



A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger

Lucy Robinson

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Charley Lambert has a perfect life. She has The Job. The Wardrobe. And The Flat. Then she breaks her leg in three places and is forced to hand over her job to her nasty deputy while she recovers. Desperate for something to do, she discovers a talent for helping the lovelorn online. Then along comes William....

A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger Details

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From Reader Review A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger for online ebook

Lucinda says

A heartrending, stirring novel that touches you with its deep meaning and truth-drawing clarity

This beautiful book tugs at the heartstrings of human emotion with such poignancy, sincerity and warmth. Lucy Robinson captures perfectly those butterflies within your stomach as 'the moment' transpires with one glance, to a detailed character-study of the ups and downs of any relationship. A romantic comedy complete with attractive, likable characters that you easily connect and relate to amidst an interesting plot that keeps you guessing throughout. I really enjoyed this delightful page-turner, which appeals to a wide-readership including those who enjoy classic fiction, romance and chick-lit. Gripping and utterly absorbing this compelling read will make you laugh-out-loud, gasp in shock and have you clutching the pages so tightly that your knuckles turn white. Charley Lambert typifies the workaholic woman, that when she suddenly loses all control becomes open and perceptive to all that surrounds her. It is when she lets her guard down that we can truly empathize, for no one is flawless nor is falling in and out of love unproblematic.

This realistic insight into the world of online dating, unrequited love and the ultimate pursuit of happiness. An outstanding novel by an accomplished author that I predict as this year's bestseller, which in quintessence captures life and love in a snapshot. I am so impressed by this ingenuous novel that is full of warmth, optimism and fulfillment.

I would like to thank 'Real Readers' for sending me an ARC of A passionate love affair with a total stranger by Lucy Robinson, to read and review.

LeeLeeLoves says

A Passionate Love Affair With a Total Stranger is a love story, not your average soppy predictable love story; Lucy Robinson has brought a whole new meaning to love stories and it's exciting, it's not just about passion and romance it's filled with mystery and abundant with hilarity.

This is a love story with a twist and without giving away the entire plot (which is rather expansive for a story of love) I can say that you will be guessing more or less until the end. You just couldn't predict exactly what is going to happen like you can with so many generic love stories.

What do you do when you're a workaholic and you throw yourself down a massive bloody hill resulting in breaking your leg in three places?

If your name is Charley Lambert you'll ignore your doctor's orders for many weeks of rest and find a find a way to work from home.

As an outlet and use of her newly found free time, Charley sets up a business as a ghost writer for people who are terrible at trying to be romantic but want to meet people via online dating. It's called First Date Aid.

The business is going really well, but when you start to fall for one of your clients love interests it can never be good. Charley finds herself falling helplessly in love and can't control her feelings, but is William everything Charley thinks he is and more? How can she communicate with William as herself and not

Shelley her hopeless romantic of a client without breaking all the rules of her new business? She's spent the last seven years in love with her boss John and this is the first time she has had feelings for somebody other than him.

Charley is on a journey of self discovery and realizes that maybe she doesn't love her life and her job as much as she thought, maybe she really just wants to sit back and be normal for a while and take care of her own needs before everyone else's.

I particularly like Charley's relationship with her friends and family, my favourite character is her house mate Sam who is a bit of a slob but overall a real sweetheart who is there in times of need just like a good friend should be. Throughout the story I could never trust John, her love interest of seven years and boss at the big corporate pharmaceutical firm she works for. He seemed a little sleazy to me and like he was always up to no good.

Margot my least favourite character is a colleague, she tries repeatedly to steal Charlotte's job position from her while she is unable to work and in a vulnerable position as her life comes crashing down around her.

This was a great lesson in how people on the internet especially within dating aren't always going to be what they seem but that doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be a bad thing!

It also shows you how easily you can be blind to what is going on around you, especially if you're always caught up in work and not stopping to take a moment for yourself.

This is the first book I have read by Lucy Robinson and I really enjoyed it, so much that I would like to read her previous novel to see if it is as enjoyable as this one was.

I read this book over 3 days commuting to work and back, I even found myself spending my lunch hour sneaking in more as I was eager to know what was going to happen next. It's a very witty light hearted novel and I found it to be a really relaxing read, perfect to put your feet up with on a weekend and just enjoy a few quiet hours.

?eyma says

Arkada? zoruyla okudum büyük bir i?kenceydi arkada??n?z bunu okuyacaks?n demedi?i taktirde kitab? asla okumay?n ??

Luise says

I was so annoyed by this book that I don't really know where to start. Most of the time it felt as if it had too much text. This cannot be a good thing, regarding this is a book - and books consist of text. And when I thought it might finally be over soon, I went to check and boom - still 9384 pages left. Yay.

First the names. On the one side there are Gilly from the American online dating service, Dr Nathan Gillies as Charleys ex and Giles as another random sample client. What about this Gillinvasion? Very uncreative variety. On the other side are the nicknames for Charlotte. My fingers refuse to type any examples, but I can tell there were too many and they were not funny. And those awful names were repeated so often!

Repetition was a problem itself in general. Some things were repeated throughout the whole book too often.

Like "knob" for example. I never really heard this expression before, but this was definitely enough to last for the rest of my life.

Sometimes it was just one expression repeated 34589 times in one paragraph. Just to be replaced by the next one. You could guess-while-reading what the next expression would be. Nice little game to pass time.

I kind of liked that it wasn't too obvious how the story would end. There were 3 or 4 potential guys, but they were all rather unsuitable to be THE ONE. (So it's not too bad that the summary is completely misleading.) They all had some major disadvantages. It was clear that at least one of them had to have a presumably unrealistic change, so I wasn't too disappointed when the changes actually came.

I wasn't sure what to think about John when he suddenly was in love with Charley for the whole time they knew each other. But in the aftermath I think it all turned out quite well. (Charley's reaction, however, was terrible. She thought about his declaration of love for 5 minutes with a lot of doubts in mind. And then suddenly just goes "all in" like a brainless idiot. Without any reason to behave this way. I was actually quite happy that he only messed around with her.)

Sam's change on the other hand was awful. Biggest scruff on earth turns to be an exemplary dream guy. Surely just because of some "romantic" mails. So not only his personal development but also the process of him being Charley's friend to the guy she is totally in love with went really poorly.

I think the skills of transmitting emotions of whatever kind were nonexistent in general. Happy/ emotional/ sad/ whatever situations were ALWAYS destroyed by conversations or events of the completely opposite nature. Everything is fine, only to be killed by some dramatic interjection of something totally out of context. That's exhausting.

For example, one day she quits her job and attends her granny's funeral. All of the sudden she grows deeper feelings for Sam. Out of nowhere. The next day she tells her dog: "Oh I'm so sad, I don't have a job any more." Then Sam joins her and tells her that he's got a job in London. Suddenly she's not able to be happy for him because she needs him so much/ wants to restart the business with him/ loves him/ blah although there weren't any hints in that direction before.

Later everything is overly happy with Charley's parents, her reconciliation with Hailey and their excitement for her little dating company. "But underneath the warmth of the moment sadness tugged insidiously at me. The sadness was called Sam." Blah blah. There was NOTHING to justify those kind of "deep thoughts" every 5 minutes.

There was actually a quite relevant passage at some point. Quite ironic, in fact. "This cycle - scrummy snoggy sugary thoughts followed by sharp and crushing disappointment - was killing me. [...] It was torment [...] the obsessive cycle." EXACTLY. That's how this entire book feels.

The next annoying point is, that everything was too exaggerated.

It was a very stressful up and down with her job, her family, friends and her love life. It was either completely over-perfect or totally down. Too many too highs immediately destroyed by total lows.

Also how Charley passionately laughs in situations that really do not require that amount of laughter. Like when John brought her breakfast to bed just like she fantasized before she decided to sleep with him. How is that so hilarious? I'd rather classify such thing as "cool" instead of uproariously funny.

Or when she and Sam behaved like two stupid teenagers at the posh restaurant? How old are they? 32? That's ridiculous, especially as over-professional Charlotte has been in such places before. I don't really know how she got her job anyway. Why does she let herself be deflated by Margot's blackmailing? She's such a loser. I thought you have to be tough to become a major communications manager.

Sooo, as you can tell I was a little pissed off by this book. But the best thing came towards the end. OF COURSE did Charley find out, that her grandfather, whom she never got to know, had the same "talent" as her. OF COURSE did he write love letters on behalf of others back in WW2 and was respected by everyone for that skill. He wrote such touching letters to her granny. And as if that's not enough, Sam COINCIDENTALLY uses the same words in his "final revealing I-love-you speech" as Charley's grandpa wrote to her grandma. HOW ROMANTIC. It's destiny! Ksasdölf. I can't deal with it :D

As a final thought, to calm down a bit, I'd like to know why Shelley, who has no time to deal with such a trivial thing as online dating, suddenly has time to arrange such an exaggerated fuss to bring Charley and Sam together?

Bü?ra Köprü says

Ben yine nereden buldum, nas?l buldum da böyle bir kitap okudum acaba? Bazen gerçekten bir ?anss?zl?k abidesiymi?im gibi hissediyorum. Elime hakk?nda hiçbir ?ey bilmedi?im bir kitap al?yor, ay galiba güzel bir ?ey buldum diye umutlan?yor ve kafam? duvara vurma iste?iyle kitab? bitiriyorum. Yoruldum hakikaten.

Yazar?n neden bir kitaba bu kadar çok olay, karakter ve detay s??d?rd???n? hâlâ anlayabilmi? de?ilim. Size biraz tuhaf bir ?ekilde kitab? anlatmak istiyorum. E?er sebebini anlarsan?z, beni ayd?nlat?n.

Charley 32 ya??nda, kendine "?skoç Amazonu" diyen, çal??kan ve düzenli, mükemmel yetçi, ba?ak burcunu an?msatan bir kad?n(yazara göre öyle en az?ndan). Bir ilaç ?irketinde ilet?im müdürü?ü yap?yor. ??ini ve çal??may? deli gibi seviyor. Patronuna â??k. Adam? gördü?ü gün ona â??k oldu?unu anl?yor ve o s?ralar sevgilisi olan adamdan ayr?lmaya karar veriyor. Sevgilisinden 4 y?l sonra ancak ayr?l?yor. Patronunu uzaktan sevmeye devam ediyor. Adama a?k?n?n 7. y?l?nday?z.

Sam, Charley'nin 14 y?ll?k arkada?? ve ayn? zamanda ev arkada??. Pasaklı?, dü?üncesiz, düzensiz, mahremiyet yoksunu, zampara, tembel, bo? herifin teki. Ama ayn? zamanda çok iyi kalpli oldu?unu dü?ünüyor Charley. Sebebi? Bence kitab?n ilk k?sm?nda ortada bir sebep yok. Neyse.

Sam çapk?n hayat?n? geride b?rak?p ni?anlan?yor ve Charley bunun kutlamas? yap?l?rken dü?üp kalça kemi?ini ve baca??n? k?r?yor. Aylarca yata?a mahkum edilince i?inden izin al?yor ve Sam ile evde tak?l?rken bir site kuruyorlar. (Site fikri orijinal de?il. Amerika'da var olan bir kurumu taklit ediyorlar. Kurum bununla ilgili niyeysse bir yaptı?r?m yapm?yor ve Charley bu kurumun ve patronunun g?c?k oldu?unu falan dü?ünüyor ama somut bir sebebimiz yok. O mesele muamma.) Sitenin ad?: Acil Randevu Hatt?. ?nternette birisiyle tan??p derdini anlatmay? beceremeyen kad?n ve erkekler, kendini anlatacak bir ki?i ile anla??yor ve böylece Sam ya da Charley sizin ad?n?za, ho?land???n?z ki?i ile sanal muhabbeti sürdürüp gerçek hayatı bulu?man?z? sa?l?yor. Çok üzgünüm ama duydu?um en aptalca ?eylerden biri. Size sadece biyografisini gönderen birinin karakterine bürünüp kar??n?zdaki ki?iyle nas?l bir ili?kiyi temellendirebilirsiniz ki? Her neyse.

Charley, aya??n? k?rd???nda patronunun evlendi?ini ö?reniyor. 7 y?ld?r onunla flört eden, 3 y?ld?r evli bir kad?nla ili?kisi olan ve çok iyi, karakterli, asil oldu?unu iddia etti?i John evlenince epeyce y?k?l?yor. Ancak aç? sohbet sitesi sayesinde kendine benzetti?i i?kolik bir mü?terisinin konu?mak istedi?i William isimli bir adamla tan??yor. Bırkaç yüzeysel mailin ard?ndan aniden profesyonelli?i bir kenara b?rak?yor ve William?n ruh e?i oldu?unu, mü?terisi Shelley yerine kendisinin onunla olmas? gerekti?ini dü?ünmeye ba?l?yor. 7 y?ll?k platonik a?k an?nda bitiyor. Saçma sapan dümenler çevirip kendini ikna ediyor ve ilk bulu?malar?ndan önce bir ?ekilde William? etkilemek için bulu?maya kat?l?yor. Birtak?m olaylar olaylar. ?nan?n ben size ?u an çok az bir parças?n? anlat?yorum kitab?n. Kitapta bitmek bilmeyen olaylar ve entrikalar dönüyor. Neyse.

Bu esnada arkada?? Sam ve k?z karde?iyle mekanda kar??la??yor. Birlikte alemlere ak?yorlar. 14 y?ld?r tan?y?p güvendi?i arkada??na kar?? tek bir uyar?s? vard?r y?llard?r: Biliyoruz çapk?ns?n ama benim k?z karde?lerim olmaz falan. Neyse. Sam o gece onun bu kural?na nanik yapar. Çok güçlü, karakterli yeti?kinimiz de onu ?öyle uyar?: Bak, e?er bunu yaparsan bir daha asla seninle konu?mam. Arkada?l???m?z biter. Sam âdet? dil ç?kar?r. K?z?m?z eve gider ve ne görür? Me?erse William diye yaz???p â??k oldu?u ki?i asl?nda Sam'mi?. William da onun yerine konu?sun diye Sam'i i?e alm??m??. Charley ?ok olur tabii ve der ki ?yk, o olamaz, i?renç. Demek ki bu a?k de?ilmi?.

Charley iyile?ir, kendini tekrar i?ine adamaya çal??r. Bir yandan yeni evli platonik a?k? John?n flörtöz halleri, bir yandan yard?mc?s? Margot'nun i?ine göz dikmesi, bir yandan da aniden de?i?meye ba?layan Sam derken kafas? kar??r. Sam gittikçe düzenli, tertipli, sa?l?kl? ve sorumluluk sahibi bir insan oluyordur. Otuzundan sonra büyümeye ba?lam??t?r falan. Ama tek gecelik ili?kiler de ara s?ra devam etmektedir.

Buralarda yine dramlar, entrikalar. Ben size sadece yuh, dedi?im k?s?mlar? anlat?yorum, özet bile diyemeyiz bence ya neyse.

John, Charley'e e?iyle mutlu olmad??n? ve ayr?ld?klar?n?, bo?anacaklar? söyler. Aniden ne Sam kal?r ne William. Charley yine 7 y?ll?k a?k?na döner. Sam kariyeri ile u?ra??r. Derken yine olaylar olaylar. Charley'nin i?i sallant?dad?r, psikolojisi bozuktur, John yalanc?d?r falan. Neyse ortada amazon kad?n? falan yoktur. ?radesizlik, bencillik, karars?zl?k, dilemma, haks?zl??a u?ray?nca a?z?n? bile açamama, arkada?lar?na kar?? bile ezilip büzülme, kimseye hiçbir ?ey için hay?r diyememe, istedi?i hiçbir ?eyi yapacak gücü olmama amazon kad?nlar? için kullan?l?yorsa o ayr?. Charley nihayet i?ini b?rak?r, John'dan ayr?l?r ve büyükannesinin cenazesinde ailesiyle tak?l?r. Ertesi sabah Sam'i görür. Sam ona veda eder ve evinden ayr?l?r. Kariyeri için farkl? bir ?ehre ta??nacakt?r. Ayr? mekanlarda olduklar? bir süre içinde Sam kad?na e posta gönderir ve Charley ?öyle olur: Sam'e a????m. Bunu nas?l da anlayamam??m? William / Sam / Obama... Kim oldu?u önemli de?il. Önemli olan ?u maili yazan ki?i. Ben ona a????m.

Sam gider. Charley tek kal?r. Bu esnada daha da gücsüz, tak?nt?l?, depresif birisi olmu?tur. Derken Sam'in ili?kisi oldu?u izlenimine kap?l?r. A?lar z?rlar. Bolca. (Ve bunlar, tekrar ediyor olaca??m ama, cidden olaylar?n çok az bir k?sm??. Daha anlatmad??m bolca saçmal?k var kitapta.) Neyse. Bir ?ekilde büyükannesinin e?iyle 70 y?l önceki mektuplar?n? bulur ve kendini gaza getirir, gidip Sam'e aç?lmaya karar verir. Sam de kabul eder ve mutlu son.

?imdi diyeceksiniz ki bu yorum de?il. Asl?nda bir bak?ma öyle. Sat?r aralar?ndaki b?kk?nl?k, göz devirmeler, sinir, stres kitab? okurken hissettiğimizi yans?t?yor. Bunun d??nda kolay okunan, baz? yerlerine güldü?üm, beni entrikas?yla bir hayli ?a??rtt??? için bitirdi?im bir kitap oldu. ?a??rmak derken iyi manada sanmay?n lütfen. Gündüz dizisi tad?nda onlarca entrika okuyunca ?ey oldum biraz: Vay be, ne kafalar var ?u dünyada. Bakal?m daha ne kadar saçmalayabilirler?

Açıkçası nefret etmesem de beni bir hayli yoran bir kitap oldu?u için bu kitap? tavsiye etmiyorum. Chick-lit dedi?imiz tür kafa da??tmak, e?lendirmek vs. için okunur. Bu kitap ne yaz?k ki kafan?z? yalnızca duvara vururken da??tabilir. Sevgiler.

Rachel Burton says

oh I think I have a new favourite romcom author!!

Rupali says

Loved it! Absolutely loved it!

MyGoodBookshelf says

This novel tells the story of Charley Lambert, a complete workaholic and go-getter who likes to be in control of every aspect of her life- until an event forces her to slow down and take a step back from the day job. Laid up in bed with a broken leg and pelvis, a frustrated Charley can only watch as her high-powered career is micro-managed by her work nemesis Margot, and as the man of her dreams (and her boss), marries another woman. Desperate for another project to channel her energies into, Charley takes a step into the online dating world, by managing an online venture called 'First Date Aid'- ghost-writing emails for clients unlucky in love and without the time (or wit) to write their own responses. Helped by her flatmate (and best friend) Sam, one of Charley's crucial assignments is in ensuring the handsome Doctor William falls for lovelorn Shelley, but after exchanging a few emails with William herself, Charley realises that she too, is in danger of falling in love with him...

In this romantic comedy of errors, there were some great characters who I completely adored- from Charley's madcap family to her cast of friends. The writing is pacey and the dialogue engaging, which ensured I was drawn into the story from the start. There were also some fantastic little twists that I didn't see coming at all, which made sure the plot stayed fresh and exciting. The premise itself was a great one- I have friends who have tried online dating themselves and it has made me think who is at the other side of that computer screen!

The main message that I took away from this book though, like Charley, is that it is immeasurable to really assess the important things in life and what makes you happy. Without giving away any spoilers, I loved the small incidents in this book that forced her to take a look at herself and whether or not her work and relationship was satisfying her. She undergoes a real journey in this book and though she is not without her flaws (she can be a little bit self-obsessed for one thing) I really liked getting to know her.

These sort of romance novels are few and far between in my opinion: the believable kind that leave you with a big smile on your face and feeling all gooey and fuzzy inside once you've finished reading them, which I definitely did when I got to the last page of this one. I read A LOT of chick-lit, but this is definitely one of my top contenders for my favourite romance novels read in 2012, which is quite a high accolade. It's also safe to say after picking this one up, that I will definitely be reading more books by Lucy Robinson in future.

Shaz Goodwin says

I enjoyed reading Lucy Robinson's debut, *The Greatest Love Story of All Time* so when a finished copy of *A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger* arrive from Francesca Russell at Penguin/Michael Joseph I knew I was in for a treat.

From the very beginning the reader is made aware of Charley's lifestyle ... always on the go, organised, health conscious and with never a spare moment. It's at the picnic she's organised for lodger Sam (in a very short time and with very little sleep) to celebrate his engagement to Yvonne when best mate Hayley shows Charley an article about a US entrepreneur who has set up a ghost-writing business for online daters. Charley receives a text from her boss John which causes her to careen down Salisbury Crags. Waking up in hospital to find John sitting on her bed, her bubble is soon burst when ex Dr Nathan Gillies shares information that turns Charley's romantic hopes upside down.

Not letting her injury and time off work deter her, she sets up First Date Aid and with the help of Sam, turns the ghost-writing into a viable business. It's when responding to William for a client that she realises her client is very similar to herself ... and during the emails, discovers things about herself (as well as falling in love with William).

Despite the predictability of the plot, the characters and how we arrive there are hugely entertaining. Charley entertained me with her approach to life and her interactions with Sam. At times I found myself snorting along with her ... When she falls in love with William and comes to an understanding, her disbelief and then withdrawal only endeared her to me even more. Charley's eccentric family and best friend Hayley round out the story with subplots and the rivalry between Charley and Margot at Salutech gives the reader the conflict and a character we love to detest. Margot really did make my skin crawl!

The attraction and intimacy with CEO John is quite electric and the 'other' romance (no spoilers!) is beautifully written. I loved the build-up to the scene at the Stage Manager's desk, from Charley sat on the edge of the stage to the mad dash up the stairs and finally to the audience's cheers that filtered up to them. The romance fitted perfectly with what we know about the personalities of the characters.

A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger is a well-paced and entertaining read with characters easy to identify with. You may well find yourself cheering, will definitely find yourself laughing/snorting and certainly you'll be clenching your fists when Margot is around. You may have the odd tear too ... At the end you will sigh and feel that all is right with the world. This is a story that will leave you with that feel-good factor.

I would like to thank the publishers for providing a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Ilaria says

Ogni tanto leggere qualche commedia romantica fa sempre bene e questo è il caso di "Niente è più vero di una bugia", commedia degli equivoci e del romanticismo non troppo smielato che ci racconta le avventure o forse dovremmo dire le sventure di Charlotte, una donna dinamica e maniaca del lavoro che non si ferma mai

e che riempie ogni singolo secondo della sua vita con infinite attività...

Ed è proprio durante una gita da lei organizzata, che Charlotte si rompe una gamba e si trova a costretta a letto, senza potersi muovere o lavorare; per occupare il tempo fonda una società di incontri online, in cui Charlotte si offre di scrivere, per altre donne, e-mail spiritose, che le aiutino a conquistare gli uomini che affollano la rete...

Durante questo scambio di mail però Charlotte si innamora di William e tenta di fare di tutto per incontrarlo e per scoprire alla fine che neanche lui è quello che sembrava: perché dietro alle mail di William c'è Sam, il suo sbandato coinquilino e presto Charlotte imparerà che l'amore è imprevedibile...

Il libro, nonostante il numero di pagine si presta a una lettura veloce e immediata, lo stile dell'autrice è quello tipico delle commedie romantiche: fresco, leggero e a tratti divertente.

La trama è ben sviluppata, anche se penso che potesse essere accorciata senza nulla togliere allo sviluppo della storia, infatti in alcune parti l'autrice si dilunga troppo o tende a ripetere le stesse cose. Per quanto riguarda i personaggi principali, mi sono piaciuti ma, forse ho apprezzato maggiormente tutti i personaggi secondari del romanzo, che danno un tono diverso alla storia e la rendono più frizzante!

"Niente è più vero di una bugia" è una lettura leggera e divertente, che ci insegna che non sempre l'amore arriva nel momento opportuno!

Tracey Jarvis says

I confess I'm getting a little jaded with the whole chick-lit genre, apart from Marian Keyes, so I wasn't sure how I'd feel about A Passionate Love Affair

Charley Lambert is a chronic over-achieving workaholic. Free time is anathema to her - every moment has to be filled with culturally enriching activities or exercise. She shares a flat with Sam, a womanising aspiring actor she has known since her university days and has a fabulously eccentric family to support her. When Charley breaks her leg in three places, sees her boss - subject of her embarrassing crush - propose to another woman, and has to hand her beloved job over to her odious deputy, she is bereft. Charley decided from her sick bed, that she'll start up a business helping hapless internet daters connect with each other. When one of her clients asks her to start e-mailing William on her behalf, Charley finds herself falling in love.

A Passionate Love Affair ... is a very easy read and is full of laughs. Lucy Robinson's characters are well rounded and highly believable and are also the type of people you would want to be friends with. I did enjoy it and tore through it at a very fast pace. Charley is by turns annoying and strangely vulnerable making you sympathise with her while simultaneously giving her a good shake.

However, the plot and situations are nothing new for the genre and it is obvious from the beginning who Charley would / should end up being with. If you are reading a chick lit novel, then you are probably not expecting the author to reinvent the literary wheel. But if you are looking for a fun read that will entertain and engage you, A Passionate Affair ... ticks all the boxes.

Sofija says

Laura Cunha says

<https://leiturasdelaura.blogspot.com/...>

Está chegando o final do ano e com ele aquele estresse para fechar as metas do ano em todos os campos, inclusive os livros. Daí a melhor coisa a fazer é ler coisas leves. Primeiro porque chega de estresse, segundo porque coisas leves terminam mais rápido e facilitam atingir a meta de leitura.

Como quem lê minhas resenhas já percebeu, adoro ler um livro estilo chicklit quando preciso espalhafatar. E agora em dezembro tem uma maratona internacional de romances chamada #smutathon, que claro, eu pretendo seguir, então resolvi fazer um esquema.

A *Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger* não foi lançado no Brasil, e provavelmente não vai ser tão cedo, visto que não é nenhum Best Seller. Mas é divertido toda vida de ler. Charley Lambert é diretora de comunicação de uma mega empresa farmacêutica e uma workaholic, até que ela sofre um acidente e precisa ficar parada em casa por semanas antes do próximo mega lançamento da sua empresa. Como boa workaholic ela inventa o que fazer e cria um pequeno negócio de ghost writer para mulheres com dificuldade de paquerar pela internet.

A história é boba, muito boba, e em tanto datada. Não é tão viável em dias de Tinder oferecer esse tipo de serviço, fora que a razão desse tipo de aplicativo hoje em dia não é exatamente o mesmo do início dos sites de encontros românticos. Mas isso não importa, porque o livro é engraçado.

Não tem todas as cenas picantes que eu esperava, infelizmente, mas ele compensa no humor. Tem umas questões que surgem de vez em quando de machismos estruturais meio escondidos, mas nada que grite na sua cara e faça você ter raiva do livro, o que é mais do que pode ser dito da maioria dos livros desse estilo hoje em dia, então ponto positivo.

Lucy Robinson não é uma autora genial, e *A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger* não é uma obra prima, mas a leitura é leve, divertida e rápida. Serve exatamente ao seu propósito, então, se você está procurando algo leve e divertido de ler essa é uma excelente opção.

Bookevin says

Review originally on I Heart.. Chick Lit.
www.iheart-chicklit.blogspot.com

I loved Lucy Robinson's debut novel, *The Greatest Love Story of All Time* as it was absolutely hilarious. I loved how Lucy could express her voice through her character, Fran - her writing voice is really good - tinged with sarcasm and irony. Her voice is fresh, new and really funny. I actually loved the profanities in the book, as they made the book utterly hilarious!

When I was offered a chance to review her next book, *A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger*, I was so thrilled! I mean, this is Lucy Robinson we're talking about! Writer by day, slacker by night. Crap talker, all the time! Sorry, but she's really amazing and she's the amazeballs. You got to love her.

What I thought about it:

A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger is in fact, a love story. Yes, as much as it makes you recoil in disgust at the thought of mushy kisses and passionate snogs. It's not that kind of love story. It is a more complex love story, because the blurb might mention that Charley is captivated by William, that's just ONE part of the book.

Initially, I thought the book will revolve around Charley winning over William, her desperate attempts to find The One and of course, kick arse at her job. Well, you'll be surprised that, in fact, this is just a few key parts of the book. A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger has a very expansive plot. Once you get reading, you'll find out that the book does have a proper message in it, which is, finding love through online dating but some people are not what they seem when you meet in the cyberworld.

I loved the heroine, Charley, a lot. Mainly because I would like to be so proficient and good at my job. But no one likes a workaholic, I'm sure. Sadly, she is one, she deals with her problems by working. Work, I mean, she's practically a machine, I tell you. She can't sit still, relax or even keep calm, even when she broke her leg, she constantly thinks about her job and the launch of a very *VERY* important drug. For me, Charley started off as a strong, "Amazon" lady, rising to six feet with killer legs. Lucy describes her as a stunning, tall lady but instead, ironically, carries herself as a lanky night stalker. Sorry, Lucy. You're cool with this, eh? But as the story progresses, Charley starts to realise what she really wants in life and that's a wonderful story to read. I adored her friend and housemate, Sam! He's such a wonderful male friend as he may seem scruffy and unruly but has a golden heart! He helped Charley during her recovery from her broken leg - cook for her, be there for her, support her. If only guys like him do exist.

The pace of the book was what I needed. It was fast, upbeat and well-planned. I was recovering from my broken heart after reading The First Last Kiss, so A Passionate Love Affair with a Total Stranger was a good distraction from mourning for the lost of a hero I loved so much. It was the perfect pick-me-up for me as it gave me the joyous boost, a reason to laugh and of course, enjoy what Lucy had to offer. It was mighty good and it reminded me why I loved Lucy's debut novel so much - nostalgia. Some parts of the novel made me cackling like an evil witch with a drinking problem and some parts made me want to give Charley a massive hug!

Verdict:

Overall, the book was a fantastic read. I loved it and managed to finish it in 2 days. I stayed up both nights and read it till the crack of dawn. That's how good it is! It was what modern women's fiction should be - funny, light, fluffy and can I say downright hilarious? Well, because the way Lucy writes, it is like she's sharing her anecdotes and persuade you to follow her characters' stories. I loved it as it was cleverly written and achingly funny, what else do you expect from a Marie Claire blogger?

Rating : 5/5

Kara-karina says

I love books like that! It's about transformation and finding what's important in life, it's sweet and funny, and it's inspirational. Charley Lambert is a scary workaholic, so when she breaks her leg and is forced to slow down, she starts falling apart and slowly realises that the life she worked so hard to achieve is a list of chores and doesn't really make her happy. She starts helping hopeless daters online, and accidentally falls in love herself through a series of letters. Thoroughly recommended, this is a true feel good summer read :)

