



## The Girl Before Eve

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## **The Girl Before Eve** Lisa J. Hobman

Lily and Adam have been best friends since the dawn of time... Okay since primary school to be exact.

They have always been accepted as a double act...a package deal...and they like it that way. Until one fateful day in the summer they are 18, when Lily makes a terrible discovery--she is head over heels in love.

With Adam.

Lily's unrequited feelings are hard to deal with as it is but this is further compounded when she inadvertently introduces Adam to the love of his life.

## **The Girl Before Eve Details**

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## From Reader Review The Girl Before Eve for online ebook

### **Bel says**

Some say it is better to have loved and lost than never have loved at all. However when that love is unrequited, is there anything more painful? This story broke my heart and I felt for Lily as she has been in love with her best friend Adam since she was eighteen. Then to make matters worse, she introduced him to the love of his life Eve.

Her wedding speech had me in absolute tears, you felt her struggle and could empathise with her shattered heart. She dealt by shutting herself off from ever feeling or giving love again, just settling for random hookups, without commitment.

When Adam and Lily are bought back together through tragic circumstances, their friendship is what holds them together and even though they each don't want to ruin their friendship by thinking they could be more, I just wanted to shake Lily and be like "Tell him how you really feel about him woman, Come on!"

Great story about long lasting friendship, surviving loss and leaning on those that mean the most to you when you feel as though you can't go on. Beautiful epilogue that left you feeling satisfied.

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### **Hollie says**

It was ok but the plot was SLOW moving

~2.5 stars~

This made for a decent romance read but at times I found myself tiring of the slow paced plot. It was frustrating. Not one I'd personally recommend. I usually love friends to lovers reads but this one just seemed to drag on way too much for my preference.

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### **Lisa says**

Okay so I know I wrote it but this is one of my faves. I love the friendship between Adam and Lily and I hope that readers get my silly sense of humour :-D

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### **Christine Steendam says**

This is the third book I've read from Lisa J Hobman and as always she delivers a fantastic book that tugs at the heart strings. I couldn't put it down.

I loved the characters in this book. From oblivious Adam to heart broken Lily and understanding Eve. I

wanted to hate Eve... but I couldn't. I really couldn't.

This book had me sad, happy, laughing, frustrated. It took me through the roller coaster of emotions that I have come to expect from a Lisa J Hobman book.

The pacing was great, very well done and never had me wanting to skip ahead because I was always completely immersed in the moment.

Another great book by Lisa J Hobman :)

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### **Lisa says**

Ok now where do I start?

Laughing and crying simultaneously is what this story made me do. Laughing for all the cheesy jokes that Adam makes and the come backs from Lily, I mean 'cheesy head' and 'Mr Pee Pants' that just had me in stitches hahaha. It also made me ugly cry for the heart break that both Adam and Lily go through, from losing a loved one through to the selfless act of Lily wanting to see her best friend be happy even if it means breaking her own heart all over again, for the missed opportunities, the mixed signals.

I would have been gladly delirious if the scene's where Adam actually has his (lightbulb moment) and the subsequent declaration could have been a little more detailed and drawn out to make it longer, however I was mightily happy with how the story came to a close.

Fantastically written, the emotions leaped out of the page at me while reading, dragged me into the chaotic and heart wrenching world of Lily and Adam.

Loved it from start to finish, would recommend to anyone who is not afraid of physically feeling emotions alongside the character's and their story.

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### **Kathy Aronoff says**

Lisa J Hobman wrote one of my favorite books - The Worst of Me, when I came across this title I was very interested. I loved this story between two best friends from the age of 10 and what unrequited love can do to a person. I felt the closeness between Adam & Lily, they are each others "person" but when is close too close? Lily wants what's best for Adam, but knowing it's not her was heartbreaking. This story runs the emotional gamut, sweet, funny, sad, heartbreaking and maddening. The only thing keeping this from being a 5 star read for me was the ending/epilogue. I was along for the entire journey but would have loved more of a payoff at the end.

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### **Danielle says**

This book should have been called The Girl After Eve. I really like best friends to lovers stories but it seems like the story never really connected the two of them until the very end. I didn't want to read about Adam and Eve or Lily and other men which I totally skimmed over those parts. I wanted to read the love story between the two of them. We really didn't even get much about the relationship between Adam and Lily prior to Eve. The whole book was really reading about an unrequited love and that is not romance. Even after they finally get together we get like a 2 paragraph epilogue. The book wasn't bad it just wasn't the book I thought I was

going to read.

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### **Sam McCarthy says**

In The Girl before eve, Lisa's third novel, the combinations of tears laughter and frustration is quite perfect! Unrequited love is a bi\*\*h! Especially when you have to spend every day in his company.

Lily is someone who I think a lot of readers will recognise. She is just the right mix of cute and gobby..... a Totally unassuming character, you will fall in love with her.

She is head over heels in love with with her best friend and everyone else can see it but him.

I laughed throughout, there were tears, at times I was downright cross that she didn't speak to him, the whole book is a whirlwind.

With clever links to Lily and Adam's childhood and a constant reminder that they are as close as can be, you will find yourself urging the two of them on to speak to each other and find happiness. Do they eventually? Well that would be telling

There isn't a character in this book that I didn't identify with in some way, even Eve..... I really wanted to dislike her but I couldn't.

Lisa J Hobman is quite new to the world of publishing, but if you aren't hooked just yet, you soon will be! What are you waiting for?

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### **Jessica says**

I'm really undecided on what I really think about this story. It was refreshing that it was truly unrequited love. And that the coupling in the beginning was a good one. No moles here. But that was also so very frustrating. One party didn't get anything and the other got so much. It made me wish for something else for the first one. And at the end I felt a bit robbed. And since I don't want to spoil anything I can't say why. The story kept me interested ( even if I skimmed a few bits here and there). But important events were not included and it took too long to get where it was headed. That lowers my rating. 3 stars.

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### **Bewaji says**

#### **Irrelevant Heroine...**

This book has nothing, nada, about Adam and Lily as a couple, not even a one night stand. It has Adam and Eve who became his wife. After he lost her, we have him with other women. Lily was also with several other men. They were just best friends. Period. Lily might secretly been carrying a touch for Adam, but of course he had no clue. At the end of the book, Adam actually fell in love with another woman and was ready to move on with her. Then in the epilogue of two pages we see that they ended up together. What in the world? In essence it was no fun reading about the supposedly H and h with other people. Not at all.

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### **Donna ~ The Romance Cover says**

The Girl Before Eve by Lisa J Hobman

5 stars!!

“Always together but...never TOGETHER”

Sometimes you open a book (or flick on your kindle) and just by reading the first few lines you know you are going to love a book and that is exactly how I felt when I started The Girl Before Eve. I love a best friend to lover's book, I love a weepy, I love humour and this book had it all, in spades...it is official, I was in book love and author love.

This book is set in the UK and is written by a British author, the setting, the friendship, the banter, the emotion, the plot, it was all perfect. I have fallen in love with Lisa J Hobman's voice and I have actually started the first book that she wrote called Bridge Over the Atlantic. There is something addicting about how this author writes and I am so glad that Amazon sent an email recommending this book and I cannot believe that I hadn't found Lisa J Hobman sooner.

Lily and Adam have been friends since primary school; Adam was her knight in shining armour when he rescued her from a playground bully at the ripe old age of six. That day a friendship was born that would stand the test of time, these two grew together, became best friends, each other's confidantes, protectors, they were inseparable. Everybody thought that these two would end up together but alas the only two that couldn't see it were Lily and Adam. They went to secondary school together and University together where their connection just grew and grew but it never crossed the friend zone much to Lily's dismay.

“This is it. This is goodbye. This is forever.”

Lily had had her eureka moment, finally, during a tennis match in their twenties, she could see that she didn't love Adam as a best friend, but that in fact she was in love with Adam, however, for fear on destroying their friendship she kept her thoughts and feelings to herself, unrequited love was a bitch!

“Unrequited love is a complete, fucking shit-head of a bastard, isn't it?”

I cannot express how much I cried reading this book, this book gripped my heart in a vice like grip and never ever let go. My emotions were shot to shreds as I painfully read through how Lily really felt, how heart breaking it was when Adam got girlfriends and how it was smashed to smithereens when he finally found love. Lisa J Hobman manages through beautiful, poignant yet soul destroying words to paint every single crack, every single splinter, every fissure and I couldn't help the sobs that wracked my body.

“...you already know that I HAVE been in love. But I got my heart broken...no...smashed to smithereens. So excuse me if I’m not willing to give my fragile heart out to the first man who says he loves me.”

As this book flashes from past to present you are treated to how their friendship developed, how close they became, how dependant they were on each other and it was beautiful to read. Lily is a truly beautiful character both inside and out. But she was sassy and gobby at the same time; she didn’t have a filter, told it how it is and this only made me love her all the more. She was hilarious and the banter between Adam and Lily had me crying with laughter. This is what I loved about this book, one minute I had tears of sadness and in the next tears of laughter. This book was perfectly balanced and was such a fantastic enjoyable read.

“You have what they call the complete package, Adders.”

“What do you know about my package?”

“Not THAT package, you idiot! You ARE the complete package! I wasn’t talking about what’s in your trousers!”

I loved Adam too, the connection that he had with Lily was truly amazing and he always put their friendship first, he was selfless when it came to Lily. He was the best, best friend you could ever wish for and had a heart of gold. These two were soul mates, they bounced off each other, they knew each other inside out and they had each other’s backs, always.

I am not going to go into the plot at all, you need to experience this one for yourself, you need to feel the emotion for yourself and take yourself on Lily and Adam’s journey. It is a beautiful, emotional and poignant read, you will laugh and you will cry but at the end you will just appreciate the fact that you have read a truly fantastic book. The course of true love never runs smooth and there are a lot of highs and lows but most of all it is a journey that most of us can empathise and sympathise with. Maybe you will be like me and fall in author lust too. I loved the way that each chapter had a song that fitted the scene perfectly and I found myself listening and reading at the same time. In summary, all I can say is read this book! I totally loved it and don’t forget the tissues.

“...And so you go off to married life  
Here I stand and say goodbye  
I wish you both happiness, love and joy  
And now I’ll stop before I cry”

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### **Deel says**

When I first picked up this book, I never thought I would enjoy reading it. The first thing that makes me want to continue reading this book was the sweetness between Adam and Eve. As for Lily, I think she resembles me a lot in this book. I mean that part where she's in love with someone but need to keep it to herself and watched that person being in love and happy with someone else.

However, I got to say that I didn't quite like her. I didn't like her for Adam. I liked Eve for Adam. I really like Eve because she's really kind and understanding. I got irritated at Lily's character. I wished she had put an effort to get over Adam, like how I put effort to get over someone I love. I mean it's possible, right? I really hope she chose that Australian underwear model. She wasted so much of her life away. I mean yeah, she traveled the world, had lots of lovers along the way. If it was me, I would already found the one (IF ONLY you're really not fated to be with the person you love). But then, you just got to try, right?

As for Adam, I like him for his childish character but dislike him for being too clueless and dumbass. There was this one time that I thought he finally realized how Lily feels about him, but then he assumed the other way round and it makes me laugh out loud! Gosh, Adam! Well, I think that's what I most enjoyed while reading this book. It keeps me laughing every time there's a funny scene between Adam and Lily.

The only thing that I did not enjoy was the plot of the story. It was so SLOW to the point that I nearly get annoyed with clueless and dumbass Adam.

**Actual Rating: 4.4 stars**

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### **Tanima Bag says**

Disappointing. I never quite loved the book but I waited til the end in the hopes of a good climax. And finally at 95% I think it got my attention a bit. I thought, Yeah, it might have potential, afterall. But alas, no. Instead of Lily coming to realise that she will always come second to other women, love wise, and showing a head strong heroine breaking down and getting up and letting the love go, the writer made Adam finally gain a brain cell or two and realised she had loved him for all these years all along. And does he still go to this date with the other lady and flirt and make an innuendo on bedding her? Why, yes, he bloody well does! And yet somehow he comes that night and says he had his Eureka moment, he loves her, and that she's THE ONE, she takes him, No questions asked, no assurance needed, nothing. Because she's so pathetically in love with this bloke for literally 25yrs of her life, mind you, she just has lost her own sense of self importance and worth and reasoning and whatnot she'll just believe whatever he says. Now I've too had an unrequited love (who doesn't?!) let me tell u, and It's NOT like that at all. It's just wrong. It was good and all that he finally likes her back that way but it sure does feel like he has just assured himself into falling for her, her being his best friend and him caring about her and all. And there's no grovelling and begging or apologizing or even explaining from his side. Its just not enough, u know. U gotta be someone's first, u know, priority wise in the love department. Or if the writer had just transformed her into this strong new women who has learned to let it go and does find true love somewhere else, it'd have been a 4★ for me. Sigh. I didn't even wanna write a review. I was just gonna write "Disappointed. " and leave it at that. But I somehow got here. Anyways, I need to go relieve my bladder, It's been bursting from good 2mins.

Thanks to anyone who took their time to read this. Until next time!

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### **Shona Reid says**

*The Girl Before Eve* is a story of friendship, loss, healing, self discovery and unrequited love. It's different to Lisa's other books, I loved that about it. It takes you through many different emotions. When I started reading I didn't know I'd laugh, cry and be sucked into the story like I was. Adam and Lily childhood best friends and that's how their story begun but nowhere near the end.

Adam isn't only Lily's friend he's her protector, you can't help but feel the connection they share from the beginning. You're immediately laughing along with them. Lilly is energetic, funny, bright and full of life. They go off to University in Edinburgh together and they can't wait to start being adults. Lily meets Eve and introduces her to Adam. There's a instant attraction and they can't take their eyes off each other. Eve is beautiful and everything Adam wants. There's questions about how platonic Adam and Lily's relationship really is. Surely a man and women can be just friend's right?

Excerpt-The aroma inside the bakery made her stomach growl loudly and the few customers in the shop all turned. Her cheeks heated and Adam burst out laughing. It was the most wonderful sound she had her in a long time. She felt good that it was her that brought that out of him...well, her grumbling belly anyway.

I loved how Lisa put the music playlist into the book at the start of every chapter there's a song it sets the mood for the what's to come, I felt more connected to the characters listening as I read.

You do know how much I love you, don't you? And that you're the only girl for me? You're the one I want to wake up with, the one I want to share my body and my life with.

*The Girl Before Eve* makes you feel and want to keep turning the pages to see what happens next. The writing I feel was Lisa's best work yet, I loved it and a must read for me. I can't wait to read what she writes next.

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### **Jess says**

With names like Adam, Eve, and Lily (Lilith) I was all set for a modern take on the biblical trio...sue me, I have wants and needs. This was not that at all. Not even close. Regardless, this was just a pointless read. Girl and boy childhood friend girl loves boy he falls for another blah blah it's been done before and better I do not like any of these characters and the writing is subpar even for these types of books which I am oh so lenient on wow zzz

