



## Air Kisses

*Zoë Foster Blake*

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## Air Kisses Zoë Foster Blake

If the devil wears Prada, then God wears La Mer.

Hannah Atkins - the girl most likely to be sporting unblended foundation, orange wrists or a wobbly trail of liquid eyeliner - has bluffed her way into the position of beauty editor at Gloss magazine. Just as she's carving a path into the shiny world of guerrilla air kisses, achingly hip PR campaigns and goodie-bag overload, she reads about her boyfriend and another girl in the gossip pages of the local rag. Then she gets dumped. By text.

Vowing to claw back some dignity and make her ex regret what he's done, Hannah adopts a manifesto of hardcore rules. Don't become best friends with the scary girls at work. Don't drink fourteen glasses of Moët & Chandon at PR launches. Don't go home with inappropriate men. And certainly don't get all besotted with your best friend's brother.

As her rules start to slip away, Hannah finds herself having to decide on more important things than just the perfect shade of lip gloss . . .

## Air Kisses Details

Date : Published August 1st 2009 by Penguin Australia

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Author : Zoë Foster Blake

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## From Reader Review Air Kisses for online ebook

### **fivethousandbooks says**

It's a pretty hefty book for such a shallow topic and I'm really amazed that I've finished it! Perfect if you want an airy-fairy beach read.

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### **Nicole Shires says**

I

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### **Emma says**

Fast and fun.

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### **Sarah says**

**3.9/5**

I also really enjoyed this book. I never knew I was in a chick-lit mood til I picked this up and devoured it!

*Air Kisses* is again, the typical chick-lit scene. Girl mid twenties trying to figure out her love life and career - which of course she is a journalist. Though Hannah is a beauty editor at a pretty high up magazine - Gloss.

I read this book a while ago so a tad fuzzy on specific details but basically we follow Hannah - IN SYDNEY AUSTRALIA - as she leads her new glamorous life of being a beauty editor and DAMN is it truly glamorous. It's all the perks of being a celebrity without the annoying fame and paparazzi. Honestly it was too fun of a lifestyle that I doubted its credibility in real life - ESPECIALLY in Australia! Do beauty editors really have such a party life? If so DAMN I WISH I LIKED MAKEUP.

Nonetheless it was fascinating reading about Hannah's crazy fun life with swooning hot guys and drama. It was so different to most books I've read - definitely not YA lol - but I loved it. Especially as I myself am figuring out my career I'm finding I love reading books where the character questions or even just discusses their job and career in depth. And that was Hannah - as her life was her job but not in the 'working in the office til midnight' but more party hard everyday and office for 3 hours after 6pm because I was too busy drinking away the daylight hours ON A FREE CRUISE! You know... normal everyday things.

I liked all the characters decently - a tad amount of bitchyness but still some pretty good girl-love that I loved, some good friendships.

Speaking of friendships I loved reading about Hannah and Iz - they are besties and super cute. I love jealousy in friendships especially when it is resolved nicely. When Hannah was jealous of Iz spending so much time

with her boyfriend and her final decision regarding said boyfriend - I loved it! petty me mwahah. But I also loved Hannah's (small) journey to acceptance.

The men. Damn Hannah had opportunities and I'm glad she took a few BUT I'm just confused regarding Jesse the initial boy. I read the blurb before reading the book where it says 'Hannah is dumped for the local TV weather girl' BUT had I not read that I wouldn't have thought that had happened at all. It's just weird. Jesse is mentioned in the beginning as Hannah's boyfriend who is always busy then she reads some article about him being cosy with the weather girl, so she calls and emails him to which he claims it isn't true they are just friends. He basically says she is overreacting and to chill - he is an idiot for that alone my friends. Alas, it continues until they talk and he does all the things and says all the stuff Iz said he would IF he were guilty, so Hannah goes nuts and he just is not bothered and leaves. Sigh. I know.

Reading all that I thought he hadn't cheated because he just seemed so calm and uncaring, but that his uncaring sense and how he treated his concerned girlfriend as a chore to answer made me think he didn't truly love her. Anyway she breaks up with him but NEVER CONFIRMED IF HE CHEATED ON HER OR NOT?! I'm assuming it was true because of the blurb but it's not like he officially got with the weather girl, he just was seen with a tonne of women. But then months later he suddenly is interested in Hannah again and she just ignores him and says 'yeah good riddance' BUT DID HE CHEAT WHAT HAPPENED?! Weird. I thought that was executed quite poorly.

Everything else was great tho - oh minus the ending - but besides that I enjoyed it all. I literally felt like I was reading some celebrity's life story. It was intense and my night time read because I could pretend I joined Hannah on her crazy drinking sexing fun. But also, not my scene because she is a beauty editor and I don't like makeup or care much about it anyway.

Interesting though, that despite me not caring about makeup and knowing zero about its application I found the makeup tips at the beginning interesting and loved reading about Hannah galling up and reviewing products. I just love learning about all things.

The ending. (view spoiler)

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### **Simone Strachan says**

I've loved reading Zoe's novels and although they are a light read they are just so enjoyable and I find myself unable to put them down. Air Kisses was no different- such a guilty pleasure and at times I found myself avoiding going out just so that I could read the book. I loved the concept that each chapter starts with an easy beauty tip. The story line is enjoyable and as a whole the book doesn't take itself too seriously. A great read with a dash of romance on the side.

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### **Pollypoptart says**

I don't understand why this has got so many bad reviews. I reeally enjoyed it, found it entertaining, easy to read and loved the characters. I definitely want to read more by Zoe!

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### **Kiana Carle says**

It was funny. I like Zoe Foster's humor plus it was an easy read and that's what I was looking for.

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### **Karen says**

Fun light girly read

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### **Leah says**

Hannah Atkins has somehow managed to bluff her way to beauty editor at Gloss magazine and can't believe her luck. Just as she's learning the ropes in her new job she reads in the gossip pages of a local paper that her boyfriend Jesse is cheating on her with a weather-girl. Things get worse when Hannah finds herself dumped. By text. Vowing to claw back some dignity and show Jesse what he's missing, Hannah vows to look and act fabulous 24/7 as well as steering clear of men who are unsuitable. As Hannah's vows fall to the wayside, it's time to decide whether love really is more important than lip-gloss.

I seem to be reading a lot of books based around the world of magazines recently – the book I read before Air Kisses was The Making of Mia by Ilana Fox (which magazine was also titled Gloss – what are the chances?) and after reading a fantastic review of Air Kisses I finally bought it for myself and decided to give it a read after reading the first page. I also follow Zoe on Twitter and she seems quite hilarious so I was really looking forward to a fantastic read.

When we first meet Hannah she's about to have her headshot done for the first issue she'll be appearing in in Gloss and she thinks she's going to have her hair and make up professionally done as well as being given some fab clothes. So it comes as rather a disappointment when Hannah heads up for her headshots to be taken to find out that, actually, nobody is really that bothered. After having some mediocre headshots taken we learn that Hannah really isn't like a regular beauty editor. She bluffed her way into her job for starters and hasn't really got a clue about what she's meant to be doing. Hannah then finds out about her boyfriend Jesse cheating on her with the weathergirl and after a lot of tears Hannah decides to make Jesse regret what he let go. Of course, nothing every works out as planned and Hannah not only ends up with Jesse potentially wanting her back, but she seems to have a trail of men after her!

I actually thought Air Kisses would be more like The Making of Mia/The Devil Wears Prada and Hannah would be the ugly duckling turned into a beautiful swan but Hannah wasn't like that at all – she seemed made to work as a beauty editor. Nor is the book any kind of expose on what it's like to work in the magazine world. Whereas The Making of Mia/The Devil Wears Prada make the magazine world look like the last place you'd ever want to work, Air Kisses makes it seem incredibly fun. Instead of everyone acting all high and mighty, most of them seemed quite nice. If I had more interest in make up and that kind of thing, I'd totally want to work at Gloss.

The book spends a lot of time discussing make up and cleansing creams and what products you should/shouldn't use and if you're not really into make up – I'm really not – then you should think twice before reading the book. Sure, it was interesting reading all of the helpful tips at the beginning of each chapter and reading of the excitement Hannah feels everytime she gets new packages full of fab new make up but for me, it didn't hold my interest as much as I'd have liked it to. Make up isn't something I spend a lot of time thinking about/using (kill me now?) so to jump into a book jam packed with it was very surreal. Who knew there were a) so many types of make up and b) people got so excited about it all! It was definitely an eye-opener into the world of make up and I feel very bad because I don't really care for it!

As far as characters go, I really liked Hannah. She didn't mope for the entire book about being dumped by Jessie (thank God) but instead she threw herself into work and what not in a bid to forget. She seemed incredibly nice – if a little out of her depth at first – and she's someone you could see yourself as friends with. Whenever I imagine a beauty editor, I imagine someone super skinny, with sharp angles and perfect hair and make up so Hannah was very refreshing to the stereotype. My favourite character though was Iz, Hannah's best friend. She was so so nice and I adored her throughout. Gabe is another friend of Hannah's – the obligatory gay friend – and I found him rather amusing. There were a few twists when it came to Hannah's love life and although I knew who she would probably end up with, I was surprised how some of them turned out. I didn't like Jesse. At all. He came across as full of himself and incredibly arrogant and I just didn't see what Hannah saw in him. I thought Truckie was incredibly sweet and I wish he had stuck around longer. Dan seemed perfect at first but he just goes to show that first impressions don't always count – do they? And finally there was Declan. I love that name. I thought he was fantastic. Zoe Foster has created some immensely likable characters and I adored most of them.

The writing is fairly simple and easy to speed through. I did think that I was getting bored with the book at first and I wondered if I would finish it but to my immense relief, the book picked up enormously and I forgot what it was that had me bored early doors. The book is told entirely from Hannah's point of view which absolutely works and I enjoyed Hannah's insights. Zoe Foster seems to have a very relatable writing style and I found myself easily whizzing through the book. The ending is a little ambiguous, which was a shame as I'd have liked an epilogue just to tie things up nicely but it also leaves room for a potential sequel. Or, you know, you could just make up your own mind unless you're lazy like me and like everything tied up in a neat bow exclaiming "This is how it ends".

Air Kisses is fairly light weight but if it's escapism you're looking for then this is the book for you. It surprised me – after all I read lots of good reviews of lots of books and it doesn't mean a thing, really – and once I got into it, I found myself really enjoying the book. Anybody who loves make up will undoubtedly love all of the tips and name drops in the book and will adore the book itself. It seems Zoe Foster has written a second fiction novel about WAGs – which I adore!! – so I wonder if that will be published in the UK? (It's only out in Australia which sucks for me) I for one would buy it and I urge you to pick this one up!

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### **Bettina says**

I always like Zoe's books, but I felt like this one ended a little abruptly. Did Hannah and Dec end up together in the end?... A great read though like all of Zoe's other books

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### **Alice21 says**

An easy and enjoyable read with a happy ending

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### **Felicity Gimson says**

Easy to read romance. I would have liked Dec and Hannah to get together a lot sooner. I found the relationship dramas of Han carried on a bit too long.

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### **Tania says**

Is love really more important than lip gloss? Hannah Atkins - the girl most likely to be sporting streaky fake tan and a wobbly trail of liquid eyeliner - has bluffed her way into the position of beauty editor at Gloss magazine. Just as she's carving a path into the gorgeous world of guerrilla air kisses, she reads about her boyfriend and another girl in the gossip pages of the local newspaper. Then she gets dumped. By text.

Vowing to claw back some dignity and make her ex regret what he's done, Hannah adopts some hard core rules - look fabulous, steer clear of unsuitable men. But as her resolution starts to slip away, she finds herself having to decide on more important things than the perfect mascara....

My preconceived notion of what this book would be like was that there would be a love interest come into Hannah's life, heal her broken heart and prove to her that love still exists and that her ex is a plonker. This did not happen. The story is focused on Hannah and her sorting her life out for her and finding ways to be happy that doesn't revolve around a man. It's about her finding where she fits in at her new job, carving her own little place in the world and discovering who she is for herself. I found this to be a refreshing approach (though I still secretly hoped for a hunky man to sweep Hannah off her feet) as so many novels have romances and have the love interest as the defining point in the heroine's life. At the start Hannah is a girl who is fumbling about in a job she's not sure she deserves or can do and has a boyfriend she discovers has been cheating on her, as book progresses we see her gain confidence within herself and realise that yes she can actually do the job and do it well.

Another little quirky point of difference which makes Air Kisses stand out is each chapter is headed up with a beauty tip which coincides with the title of the chapter and the theme running through it.

Overall, even though I was slightly hoping for a bit of a romance, I really enjoyed this book, it was quirky, sweet, intelligence and I really found myself rooting for Hannah and feeling all the emotions she rode on her own personal emotional roller coaster.

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### **Hannah Louey says**

Zoe Foster is one of my favourite chick lit authors – and not just because she has an adorable baby and is married to the hilarious Hamish Blake (which means that in real life she must also have a wicked sense of humour). So while I've read her newer stuff, I thought I'd delve into the ol' Zoe Foster archives and try out

her very first novel, Air Kisses.

Told from the perspective of Hannah (love when characters have the same name as me), a newly hired beauty editor who has no idea about makeup, Air Kisses is an inside look at the magazine world and all of the drama that comes with it. When Hannah discovers her boyfriend of five years is cheating on her, she throws herself into work – not only will she master liquid eyeliner and look fabulous all the time, but she'll also manage to turn a career into it.

Of course, being a delicious light and fluffy chick lit, Air Kisses has not one, not two, but THREE suitably cute boys for Hannah to begin flings with. After all, what man can resist perfectly applied lipgloss?

The premise of Air Kisses unfortunately had all the makings of a terrible chick lit novel, and while I would love to tell you that Zoe Foster managed to rise above them all, sadly that was not the case. The biggest issue I had with this novel was that it utterly lacked any substance at all. While I realise that seems a tad unfair considering we are dealing with a chick lit about a girl who works as a beauty editor, please hear me out. What was missing in Air Kisses was any conflict. While Hannah definitely had issues in her life – terrible ex-boyfriend, terrifying new job, inability to apply winged eyeliner etc etc – they all either went away or were resolved rather simply. For example, considering the premise of the novel is that Hannah is useless at applying makeup, it becomes a non-issue in the novel from about page five. And while there is a bit of bitchy bitchy amongst her colleagues, that too doesn't really become a major issue, but rather the type of thing you'd mention to a friend over lunch. And lastly, while there are multiple romances in this novel, none of them were gratifying enough or, for that matter, realistic enough. While each fit into their stereotype a little too easily, each of the males were competing for page space, so to speak, and since they weren't getting enough (it's hard to fit three male leads into a 300-page novel), all three ended up a bit two-dimensional.

The other big issue I had with this novel was that there lacked any sense of sister solidarity. By 'sister solidarity' I mean the type of friendship that we all aspire to have, and which, let's be honest, is why so many of us go back time and again to watch re-runs of Sex and the City (because to be frank, Mr Big is a bit blah). While Hannah does have a best friend, Izzy, and she makes girlfriends in her new job, all of them seemed, well, a bit shit. It just blew my mind that her best friend of many, many years would tell her that she should go on another date with her sleazy, cheating, useless ex-boyfriend because 'what if he is The One'. Now, I know everyone's friendships are different, but the friends I have would make sure that I didn't go ten feet near a guy who treated me that badly...unless it was to egg his car. Fictional it may be, but I can't condone a friendship that encourages woman to continue to be used and not viewed for her worth (I am woman, hear me roar etc).

I don't want to be too harsh on Zoe Foster, because I really love her later novels (she even read one of my reviews!), but unfortunately Air Kisses fell a bit short. Thankfully, I think that Zoe has really grown as a writer since this one was written, and so I'd recommend trying some of those before picking up this one!

<https://setinmotion1.wordpress.com/>

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### **Laura Hughes says**

If you're after a good girly book that will make you laugh (and potentially cry) this is it. Meet Hannah - she is the new Beauty editor at Gloss, dating a wonderful TV presenter. Basically she's living the life (lip glosses arriving on the daily who could hate that?!). But when her boyfriend dumps her out of the blue, she's sent

into a spiralling journey of finding love again. With whirlwind romances, heartbreak and a lot of beauty products, this book won me over instantly (I mean it's basically all of my favourite things...minus the heartbreak of course). Zoe Foster Blake is one of my favourite authors and this is another brilliant book by her!

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