avoiding her ex and lands up at her brother Dermot and her best friend Molly that he married. That day she bumps into Tommy Molly's cousin and the one night stand from the wedding but does Tracey have feelings for him after all this time.

Dermot and Molly's marriage looks grand on the outside but deep down this is not true, One day Dermot slips up and Molly finds out that he has been having affair but does know the ins and outs yet but her world just feel apart, Dermot has been Shelia for a well and seems to think that he is love with her and in one split second when his life changes as Shelia is pregnant and she will have the baby with or without him, she has never had made demand of him before as she like the way her life went but hoped that this would be his happy ever.

Throughout the book we see how the family and friends and how interact with each other and how they relationships change for the better, but Molly's tale broke my heart as we read through her dealing with the husband cheating on her and in the end when he chooses the other women who is having the child that they should have had.

This book is a must read it will have you in stiches and the next heading for the tissues, so grab a copy and read this wonderful tale of friendship.

Heather Murphy says

Loved this book, I started it two days ago and couldn't put it down.

Cathy Cole says

This is not a genre I usually read, but I must admit I really enjoyed this book.

The story focuses on a group of friends in Belfast – their highs and their lows. The characters were beautifully drawn and true to life. I found myself absorbed in each new drama that befell the friends and their

different reactions to them.

Dark, yet funny in places. A book to curl up with and enjoy.

Kristin Hinkle says

March to November is about love and loss, betrayal and trust, happiness and despair and the cycles of grief. It details the events of Tracey Duggan and her friends and family lives during the months of March to November, hence the title. The book is set in modern-day Belfast, Ireland. There are 4 predominate characters in this novel. Tracey Duggan, Molly Duggan, Dermot Duggan and Tommy O'Brian. It deals with the doomed marriage of Molly and Dermot, Tracey's best friend and brother. Molly must accept that her love and obsession has left her for another woman and their impending "love child." It details past abusive relationships and the terror that comes back to haunt Tracey in her budding relationship with Tommy. The author does an excellent job getting the reader to fall into the lives of these characters and make you feel like you are a fly on the wall watching or as a friend. I fell into despair with Molly at first and in love with Tommy as if I were Tracey. I had a love hate relationship with Dermot because I understood the betrayal Tracey felt but the lingering hope she had in this messed up situation they were in. I never really fell for Sheila, Dermot's new girlfriend. She seemed as cold as her apartment, all white and clean lines. She seemed distant and reserved yet at times showed her humanity when she thought of losing Dermot. She never seemed to connect with the pregnancy so the twist at the end was accepted as real.

Molly's heartache was so real until it became almost too much. Her obsession with Dermot and her demented revenge set the pace for the downward spiral that her life took. I was so happy to see her get to the stage of acceptance and was hurt by the twist that spiraled to a bombshell for everyone to deal with near the end. I was happy to see the growth in Tommy and Dermot by the end of the book.

Out of the minor characters, Orla is probably my favorite. I love her no nonsense "grab life by the balls and hold on tight" personality. I laughed at so many of her comments. She really brought out the Irish setting with her way of saying things such as:

"F*** off! No way did I lead him on. He was drunk as a skunk."

Fury pummeled Molly.

"Well, he'd have to be. Look at you!" she screamed and jabbed her forefinger at Orla. That slut always threw herself at men, Dermot couldn't help it!

"Jesus Christ, that's a bit low. I might not be Scarlett Johansson, but that randy f***er would poke a hole in the wall if the wall let him."

I would recommend this to anyone looking for bit of romanticism with a twist.

Reviewer: Amanda

Crystal says

Read for book club. Sandy's pic.

This sounded good when I read the description. But mostly, I found the character's obnoxious with very little to redeem them. The plot was predictable and by turns painfully depressing and saccharinely sweet. The writing was simplistic with tons of editorial misses.

Just not really my cuppa.

Shaker's

Roshini Shetty says

The Novel, 'March To November' by Byddi Lee is a must read! It is a story which revolves around Tracey, Tommy, Molly, Dermot and Sheila. The characters are well developed and lifelike.

"He never wanted me to be a hairdresser. Said it was a soft job for a man." The very realistic truth of a father not accepting the profession chosen by his son though the son is passionate about it. Will the father ever accept and respect his son's profession? Do read the novel to find out (No spoilers here!).

With utmost care, balancing relationship in their permutation and combination due to interconnected relations between a brother and sister, between two best friends and between two lovers are beautifully depicted.

At one instance we feel pity for the doting wife, Molly, who loves her husband unconditionally but gets nothing in return but viewing the whole story from a different angle, readers also feel sad for Sheila who has to get out of her independent life and has to accommodate a man whom she is not in love with, in her life. Sheila has a past with her mother having constantly warned her, "It's going to be hard to find a man who will love you for what you are inside. Your beauty is your curse."

The trip to Donegal with its exciting moments, though the purpose of the trip was something else but the gradually growing bond between Tracey and Tommy is interesting; "Tracey wandered into the master bedroom and noticed that Molly had placed Tracey's rucksack beside Tommy's. Just seeing the two bags side by side gave her a tickle of excitement, but a tiny cottage full to the rafters with other people would not be a great springboard for a night of passion."

The anguish, hurt and pain in Molly's words when she says, "You will never have a happy day with that child." And the psychological effect it has on Sheila is worth watching out for.

Every character in this novel has good and bad points. Analysing the story from the view point of each character brings in depth to the proceedings. Different perspective of characters, their past and story from their angle makes one realise that, "People aren't perfect". The moral, that everyone has their own faults is very aptly and effectively conveyed.

The only drawback of this novel in my opinion is the length of the story. I feel the story could have been

more concise and short.

Note: This Novel was reviewed by me on receiving a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Trish at Between My Lines says

This review was originally posted on Between My Lines

Green Giants is my feature where I share some of my favourite books by Irish Authors. I'm passionate about Irish Authors, they supply us with a great and exciting mix of books, hopefully you will find something new to try. Today it's a new to me author - **Byddi Lee** - whose debut novel I devoured recently.

I loved the setting of this book. Modern day Belfast, after the ceasefire isn't a setting you see very often in books and it's a vibrant, engaging one.

First Line of March to November by Byddi Lee:

"Tracey turned her kayak with a wide sweep stroke, stretching her torso forward and straightening her arm against the drag of the water, adjusting her balance with her hips and thighs so she didn't capsize."

My Thoughts on March to November by Byddi Lee:

Do you know the way sometimes you read books and want to be best friends with all the characters? Well this isn't one of those books! All the characters are flawed and some are downright horrible at times. But I loved spending time with them. And even the ones that I should hate, I just don't as they have redeeming characteristics. OK I hated them for a bit but I came around, more or less.

I really enjoyed the realistic tone of the book and the dialogue was lifelike. The situations in the book were also credible and I felt like I was listening in to some friends gossiping about their lives. Warts and all. Actually one of my **Goodreads statuses** sums it up perfectly:

"Getting along with this book like a house on fire! Although Dermot can burn, he's a piece of work!".

There is a story about a marriage break up for two of the characters, a blossoming romance for another two characters and the stories blended well together. I also liked that it explored mental health and depression in an evocative way. It didn't take over the plot but it did hit me at times and made me feel the despair of the character involved.

The page is lively and I never for a moment felt bored while reading. I was caught up in a big messy mess about family, love and forgiveness and thoroughly enjoyed it. In addition, it takes the prize for one of the funniest lines I've read this year!

"Sheila. It's stuck. My willy's stuck to the ice cream!". His voice rose in panic. Sheila

started to chortle again.

Overall I really enjoyed this one and look forward to reading more by Byddi Lee in the future.

Who should read March to November by Byddi Lee?

I'd recommend this to you if you like contemporary fiction with realistic characters, an Irish setting and lots of family drama. Fans of authors such as Patricia Scanlan, Carmel Harrington and Cathy Kelly should also enjoy.

Thanks to Byddi Lee for giving me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Azadeh Tabazadeh says

I loved this book and couldn't put it down. It's a fast read with a perfect mix of humor and drama. The humor made me laugh a lot, thinking that I could implement the same tricks in my relationships. The characters feel and act real, and that's what draws me to most books that I enjoy reading. The setting is exotic, and I learned a lot about Belfast by reading this book: how it appears and how people talk to each other. Sometimes I had to pause to understand the usage of words and slangs and their meanings in Irish English, but that was a lot of fun! I highly recommend this book, and look forward to more writings from this author.

Ellie McKee says

This was a wild ride, particularly the second half. Darker in parts than I expected. I could not have predicted where it all ended up.

Tyhsetj Ghshwrajh says

dtymktgchk

Kate says

Although this type of novel is not my usual reading fare, I enjoyed the energy and overlap of multiple characters and multiple stories. I also enjoyed the Irish flair of the language and setting. I think this book would make a good movie!

Amanda Gillespie Shock N Awe Book Blog says

I received a copy of this book from the author and <http://afterdarkreadingnook.wordpress.com> in return for a fair and honest review. Thank you for this opportunity.

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