



The Social Diary

Ros Reines

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When Savannah Stephens returns to her hometown Sydney after a stint as a music journalist in London, she is thrown into the burgeoning world of society parties and the excesses of the eighties social scene.

Savannah's first job back on home soil is as the editor of the newly created Social Diary. Her days are spent battling old fashioned newspaper colleagues, who frown upon the so-called 'women's pages' and tut when her stories make front page splashes.

By night she is awash in a sea of expensive champagne at the biggest and best parties the city has to offer. It is there that she collides with the unbelievable characters and larger-than-life personalities who are fast becoming legendary for their jaw-dropping antics.

Will Savannah manage to prove her critics wrong or will she be distracted by a very handsome yet mysterious man?

Funny and satirical, The Social Diary reads at times like an extended version of Ros Reines' real-life gossip column feature Guess Who Don't Sue, and is written by someone who has been through it all and lived to tell the tale.

The Social Diary Details

Date : Published January 28th 2015 by Allen & Unwin

ISBN : 9781760110475

Author : Ros Reines

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review The Social Diary for online ebook

Elizabeth says

I won this book as part of a goodreads giveaway. I actually really liked the concept of this book. It was original and funny in all the right places. You felt for Savannah through her homesickness, her troubles through work and through her dilemma of feeling that she just didn't fit in. One thing i found a little far fetched was just how attached she got to Daniel after their first meeting....I know she was having a tough time but for me that almost felt a little desperate and not the cool Savannah who walked through Sydney newsroom acting as though she didn't care what people thought of her. But that aside i though it was a really good book and I'd really love to see the social diary two to tie up any loose ends that were left by the first book! Fave characters other than Savannah I'd have to say were Scarlett, Oliver and Gertie and strangely intrigued by Lahar who definately had a lot of cunning.

Please write a sequel :)

Greg Kerr says

An easy good read. Had a good chuckle just the ending happen very quickly.

Britney says

LOVE LOVE LOVED IT!!

I usually don't read novels like these, so I was pleasantly surprised when I started reading this. The storyline is great, and it doesn't drag on, unlike other books. There was mystery, humour, and real life struggles thrown in. The first chapter was kind of confusing, but the book quickly clears up towards a great read.

However, I think the ending was a bit rushed, and the blurb was a bit misleading.

I really liked this book, and I thought that the plot was brilliantly executed, and Savannah Stephens is a great character.

Renee says

I enjoyed this book more than I thought I would. The main character comes across as intelligent and observant of those around her, and it's always fun to read about crazy rich people in Sydney and the lengths (depths?) they will go to! I did find the ending a little abrupt but overall it's a fun easy read.

Marcy says

I received a free copy of this book through the GoodReads First Reads program.

"The Social Diary" is about a journalist who writes the gossip/society column in an Australian publication. She deals with some catty and backstabbing coworkers, a sometimes-unpredictable-at-least-to-her boss, and a somewhat mysterious romantic partner.

I found myself enjoying this book even though I caught myself several times wondering why I was still reading. I can't say I was fully engrossed in the plot - those several times I wondered, it was largely because I didn't feel like the novel was really headed in any specific direction; nothing was really strongly pulling me toward the end - but I did like the narrator and find myself caught up, at times, in her little squabbles with others, both in and outside of the publication house.

A solid three-to-three-point-five star read. Not too heavy, but something fun for the summer, which is exactly what I wanted when I dove in.

Cory says

When I told a good friend of mine I'd won a book by Ros Reines in a Goodreads Giveaway, his first reaction was, "Does she name names?"

"I don't know," I said.

He shook his head. "I only want to read it if she names names."

And in that response, I think lies the crux of whether this book is enjoyable or not. Reines has hit the 80s-flashback zeitgeist, from the glorious cover to the locations and terrible food. It's also clearly a pastiche of 80s socialite Sydney; however, I felt at times like I was teetering on the tip of the iceberg. If I'd been a bit older in the 80s, I'm sure this would have been an orgy of gleeful gossip, recognising public figures left, right and centre. I got a few (probably the most obvious being Christopher Skase), but I missed the majority, which makes me think I probably didn't understand the book as Reines wanted it to be understood.

Plot-wise, it's a fairly standard yet quite satisfying chick-lit plot -- a central romance, upward social mobility, a heroine who sees herself as clumsy/unfashionable/in trouble with her boss but is actually desired by those around her, and seen as indispensable. Some nice scenes that I guess one could characterise as "wish fulfilment" for the reader -- being styled by a famous designer, loved by celebrities, rescued by a gentleman, praised by your boss. Interestingly, there were a number of parallels in the action to the spy novels I've been reading -- Savannah's conflicts of interest, decisions about what to do with the info, her almost wilfully stupid decisions that compromise her cause, the import of the information she receives. I did find it very hard to see the love interest as a sympathetic character, and I don't think I was meant to (view spoiler). I also wasn't really that much of a fan of Savannah herself; at one point she rejects the idea that she profits from human misery, and then goes on in later chapters to...profit from human misery.

The ending is a cliffhanger. I don't think I'll be lending it to my friend who only wanted it for the named names, but I might lend it to my Mum, if only to see who she recognises. I think if you remember the 80s a bit more clearly than I do, then you'll enjoy this one.

(In case it wasn't clear -- I won this one as part of the "First Reads" giveaways. Thanks to the

author/publishers.)

Jelena Bosh says

A fast read but so perfect!

Review will up very soon xx

Jessica says

Sydney in the 1980's was like nowhere else on earth, thanks to its preponderance of streaked blonde mullets, linen jackets and its boozy two-hour lunches. Ros Reines has brought it all back in *The Social Diary*, which draws on her newsroom experience as well as her incredible memory for detail. If you liked the nostalgia of *Paper Giants* (based on Kerry Packer's magazine empire and *Cleo*) or the wit of *The Devil Wears Prada*, then I think you could easily lose yourself in *The Social Diary* for an entire Sydney-Los Angeles plane trip. Ros was actually there for all those Melbourne Cups and Americas Cups, and she has obeyed the first law of good fiction - Write About What You Know. The atmosphere of those smoke-filled newspaper offices and the innocence of the times (despite the bad behaviour) is cleverly drawn in a So-Sydney novel which takes you from Point Piper all the way down Park Street. It's so hard to believe that gay men were still in the closet in those days, or that women could still turn on the full *Dynasty* or *Dallas* claws (feminism? what feminism?) but this brilliantly gossipy book brings it all back.
