



Only Love Twice

Kat Canfield

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In the aftermath of 9/11 Americans have largely become suspicious of persons of Saudi heritage. But a fifty-something retired police officer from South Florida takes a chance in meeting a man a bit younger than her who is a Saudi National. Being a businessman who grew up in England as the son of a diplomat, he is used to western ways. Communicating through the Internet and smartphones, Madison and Saleem become friends and find they share much in common. Madison is a widow of two years whose driving passions are her horse showing and her business. She has no children so her horse is her child. Meanwhile Saleem is an oil company executive, divorced, with four children and a bit of a playboy reputation. To further complicate matters, Madison is Jewish. But she has a curiosity about the Muslim faith and a love of the Middle East in general. Can these two polar opposites find the second love of their lives in a post 9/11 world? Only Love Twice is a novel about the challenges of cross-cultural romance in a world fractured by religious and cultural divides. Although she has been writing for more than 30 years, Only Love Twice is Kat Canfield's first novel. After 25 years as a police officer in south Florida, she is now retired and living in Knoxville, TN with her husband. When not writing she teaches self-defense courses for women, practices her marksmanship, and trains and shows horses at the regional level. Publisher's website: <http://sbpra.com/KatCanfield>

Only Love Twice Details

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From Reader Review Only Love Twice for online ebook

Sandy Appleyard says

What the book is about

Saleem, a prince in a long line of Saudi Arabian descendants, meets Madison, an independently wealthy, widowed American woman. They find each other via the internet and months later meet up in person to discover that despite the fact that they're from two entirely different worlds, they have very much in common.

What I enjoyed about the story

It was very interesting reading about the lifestyles of a Saudi Arabian prince and a retired, well-to-do police woman. The way the two backgrounds meshed and how they found stories that they could relate to was really interesting. Some of the religion discussed was very intriguing and the issues that they came across while courting gave some really good flavour to the story.

What I found less enjoyable about the story

I was immediately thrown off by the fact that the main character Madison is a retired police officer, yet she's running a sexually explicit website. I think the morals of a cop, retired or not, would be more stringent than that personally.

The story lacked action. It was a lot of flowery back-story that illustrated how the two fall in love, but little else. The author discusses the history of both main characters and brings in a few others, but aside from that there is little going on.

Style

While the book itself reads very easily, the author's style is very mechanical and didn't flow well for me. I found myself skimming through many areas that were repetitive and dry.

Editing

The first half of the book could have been condensed a lot. There was a lot of repetition, too much back-story and 'he said, she said' narration. The grammatical errors weren't overwhelming, although it could definitely have used another proofread.

Would I read it again or recommend it?

I would not read it again, but I would recommend it to someone who is seeking love for the second time around-especially those in the fifty-plus age range. The book has a lot of merits and I did enjoy parts of it, I just felt the author's writing style could be a little spicier.

It is very apparent that the author used a lot of her own personal history to create this book; you can tell she put a lot of heart into telling the story. I look forward to reading more of the author's work.

Here are some excerpts I enjoyed from the book:

“I cannot know how you feel because of your loss. But, I can see your feelings for me in your eyes. You show everything you are thinking there; one just has to look. It was those eyes that gave me the courage to tell you how I feel.”

“Allah gave us the choice of being good or evil. He doesn’t care how we worship him as long as we worship. The evil makes men use religion, or even the lack of religion, for its own means. It is the evil that does it, not the man.”

Aristotle says

Not much to review, really. But the book could have a better articulation in terms of plot and storyline, then, perhaps I could have had it better.

Sandy Waller says

What a wonderful feel good romantic book. It's well written and leaves you feeling so good. I was a little sad when it was over. It was such a great book I would and have recommended it. You needn't worry about bad words and the romance is very tastefully done. Thank you for such a great book it was such a pleasure to read. Sandy

M? Kh??ng says

I'd really love have a chance to read and review this book :)

Ebook Planet says

Only Love Twice is an exciting romance about a Jewish American woman falling for a Saudi Muslim prince who she meets online! Once the story gets going, the premise does not seem so ridiculous due to expert implementation and the occasional dose of humour, such as former police officer Madison making a living by selling sex to perverts on the internet!

The characters are wonderfully sketched with interesting pasts, dark secrets, and unique traits. I particularly liked Madison, who is smart yet believably inconsistent in those moments where she forgets her senses. She is both impressive and human, and unquestionably the best thing about this novel.

Each of the locations are well-depicted, not just visually but dramatically as well. There is a sense of energy and atmosphere as the adventure takes our protagonists around the world.

I particularly liked how Madison and Saleem are middle-aged, but have not lost their romantic spirit. It was

liberating to see them embrace each moment, and the complexities which arise as a result of their cultural differences make events all the more intriguing. The political undertones never come across as pedantic and there were some memorable lines of dialogue.

On the downside, I found the backstory tedious, the pacing a little slow, and the ending falls flat. The good in this book significantly outweighs the average, and there is no element I would describe as bad. Overall, *Only Love Twice* is a very good book and definitely recommended to middle-aged ladies looking for a unique romance novel.

Trish Jackson says

A Poignant Cross-Cultural Romance

Lonely widow Madison doesn't expect to find love a second time around, but when she meets a middle-eastern man named Saleem online through her XXX voyeurism website, they engage in an online conversation. Both of them feel a special connection despite their obvious religious differences—she is Jewish and he is a Muslim.

They arrange to meet. Madison is forced to confess she is a retired cop and she worries that he might see this as a negative because of the way his culture views women. He in turn discloses that although he was educated in England, and his mother is English, he is a member of the Saudi Arabian royal family, and is a prince.

They realize they are falling in love and he showers her with gifts, while she delights in showing him America and in particular, the deep-south. Since her husband's death, Madison has reinforced her love of horses and she is thrilled to find out Saleem is also an excellent horseman.

But will the enormous differences in their cultures create obstacles they cannot overcome?

The author had done an amazing job of comparing the two cultures and presents some very thought-provoking factors.

A very sweet and beautiful love story

Zaghol says

Ini adalah novel inggeris tebal pertama aku baca haha, aku pilih novel ni sebab aku baca plot dia kisah orang arab saudi muslim bercinta dengan orang yahudi amerika (interesting) . & that's it! Tiada apa yang menarik sebab walaupun dia muslim perangai dia cam non-muslim je (total secular), minum wain, berzina apa semua so tiada apa yang spesial la pasal novel ni. Sama je la macam kisah omputih bercinta dengan omputih.

Aku pun cuma baca sampai bab 5 je (boring, slow giler) lepas tu aku terus skimming je dan agak mengejutkan yang novel cintan cintun mat saleh ni langsung takde konflik. Both are lovey dovey from the beginning till the end... What's the point of him being a muslim? Dunno.

Kat Canfield says

Do you want to read a book that just makes you feel good? This story made me feel like when I was a child and read *Cinderella*. It makes you feel that good.

Lizzy Baldwin says

The book revolves around Madison, an independent individual who although wealthy, is widowed and looking for someone to share her life with. She runs an explicit website, where she meets Saleem, a prince in a long line of Saudi Arabian descendants. Meeting through the Internet the two must find a way to connect with the other, however once meeting find that although from completely different worlds and from two different not only religious but cultural divides, they have a lot more in common than either could have ever have thought possible.

One of the things that kept my attention throughout the book was the different lifestyles that are continually contrasted throughout the book. Looking at the life of a retired police officer against the life of a Saudi Arabian Prince gives for an intriguing discussion of two different cultures and ideologies. By connecting two people from such different backgrounds and meshing them together created warmth in the conversations between the two characters. I also liked how apparent it was that the author appeared to have used a lot of her own personal history in the book.

Unfortunately as a reader I found however, that there were lots of problems with the book. At the start I thought that the writing style was easy to read but as the book continued I became more exhausted with the lack of style and at how stilted the writing was. Unfortunately the writing style is also incredibly monotonous and I found myself skipping through chunks of the writing to get to the real story line. It felt very mechanical and I couldn't help but put the book down for a couple of days, unable to warm to the characters due to the lack of warmth that was being exuded due to the writing style.

Additionally the story lacked a real story; it sounds terrible but the book only really highlights a seemingly very drawn out explanation of how the two get together. I missed the turbulence of the story; there is no struggle, or pain, or real conflict and the two seem incredibly happy for the entirety of the book. Although there is a discussion of the history of the two characters and we do meet a number of side-characters, there appears to be very little going on which is a real shame. I also thought on completing the book that it could have been condensed a large amount as it became quite tedious quite early on. It seemed that the author was really describing her own personal experiences, there was a lot of mention about horse-riding, and of competitions which are obviously close to the authors heart; however on reflection, I think that there should been more passion, and drama, which would have made for a much more exciting read.

Despite all of this, I think that the main problem is that the book was not written for my age group, and after looking at reviews written by other readers; many have praised the book on looking at how people can fall in love at any age and with someone from any background. The book revolves on the idea that you can fall in love for a second time and I think that for an appropriate age range this book may have been received better. I did enjoy parts of it however I think the writer needs to focus on telling a story rather than simply describing the action. At times there was lovely flowing description but it was so far and in-between that I had to go back and find bits that I really enjoyed to write the review. I think this author has potential however the focus needs to be on giving a story, developing the characters, creating emotion and drawing the reader in rather than focusing on just what is happening

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review
