



Puzzle Girl

Rachael Featherstone

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Bridget Jones meets You've Got Mail in this exciting and laugh-out-loud debut for fans of Sophie Kinsella.

Twenty-six-year-old Cassy Brookes thinks she has everything under control, but one disastrous morning changes all that. She soon finds herself torn between searching for love and outwitting work-rival, Martin. Then, stuck in a doctor's surgery, Cassy scribbles a message in a puzzle book and when she returns for a check-up she sees someone has replied. Will finding the mystery puzzle-man be the cure to all her problems or will the truth turn out to be a bitter pill to swallow?

Puzzle Girl Details

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From Reader Review Puzzle Girl for online ebook

Nicole Sweeney says

Review originally posted on The Bibliophile Chronicles.

This is a fun and enjoyable read and one that I absolutely raced through. I enjoyed it because it was a fresh take on the finding Mr right story.

The story centres on a surprise conversation through a puzzle book, and the protagonists subsequent attempts to find out who the person writing back is. I don't read an awful lot of chick-lit but I this struck me as a really interesting and unique take, so I was really excited to pick it up. It was definitely worth it, I really enjoyed Cassy's antics as she attempts to juggle her work life and find out who this mystery man is.

As for Cassy herself she's the perfect protagonist. Fond of making lists (much like myself) and prepared for almost every occasion, it's really fascinating to watch as her obsession with solving the puzzle begins to take over her life. She spends less time with her friends and family, and begins to lose sight of what is really important, in order to solve the puzzle. She's also far from perfect, she makes mistakes does things wrong and definitely lands herself in a few tricky situations.

I really enjoyed the work place rivalry within the story too. Cassy is up for a big promotion, but she's not the only one. Her and Martin don't really get along and it's fascinating watching the plot develop as they attempt to undermine each other and get ahead.

Puzzle Girl is also set in London, and the mentions of the DLR and other little London landmarks make for a really nice touch, and add to the overall feel of the book.

The story develops at a good pace, and gives the reader time to come up with different theories, without being too obvious at who the mystery man is. For me that is often the down-fall of chick-lit reads, I can guess the ending before the first few chapters are over and that somewhat spoils my enjoyment. That didn't happen with Puzzle Girl, you pick up little pieces of information along the way, and that makes for a really fantastic story.

If you're looking for a fun and clever book to read – especially now the sun is shining a bit more – this is definitely one to pick up!

Karen Whittard says

This is chicklit at its best. If you like chicklit/romance then this is a MUST BUY MUST READ for you. I simply loved it.

At the start of the story Cassey has an important dinner to get to. One that is integral to the development of her career. Cassey is waiting for her boyfriend of seven years to turn up. When she gets a text message from him to say it is over. Spineless dick pops to mind.

We fast forward around seven months. Cassey has stuck her head into her work and is working hard in the hope of a promotion. The problem is her arch nemesis is also up for the same promotion.

Cassey is always really early for everything always super prepared and loves to write a good list. All three things I can relate too. Apart from the morning seven years after Seph dumps her and where the story really begins. Cassey has had a late night drink binge, she keeps hitting snooze on her alarm clock, she had missed her train and three of her back up trains. Then the signals on the trains are on a go slow and just as she is rushing to work. She nearly gets run over by a maniac bike rider. But is saved by a knight in shining armour. Where she badly sprained her ankle. To make things worse she cannot walk on it and has to make her way to the walk in centre to be checked over.

Cassey rings work to explain the situation but instead of her secretary picking up her arch nemesis Martin picks up the phone and delights in spreading rumours about Cassey all over the office about how she cannot cope and how she got drunk last night. Realizing in the fact that he will need to do their important meeting on his own. With nothing to do but wait patiently Cassey picks up a puzzle book. But all the puzzles have been done incorrectly and in pen. Something that drives puzzle mad Cassey insane. However at the back of the book is a space to make your own puzzle and so Cassey goes about making one of her own.

When Cassey finally gets to work. She discovers to meeting having been done by Martin and the vicious rumours he has been spreading. Then things get worse as her manager sends her home. Insensed Cassey returns home. Dan her best friend decides to move in with her to look after her and be there for her. But is there more to Dans act of chivalry then meets the eye?

When Cassey returns to the walk in for her follow up appointment. Cassey finds that her crossword has been filled out and a cryptic message has been left for her. Who is the mystery puzzle man? A hilarious spiral of events then takes place where Cassey keeps returning to the centre just to keep her correspondence with puzzle man going. Her Cassey befriends the doctor be receptionist after getting told off for wasting the Doctors time.

Remember seph? Yes he returns but is he all he makes out he is? Or is he hiding more then Cassey knows about?

Who is puzzle man? Who is Seph? What is going on with Dan? What is going on with the Doctors love life? Will Cassey get the promotion?

All this and much more will be revealed in this wonderful happy and uplifting chicklit. I really loved this book. Yes I guessed who puzzle man was about half way through. But do you know what I didn't mind. I was invested in the characters Cassey, Dan, grandma, mother, the doctor, Janet, Sophie? Even Martin had me reading this book to the last page.

Let me know what you think.

Happy reading everyone

Rachel Gilbey says

I was attracted to this book, the first moment I saw it on twitter, as I am a huge fan of puzzles. I thought the concept of using a puzzle book to convey messages to a random stranger was intriguing and I was very interested to see how it would all play out.

What I don't think I fully realised was that the puzzle book in question was in a doctor's surgery, well more of a drop in centre, and that for Cassy to keep returning to the book to see if her puzzle boy has replied, would involve her conjuring up all sorts of excuses for visiting the surgery.

While she is arguably making a fool of herself at the drop in centre, she is also trying her hardest to gain a promotion at work, and hates her rival with a passion. They have an interesting rivalry but yet are you see elements of arch enemy Martin, you have to wonder whether you are seeing a different person to the one that Cassy hates.

There was a least one sub plot that I had guessed the outcome to a mile off, to the extent that I almost rolled my eye when it was revealed, but the actual identity of her mystery man, was concealed reasonably well for a good amount of the book at least. My main issue was I just didn't really feel like the two puzzle fiends really had that much of a connection, so made the ending of the book for me not a fabulous as it could have been.

A fair amount of this book seemed to take place on the DLR (for those not familiar with London, that is the Docklands Light Railway that features driverless trains), and as Cassy it thinking on her commute her thoughts are regularly interrupted by the next station announcements. This is a familiar enough occurrence, but whether it needed to be stated every single time she was on a DLR I'm unsure, unless the idea is to get the level of annoyance with the announcements that the average commuter probably feels.

With those exceptions I thought that *Puzzle Girl* was a largely polished debut, that I really enjoyed reading, and following the life of Cassy as she tries to recover from her big break up, and all the ups and downs of her working life. There are definitely some laughs to be had and its generally an entertaining story.

Thank you to Accent Press for this copy of the book which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

Anne says

I'd guess that as a fifty-year-old married woman, I'm not really the target market for *Puzzle Girl*. It's been a while since I read about twenty-somethings looking for the ideal man whilst aiming for the top of the career ladder. However, *Puzzle Girl* is such a refreshing read and I enjoyed it very much. It was the perfect medicine after a particularly busy week at work.

Cassy is an interesting character, she has a touch of Bridget Jones about her, certainly the annoying parts that drove most of us mad, and especially the endearing, lovable traits that made us all forgive Bridget anything. The reader is introduced to her on what is potentially a very big night for Cassy, she's attending a dinner with sought-after clients. If this goes well, then it will be the big break that she's worked for, it could open the doors to much bigger and better things. The one fly in the ointment is Martin; her colleague. He wants to get to the top just as much as Cassy does, and it seems that he will stoop to anything to get there.

The night does not end well. Cassy receives shocking and heart-breaking news just as dinner is about to be served. A few weeks later, when Cassy is given the opportunity to redeem herself, everything goes pear-shaped once again. She finds herself in the waiting-room of a NHS walk-in centre, waiting to see a doctor, with a suspected sprained ankle.

That visit to the walk-in centre is the real beginning of Cassy's story. When she discovers a half-completed puzzle in the waiting room, she becomes determined to track down the guy who filled out the answers; her 'puzzle man'.

Rachael Featherstone writes with wit and lots of humour. Cassy is infuriating, embarrassing, she over reacts, she's quite self-centred, but she provides great entertainment. *Puzzle Girl* is escapism at its best, it is fast-paced, packed with an assortment of well crafted characters who are vibrant and colourful.

An enjoyable, fun story that is well written and put a smile on my face.

<http://randomthingsthroughmyletterbox...>

Simona says

Book provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Clever name, great cover, smart storyline.

The book started in a fab way, had some exciting moments, but at certain times I was kind of lost and struggled with the plot.

Let's start at the beginning though. The story follows Cassy Brookes, who finds a puzzle book in a doctor's surgery waiting room. Now she wants to find „puzzle man“ . At the same time, she has to deal with her workmate Martin.

The idea behind this book is really great and I liked the mystery behind it. Cassy's journey to find puzzle man is full of adventure, ups and downs and excitement. I really loved following her around. I really adored her friend Dan, probably my favourite character in this book. Another character I really Liked was Martin, had added some extra spark to the story. They all had their own story shared in a way and some other characters too, a lot of sub-plots, but included in a clever way.

I felt that after a certain time her mission of finding THE man took over her life a bit too much.

Rachael Featherstone's writing has a witty humour, is refreshing and just so much fun.

My fave thing about the book: The mentions of the different DLR stations, I always take it coming from the airport, so I know them all.

A superb debut novel!!!

Karen Cole says

My reading tastes tend to err on the darker side but every so often I like to read something a bit lighter as a palate cleanser of sorts. I loved the sound of *Puzzle Girl*, particularly because although there is no crime to solve, there is still a mystery at the heart of it.

What an enjoyable book this turned out to be! I loved Cassy, not least because she reminded me a little of my eldest daughter who shares her love of lists and also has a number of most hated words! Thankfully her life is less messy than Cassy's whose ordered existence is rapidly sent spinning out of control when her relationship comes to a sudden end.

There's a lovely flow to *Puzzle Girl* and it's a book I read in just a few hours chuckling away to myself at the situations Cassy frequently finds herself in. With the beautiful and historic scenes of London as its backdrop, I could easily imagine *Puzzle Girl* being filmed as a rom-com. I thought the relationship between Cassy and her best friend, Dan was a real highlight of the book and especially enjoyed the long history between the pair. Cassy's mum is wonderful too, at first I thought she was going to be the typical, rather over-bearing mother often seen in romantic comedies but she turned out to be a warm and wise woman.

I wasn't really surprised by the outcome of the mystery and I suspect not many readers will be; it doesn't matter though because the pleasure in reading *Puzzle Girl* comes from the delightful dialogue and the captivating plot which leads to Cassy making the discovery herself. The inclusion of the puzzle part of the novel is especially enjoyable as Cassy becomes obsessed with trying to communicate with her Puzzle-Man. This is an engaging, witty read and the development of Cassy's character and her gradual realisation that her behaviour hasn't always been wise is well-handled and empathetic.

I'm really pleased I decided to give *Puzzle Girl* a try, it left me with a warm glow and a smile on my face and I recommend it to anybody who enjoys well-plotted romantic fiction.

Karen Mace says

If you are a 'list' girl like I am, then you are going to love Cassy! She's a girl after my own heart too as she loves losing herself in crossword puzzles and when she is passing time in a waiting room and fills in a puzzle, I am sure she never saw it leading to her trying to solve her own puzzle when a mysterious person fills in the crossword puzzle and adds their own messages!

Cassy is on her own after her boyfriend of 7 years walks out on her, and she's left struggling. She's got problems at work as well so it's fair to say life is not going her way! When she is hit by a cyclist on her way to work one day and ends up at the walk in clinic she is probably wondering what is going to go wrong for her next! You do get a little bit of the *Bridget Jones* vibe about Cassy!

But with the support of her best friend Dan - who has his own complicated life issues to deal with! - she begins to turn things round and slowly takes back control of her own life and that is what connected with me as a reader. You really feel for Cassy and every problem she faces you are just cheering her on to end up with some happy news and a positive outcome! And the mystery of finding out who her fellow crossword puzzle fan is, was just the thing to keep her fighting -and leads her to going to extreme measures to keep visiting the walk in clinic!

I thought this book was so much fun, really easy to read and so engaging! Highly recommended!!

My thanks to the author and publisher for the advanced reading copy in return for a fair and honest review.

Linda Hill says

Cassy Brookes knows the best way to deal with life is to write lists and do puzzles.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Puzzle Girl*. It's light, entertaining, amusing and romantic without being saccharine. Rachael Featherstone writes with flair and realism so that the events and characters in *Puzzle Girl* feel fresh and believable.

My goodness Cassy has the ability to entangle herself in troubles. I loved the way in which she was so fixated on an actual puzzle book and discovering the mystery puzzle-man that she entirely missed the real life puzzle pieces around her, causing her to neglect her friends and be duped by those about whom she should know better. I didn't much like her at times and thought the way in which Rachael Featherstone developed her character so that I learnt to care about Cassy was very skilful. The first person approach made Cassy come alive on the page. By the end of *Puzzle Girl* I felt she had been elevated to a convincing Everywoman so that there is much to learn from her life; particularly that we shouldn't always jump to conclusions about others.

I found the minor characters perfectly balanced so that there were enough of them to create interest without stealing Cassy's limelight. I know a book has worked well when I have a physical response to characters and in this case I would have been more than happy to punch Seph – hard! Of all of Cassy's acquaintances, it was Martin I found the most intriguing, but you need to read the book to see why.

The plot races along with Cassy lurching from one, frequently self-induced, crisis to another. All the way through I kept thinking 'what a tangled web we weave'. I'd love to see *Puzzle Girl* as a feature film as many of the events, particularly those surrounding the walk-in health centre would lend themselves to a rom-com. I did guess many of the elements but actually this enhanced my enjoyment of the book because I was intrigued as to how Rachael Featherstone would resolve them. The different settings add extra layers of interest too and I loved the deftly handled themes of identity, friendship and relationships.

Puzzle Girl is hugely entertaining and fun to read. It is wonderful escapism, perfect for a cold winter's afternoon or a relaxing holiday. I thought it was enormous fun and very satisfying to read. I'd really rather like a follow up novel with some of the same characters now please, perhaps developing Dan further!

Kaisha (The Writing Garnet) says

All reviews can be found on my blog at <https://thewritinggarnet.wordpress.com>

Ever since Accent Press started posting the book cover on social media (to tease me) at the end of last year, *Puzzle Girl* had put itself on my radar. There was just something rather unique and exciting about a multi-coloured, puzzle piece tree and I wasn't going to rest until I had read the book. As always, I'm true to my word and my excitement about #PuzzleGirl began to grow every time Accent Press posted anything about the book. I'm sure you can guess the look on my face when I got approached to review the book for the blog tour!

Now, I'm not the cleverest person when it comes to completing puzzles, especially as Sudoku reminds me of trying to work out your BMI (awfully frustrating), but I was intrigued to see how puzzles were going to be made into a storyline. I thought that maybe I needed to go on a word search(sorry!) to find out, but I ended up having a few cross words with myself due to the constant brain teasers of the storyline! Sorry, I will stop now!

It all started by Cassy finding a puzzle book in a doctor's surgery waiting room, working out and adapting a

few clues (multiple times), whilst finding a mysterious replying puzzle man in the process. I can't even get people I know talking to me, never mind a stranger responding to me via a puzzle book!! Cassy had a bee in her bonnet and was adamant that she would find out who her puzzle man was, however, the only way that she could do that was by finding multiple (bizarre) reasons to drop into the clinic to check the puzzle book. The bee in the bonnet became an obsession, and the obsession started taking over her life, her friendships and her work life. Thanks to a smidge of rivalry in the office, Cassy's workplace was already taken over by a different kind of obsession...

At first, I found Cassy's obsession with her puzzle man quite funny, especially as she was making herself look like an absolute fool every single time she made an excuse to go to the clinic. She let it rule every part of her life which made me feel like she had taken the whole excuse thing completely overboard, making it more about finding excuses as opposed to finding out who the mystery puzzle person was. Her rivalry with a work colleague was hilarious, even if I did think that she had created a completely different version of her rival in her head! Martin didn't appear to be as big of an arrogant ogre as Cassy made him out to be, but her reactions to his antics were sometimes OVER dramatic that it was brilliant.

'Puzzle Girl' is the type of book that to believe it, you need to read it. There are so many unique, clever and utterly bonkers moments throughout the whole book which need to be ravished by your own imagination. There really is something truly hypnotizing about this book, I can't even put my finger on exactly what it is but all I know is that it filled a large void. I have never, ever read a book like 'Puzzle Girl' and I have read A LOT of books. Every character had a place in the book (even the grumpy receptionist!), not one of them gave off the vibe that they were just 'there to fill up the storyline'. Obviously, some of the characters were more memorable than others, but they all brought something completely different to the overall feel of the book. For me, that added even more depth to an already puzzling storyline.

Seeing as I was so excited to read 'Puzzle Girl', I had everything crossed that my excitement wasn't going to be short lived once I had begun reading it. I really had no need to worry as Rachael Featherstone's book ticked each and every box for me, multiple times. Yes, some parts of the storyline, for me, were over exaggerated at points, but it didn't ruin the book in any way. I just put those OTT situations down to Cassy's individual personality. After all, she is definitely a unique cookie!

It's hard to believe that 'Puzzle Girl' is Rachael Featherstone's debut novel, as to read it you might think that she had a fair few novels under her belt. Instead, she just has puzzle pieces!

Puzzle Girl is a humorous, bonkers and unique story which shows that love can be found in the most unexpected places, as long as you have a bit of two down and three across (not even a clue btw). A fantastic, witty debut that resulted in me closing the book with a massive smile on my face. Absolutely loved it.

Thank you Accent Press!

Whispering Stories says

Puzzles obsessed Cassidy Brookes (Cassy), is unlucky in love, and at this moment in time is unlucky in her job too, as her colleague, Martin, suddenly becomes her rival, and he is not playing by all the rules. On the morning of a big meeting, Cassy ends up being run over by a cyclist, and with an ankle she can't put pressure

on, finds herself sat in the doctor's office.

With nothing else to do she starts flicking through the magazines, until she notices a puzzle book with a 'make your own crossword' in it. She can't help but write her own, with questions such as, 'The man responsible for putting morons on bikes (7 letters)' and 'What Kind of animal dumps his girlfriend and steals her toothpaste (5,5)'.

After being seen by the doctor, she is told to come back to have her ankle looked at again. Whilst once again sat in the waiting room, she picks up the same puzzle book and is shocked to discover that someone has filled in her crossword, and left more clues. This is the start of her obsession to find the man, hopefully, who is obviously just as much puzzle obsessed as she is, and obviously her 'Mr Right'.

'Puzzle Girl' is a fun, entertaining read. There is lots going on in the book, from Cassy's office rivalry for promotion, to her friendship with best friend Dan, and of course her puzzle/man obsession.

Cassy becomes so obsessed with discovering the identity of the man behind the puzzles that it begins to takes over her life. She starts doing things that normal, rational, people wouldn't do, such as, just how many times can you visit the doctor's office with made up excuses for being there just so that you can read, and add, more clues to the crossword?

For a debut novelist, Rachael has written a superb book that pulls you into the story, and has you eager to know who the mysterious man is, and will he be the right man for Cassy?

It's a feel good book, and will put a smile on your face the whole way through. Although Cassy is the protagonist of the story, another character that stood out to me was her friend Dan. He also had a lot of problems in his life that he needed to work through, and you can't help hoping that everything will come good for him too.

The book is pure chick-Lit, quite cheesy, but will have you laughing, shaking your head, and utterly enthralled from beginning to end.

Reviewed by Stacey on www.whisperingstories.com

Priya Shrinath says

Full review at: <https://wp.me/pajm6f-gW>

Cassidy Brookes aka Cassy has had better days. Her long time boyfriend dumps her on a rough note and her office rival Martin is fierce and ready to do anything for a promotion! Cassy tries to tackle her life by making 'lists' to sort everything out. One morning on her way to work, she is hit by a cyclist and ushered to the nearby walk-in center for first aid. Bored and tensed, she gets distracted when she finds an old puzzle book with a page that says 'make your own crossword'.

Miracle happens when she visits the clinic next week to see the same crossword filled by someone else and left even more clues for her to continue. Obsessed by her curiosity to find her 'puzzle man' Cassy finds herself coming back to the clinic with the worst lies and excuses possible damaging her self-esteem in the funniest way possible!

Puzzle Girl is an entertaining page turner and kept me hooked till the last page. This is one of the feel-good books that I never want to end. I found myself completely absorbed with the plot and almost curious as Cassey to find the Puzzle Man!

The characters apart from Cassy and Martin include Cassey's surrogate brother Dan who is a sweet youngster and I loved the bro-sis relationship between them! Then there is Sophia - Cassy's sweetest colleague. I even loved the nurse at the walk-in center who put up with all of Cassy's lame lies! Her reactions seemed hilarious to imagine and awkward if it had happened in real time!

I must thank Rachael Featherstone for putting a smile on my face the whole time I was reading the book. I am very much intrigued to see what she writes next. This cute, charismatic chick-lit is highly recommended to binge read over a beach weekend. Puzzle Girl could be your best company to snuggle up on your lazy days!

My sincere thanks The Dome Press for my early Christmas present. This book is completely worth the wait and I can't wait for you guys to read and talk more about it! Until next time. XOXO

Nicola Smith says

Right, I'm just going to say this.....I love, love, love, LOVE this book! The end.

Oh, you want a bit more? Well, I was immediately intrigued by the idea of Cassy Brookes solving the puzzle of who the man leaving her cryptic clues in a magazine is. And I totally understood her mission to find him. After her seven year relationship with Seph ends she's entranced by the idea of this someone who might just be on her wavelength. Cassy loves puzzles and cryptic crosswords herself, you see.

I loved Cassy. In true romance style, she's one of those heroines who seems to lurch from one disaster to another. At times I wanted to reach into the book and grab hold of her and tell her to open her eyes (number 1) and stop being a divvy (number 2). But she's hugely likeable in all her anxiety-ridden glory.

She works at a design agency, chasing promotion along with her arch enemy, Martin. Then there's her best friend, Dan, and work colleague, Sofia, who make up the main cast of characters. Each one is so well-written, so well-formed. Dan is great, full of witty one-liners and him and Cassy make quite the double act. She even manages to rope him into some of her more crazy ideas to try and track down 'Puzzle Man' and teach Martin a lesson.

I laughed a lot whilst reading Puzzle Girl, mainly at Cassy's antics. But it also has its serious side as it looks at anxiety, desire to succeed, loneliness, and it's also such a heart-warming story with the sweetest ending. It really has it all going on.

Rachael Featherstone is a fantastic writer and I'm really looking forward to what she comes up with next. The story in Puzzle Girl is unique, intelligent and clever and I honestly struggled to put it down. It's a total joy.

Sophie says

I loved the fresh concept to *Puzzle Girl*, Rachael Featherstone's debut novel. Though a story involving a woman, unlucky in love, who wants nothing more but to be part of the perfect couple whilst at the same time battling with work related issues is nothing against the norm in a contemporary romance novel, *Puzzle Girl* surprised me with its originality. Full of humour, this book had me laughing and cringing and smiling at the antics inside all the way through it.

Cassy is still stewing over being dumped by her boyfriend Seph when she was at an important work dinner. When she injures her ankle on the back of a hangover, she finds herself stuck waiting at the doctors with not even a spare puzzle in the puzzle book left to complete. When Cassy creates her own crossword in the book, and next time she is at the doctors sees that someone has completed her puzzle, Cassy dubs the mystery man *Puzzle-Man* and becomes completely and utterly obsessed with the puzzle-book stranger.

Cassy is a very dramatic character and her obsession with *Puzzle Man* quickly gets out of control and this amused me no end. She becomes completely caught up in the mystery and even on the first day she discovers he has answered her puzzle she is daydreaming over who he could be and how they could fall in love. I loved Cassy's vivid imagination and she is a pretty bubbly character who keeps the reader entertained with her mishaps and overreactions.

On top of looking for love, Cassy is also vying for a promotion at work and finds herself rivalling with her colleague Martin who she feels is getting all the opportunities and she becomes desperate to come out on top. Cassy does nothing by halves and she doesn't stop at anything to try and get what she wants. She builds Martin up to be a monster and I would almost have believed her if she didn't overreact to everything. I think Cassy could be seen as a frustrating character but for some reason I didn't really see her that way. Maybe that was because she was so over-the-top even from the first few pages that I knew what to expect from her and I just found it entertaining instead. I would have loved to view the world from Cassy's perspective for a day and see just how dramatically she views everything as I'm sure it would be an interesting experience! I'm not sure I could have taken more than a day of that though.

Puzzle Girl is light-hearted and lots of fun. One thing I liked a lot about this book was the characters. Other than Cassy, there were other characters I loved such as Cassy's gay best friend Dan who made me laugh all the way through the book. He's fun and supportive of Cassy and tells it like it is, which is something Cassy evidently needs in her life. Dan was probably my favourite character. The moment we first meet him is when I settled into the story and I enjoyed getting to know more about him further into the book. Despite being there for Cassy when she needs him, he has his own issues in life and I really wanted him to get his happy ever after too.

Rachael Featherstone's debut is a winner in my eyes. It took me a fair few chapters to get hooked on the story but once I did I enjoyed every single bonkers moment and all the mad excuses and ideas Cassy came up with to get her own way. The pacing of the book had me eager to read one more chapter again and again until I'd read two thirds of the book in one go. As well as the engaging storytelling, the narrative includes a mixture of puzzles, lists, texts and emails which kept me absorbed in the book and its fast-paced plot. *Puzzle Girl* is a really fun and witty book, a romantic comedy with a fair bit of character development and an uplifting story that puts a smile on your face for all of its 300+ pages.

Joanne Robertson says

As a HUGE puzzle fan myself (jigsaws, crosswords, sudoku, pub quizzes-you name it and I love it!! And I'm INCREDIBLY competitive as well which is very unlike my everyday persona!) I knew that *Puzzle Girl* by Rachael Featherstone was a book I needed to read. I was also a big *Bridget Jones* fan (until the final book!) so the comparison to my heroine drew me in towards Cassy in the hope of finding another *Bridget* but what I got was a far more unique and genuine young woman in an hilarious but considered storyline that got better with every single page I read.

It's hard to believe this is the author's first book as it felt accomplished and naturalistic as if she had been doing this her entire life! Cassy was a wonderful character creation and one that I took to straight away. I felt sorry for her after she faced a difficult end to her seven year relationship but in typical Cassy fashion she doesn't do herself any favours when it comes to dealing with the aftermath of her breakup! She has her best friend Dan to keep her grounded in her personal life but when it comes to work, it's a very different matter indeed! Cassy is determined to get a promotion whatever it costs and her work colleague Martin won't be standing in her way if she has anything to do with it! But an accident throws Cassy an unusual puzzle to solve when she ends up at a walk in clinic. A cryptic clue left in a crossword book leads Cassy on a search for the elusive "puzzle man", an hilarious journey that leads to misunderstandings galore and a chance to reevaluate everything Cassy holds dear.

My initial sympathies started to slide away once Cassy began her search for the man of her dreams as she began to make some very questionable decisions! *Puzzle Man* could have been anyone which was why she started to hang around the clinic like a viral infection it is impossible to rid yourself of! Everyone she met there was a possible suspect and these possibilities led to some of the funniest moments in *Puzzle Girl* for me. Every character explored was relevant to the plot in some form or other like a cryptic clue just waiting to be solved so it was often impossible to guess who was Cassy's mysterious crossword solver was. This meant I was able to just sit back and enjoy the narrative for the pure pleasure of it!

This was a truly enjoyable game to play! Working out the clues to solve the mystery was certainly an enjoyable part of looking for Cassy's puzzle man as I had my suspicions about who it would be long before they were revealed! But I don't think I stopped smiling the whole time I was reading *Puzzle Girl* and that's a sign of true pleasure for me so thank you Rachael Featherstone for the first class entertainment. It's a must read for chick lit fans everywhere that I would definitely recommend.

Irene Sim says

It had me at "You've got e-mail" reference.
