



Dream On

Terry Tyler

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Dave Bentley was born to be a rock star.

He's a reincarnated Viking warrior, too...

When Dave forms his new band, Thor, there are plenty of sleepless nights for Janice, his on-off girlfriend and mother of his son. Not only must she deal with the thrills and spills of life as a hardworking single mum, but also the imminent return of singer-songwriter Ariel Swan, Dave's one true love.

Poor Janice. Dave is still the love of her life.

Ariel Swan returns to small town life - and Dave's heart.

She and her friend Melodie (whose ambition is to be "a celebrity") enter a TV talent competition, so Dave and the rest of Thor decide to make the most of the opportunity for possible fame and fortune, too. This adventure brings about big changes in the lives of all of them - none of which Dave could have anticipated.

One member of Thor even ends up on The Jeremy Kyle Show...

Dream On Details

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From Reader Review Dream On for online ebook

C.L.R. Dougherty says

Dream On is the second of Terry Tyler's books that I've read, and I already have her other two loaded in my Kindle. She's a competent writer with an easy, engaging style. Her characters remind you of people that you know; you wouldn't be surprised to find any of them living down the street. Ms. Tyler has a gift for weaving the dreams and everyday frustrations of regular people into spellbinding tales, and that's exactly what she does in Dream On.

Dave Bentley is a has-been local rock musician who sees an opportunity to make the big-time, but he's torn between chasing his dream and behaving like a responsible adult. His situation is exacerbated by his attachment to his young son, Harley, whose mother has kicked Dave out in hopes of getting him to deal with reality as she perceives it. Ms. Tyler tells the story with pathos leavened with just the right amount of irony. Although the premise of the story is serious, some of the characters' antics had me laughing out loud. Read it; you won't regret it.

Julia says

Really funny! I did enjoy the trials and tribulations of the band trying to 'make it', particularly the banter between the guys and the TV talent show; also the 'creative workshop', which kind of made me cringe, having been dragged to attend such events, and the daffy Melodie and her attempts to become a celebrity.

Mind you, there were some bits I could really identify with as well, in particular the single mum and her struggles, and the unrequited love on different sides. The scenes with the grandma were very well-written, and so sad.

All in all, I pretty much read this book in one go, and had a good laugh at the Jeremy Kyle scene near the end. I felt as if I knew the characters, cared what happened to them, and was sorry to say goodbye to them. Recommended.

Zoe Saadia says

Two weeks in a British movie

I had a wonderful time reading "Dream On". Every time I had to put this book down (when the life interfered), the characters were still with me - so believable, so down to earth, so alive. I felt like watching a good British movie. I could just hear the characters speaking with this beautiful British accent :-)

"Dream On" is a fast-paced contemporary drama and it's beautifully presented. The dialogs of the characters were deliciously real. As were their feeling, their reactions to all sort of situations. I could relate to their feeling - their hopes, their frustration, their love infatuations. When they were going through the TV show selections I was holding my breath along with them. It even surprised me that I felt this way. It wasn't me waiting for the results, still I sat on the edge of my seat, nervous that they won't get through each time.

All in all, "Dream On" is a great read, good for just anyone, no matter what genre you prefer (I'm not reading contemporary fiction at all, still I'm planning now to read the other books of this author).

Dawn Peers says

Ever since discovering Tyler on the Twittersphere, I've been a firm fan of her work and was delighted when I heard another book was being released.

Dream On takes a different narrative format to her previous works, but is still enjoyably readable and from the very first page the story simply flows.

In a modern society obsessed with celebrity and the fame that is attached to success, Dream On follows the aspirations of the daydreamer Dave and his friends as they try to become a musical sensation. Tyler's work also delves in to the emotions attached to the cost of the search for fame.

All of the characters are well crafted and believable, with the scenes themselves crafted in a way that sits you there along with all the chatter and the music. I wish my own local was this eventful! There are lost daydreamers, deluded self-worshippers, loveable rogues and downright oddballs. Dream On has it all with aplomb, and is once more in Tyler's effortlessly good style.

My only criticism would be that I would have liked more to read - but that's the problem when a book is too good to put down! A recommended read - why haven't you bought it already?

Brian Deegan says

This was My second Terry Tyler book and I have to say I am really enjoying her style of writing. They are not my normal kind of books (I am more your post apocalyptic kinda guy) but it was like a peek into other peoples life.. And lets face it there are bits of Dave and Shane in us all. Maybe I wouldn't go on Jeremy Kyle but I did live in Spalding when I was a Kid :)

Jenny Twist says

Dave Bentley woke up in the early hours with the idea for the perfect band. He would call it THOR and they would all dress up as Vikings. He wrote songs about leaving the homeland and venturing to sea. He was so good at it he began to suspect that he was, in fact, the reincarnation of a Viking warrior. Not that he told anyone else that. He didn't want people to think he was barking mad. His life was complicated enough as it was.

His wife, Janice, had thrown him out and he was desperately trying to get her to take him back. But then Alison Swan walked back into his life. Alison, his erstwhile lover whom he had never completely got over. And his life was plunged once again into chaos.

I love Terry Tyler's books. I was hooked when I read 'You Wish', one of the best first novels I ever read. I love her writing style – fluent, grammatically perfect (so unusual these days) and so easy to read. Her characters live and breathe and she is able to perfectly describe the confusion and mess that so many of us

get into.
Read it. Read all her books. You won't be disappointed.

Dianne says

Sometimes it's your dreams that keep you going and moving ahead in life. Dave has always had the heart of a rockstar, but so far, nothing. It isn't that he can't sing, write songs or play a guitar, or that his mates aren't talented musicians themselves, they just need to find their stride, their niche and the fans will be falling at their feet, right?...Then it came to him, Thor, the perfect name, the perfect attitude and once again, they are on their way to fulfilling a dream, but do they have what it takes to make it?

DREAM ON by Terry Tyler is an adorable, humorous and heart-warming tale of a group of musicians, entangled in romances, fear of closeness and always searching for the elusive dream, on stage or between the sheets. It is a tale of responsibilities, love, true caring and growing apart, reunions, re-kindled love and the chaos of being young while reaching for the stars.

What they will unexpectedly discover is that sometimes the dream you thought you wanted isn't what you truly need and just maybe the reality before you isn't as bad as it seems. The thrill of the spotlights, the crowds and the madness will grow old, but the memories will remain. But sometimes the faces will change as people come in and out of your life, leaving you forever changed.

Enjoy the crazy ride of life in the world of wannabe rockstars, singers and entertainers where few actually make it, but the journey is quite a trip! Ms. Tyler has done a marvelous job of creating a world where sometime sit seems as if you are in Never Never Land and everyone is Peter Pan at heart!

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Helen Christmas says

Recently, I've tried out several genres, from dystopian science fiction, to historic sagas and fantasy, but this book was like a breath of fresh air! No make-believe creatures or futuristic dictators - just real people; salt of the earth ordinary characters and in an authentic British setting, which I could instantly relate to. This novel was a light, easy and entertaining read throughout, with a story which kept me turning the pages. I loved it.

Ms Tyler captures the era of modern life beautifully and in a style which I found thoroughly absorbing. It was witty and heart warming at the same time. In fact, I cannot think of any novel which has made me laugh quite so much, since the last Jilly Cooper. It is the story of an aspiring young man, named Dave, captured in

the dream of being a famous rock star. Dave, convinced he is a reincarnated Viking (and his motley crew of mates) have started a rock band, called Thor. Like an overgrown teenager, who refuses to grow up, Dave sadly neglects the needs of his girlfriend, Janice and their little boy - and she consequentially chucks him out. Yet, it's not long before Dave stumbles across a glamorous ex (Alison/Ariel) and as fellow musicians, the two are understandably captured in a passionate romance.

But nothing rocks their world quite so much as the notion of entering a TV talent show and as they stumble through the various gigs and auditions, encountering the pitfalls of rivalry and insecurity, it seems that not one of them is quite prepared for the rocky road ahead. The story does not end quite as one would expect - which again, makes this a truly original and unpredictable story, (as opposed to the usual 'fairy tale' ending.) What I also liked, was the way the author was so in-tune with her characters' emotions; with a blend of story lines which are both happy and sad, in a manner which truly reflects the ups and downs of every day modern life. Lastly, I loved the references to those aspects of the 'noughties' that exist all around us; from celebrity gossip mags to reality TV shows, which at times, I found hilarious. Yet, this book was also a reality check for those who seek fame in the entertainment industry - those little clues, which suggest 'the universe is guiding them' towards some 'calling in life', I could definitely relate too. This is one book I shall certainly be recommending. A must read!

Kristal & Charmaine says

I'm a rock chick at heart...Ask BBH, she knows my deal. So I've read a few 'rock' inspired books. Various storylines and characters. Contemporary fiction type reads. I enjoyed most of them. And I really enjoyed this one. Dream On intertwines (British) rock music, romance and the normal everyday trials and tribulations we all could face. It was the (very well thought-out) inclusion of 'everyday life' that made this book feel really 'human' to me. The earnest face of trying to make it in today's world, with the term 'making it' having very different meanings to the various characters. But don't for a second that the 'everyday' setting makes it boring, because it really doesn't. So, firstly let me set the scene with this excerpt from band mate Ritchie...

"I've said it before, I know, and I'll say it again; one minute you're sauntering along, happy as Larry; you've got a gig that night, money in your wallet and some little darling in the audience who's only got eyes for you, and the next day you wake up next to a woman you don't recognise who's put on five stone, wears pyjamas to bed so you won't get any ideas, thinks more of the kids than she does of you, and wants you to pack in your music and get some shit boring job so that you can pay for her to sit on her arse and watch Jeremy Kyle all day. I've seen it happen over and over again."

This had me cracking up! You gotta love it!

One aspect that kept the book flowing was that we had a few main characters heading up their various stories and parts in the overall story. I loved that these characters didn't just sound like they had the same voice with a different name. They all had substance. They all were real. They all had quirks, mannerisms and back stories that really came across when it was their turn to be focused on. By doing this, Terry Tyler manages to cover a lot of ground but it doesn't get confusing or jumpy. It makes the reader feel like we are part of their world, part of their gang, that we are drinking at the pub and living it with them.

My BBH and I do read the odd entertainment blog, so we get the concept of 'celebrity' so I really enjoyed reading a book that touched on today's obsession with people getting their '15' minutes of fame and how the entertainment industry works the way it does. About how music shows aren't purely about musical talent. That 'looks' do matter. That the role of social media can't be underestimated. That to the world, entertainment value is everything. That there are a lot of people in competition for an opportunity. I thought

this book captured all of this really well, giving you a peek into what you can imagine it would be like for contestants behind the 1 hour televised contest show installment some people watch on Sunday nights.

I don't want to give too much away about this book; I want you to read it for yourself. If you like a good contemporary fiction read you'll really enjoy this; I guess the theme that keeps coming through in this review is that it's relatable. It's real and engaging. You can hear the music, smell the beer and feel the emotions. It was a cool read and I'll be reading the follow up, Full Circle, for sure because I'm not quite ready to say goodbye to these guys!

Jack says

A Twitter friend recommended Tyler's books to me and, after a bit of deliberation, I decided to try Dream On first.

What a fantastic read! Having spent a large proportion of my formative years playing guitar in a small-time band, I immediately identified with Dave's lusting over Gibson Les Paul's and daydreams of playing Wembley arena. The grimy (and often far from glamorous) side of the music industry is also portrayed perfectly and the pressures of 'real' life versus musical ambition is also an enthralling theme.

Of course, this isn't just a novel for wannabe rockers, the characters are written superbly and there will almost certainly be at least one any reader can identify with. The book also has some excellent funny moments too; so often comedy in books falls short of the mark but not here.

Overall, a brilliant read - give it a try, you won't be sorry you did!

Cathy Ryan says

4.5 stars

I've read several of Terry Tyler's books and enjoyed them all. This was no exception. Filled with believable, true to life, substantial characters and a convincing storyline, Dream On follows the fortunes of Dave Bentley, an aspiring rock star and creator of the band, Thor. The band members, the banter between them and their desire for success is represented extremely convincingly. Dave is talented and basically a nice guy but the pull has always been the band and his music, and although his young son means a lot to him, Dave has to follow his dream....and Ariel.

When Dave's ex girlfriend, Ariel Swan comes back to town it spells the beginning of the end for Dave and his girlfriend, Janice. Ariel is also on the fame trail as a singer/songwriter. Her friend, Melodie, who wants to make a career out of being a celebrity, hears of Raw Talent, a TV contest to find the hottest new musical act, and persuades them all to enter. The behind the scenes look at the talent show is a revelation; despite the name talent isn't always the deciding factor. The outcome is surprising and impacts upon them all, changing their lives in ways they never would have imagined.

The complicated relationships and characterisations are dealt with extremely well and sensitively, as is the moving story of Janice's grandmother, who is suffering from Alzheimer's. I enjoyed the way Janice's story unfolds and Max is a loveable character. Dave and the band, Ariel and Melodie could be people living in any town, struggling to succeed, and living everyday lives while working and hoping for that big break. The

obstacles they face and the way they're dealt with is completely representative and authentic.

Understanding and insight, the ability to really get inside the characters' heads and their emotions lends total realism as the story develops. Written with warmth, wit and humour and perfectly portraying modern life. From the pros and cons of social media and how it can get out of hand, to the obsession with 'celebrity' and the search for stardom, it's a story of choices, new loves, friendships, hopes and disappointments; the complications and substance of real life.

A great storyline, dialogue and perfect character development plus an unpredictable ending. Off I go to download the sequel.

K J Bennett says

OK, I'm a bloke, I do do this romance stuff, ordinarily.

This isn't ordinary.

I bought this book on Kindle after an exchange of Tweets with the author on Twitter. I shall not repeat here what was Tweeted. I was not actually expecting to enjoy it - Terry Tyler is a romantic novelist, after all. I was very much mistaken.

The prose is a joy to read. Ms Tyler gradually sucks the reader into the world of would-be rock star Dave Bentley - the man who never really grew up. It is, primarily, his story, but we also follow several others' paths to fame, fortune and misfortune. I've read other reviews where it is said there are laugh out loud moments: I found only one, as I found most of the humour to be gentle; it often brought a smile to my face on the London Underground. (I apologise to the attractive young lady who sat opposite me today and who thought I was leering at her, by the way.)

All I can say is that Terry Tyler is a damned fine writer and this is a damned fine book. Although very different, it reminded of the film 'Love Actually' in the way the different threads of romance and mishap are woven together.

Go on chaps: give it a go.

Geoffrey West says

Fulfilling, funny, heart-warming and true to life

Dream On is not a book I'd normally read, but I'm truly glad I did. It isn't chick lit, it isn't a saga, it isn't comedy, it isn't a 'be true to your principles and you'll be rewarded' novel, it isn't even a love story, it's a combination of all these things and more. You're drawn into the narrative because you like the people, and Terry Tyler must be wise beyond her years to recognise the absolute truths behind human motivations and emotions. In a similar way to how Tony Parsons portrays family life (though he writes from the perspective of a man) Terry Tyler can outline a person's predicament, set forth seemingly insoluble problems for her characters, but, just as in life, solutions arrive of their own accord, often in the most surprising ways. The novel sums up the injustices we all face, the dichotomy of struggling with prosaic aspects of life when you're trying to follow your dream. But most importantly of all she can make her characters step right off the page

into your mind.

I liked one of the protagonists, Dave, particularly – always aiming for his dream of musical success, talented, clever, yet torn between paternal love and mundane responsibilities, with the prospect of future golden possibilities, his choice made all the more daunting when the reappearance of the love of his life, beautiful talented Ariel Swan, seems to promise him a golden future. I also liked Janice, the lovely long-suffering mother of his son Harley, and I very much liked Max – I won't say who he is, you'll have to read the book to find out.

All kinds of things are touched on in this book: the gritty underbelly of the music business, social media, its uses, abuses and drawbacks, the glamour and misery of TV talent shows, and the dreadful injustices of life, where the most unlikely people are rewarded and the most laudable, well intentioned, or highly talented folk so often remain unsung heroes. However the strength in this book is the likeable characters, who stay with you long after the book is finished. And like all good books, you wonder what will happen to them afterwards, and ponder on how, if they'd made other life choices, their futures would probably have led in other directions. Heartbreaking in some parts, I was especially struck by the the cruelty of these stark choices: do you follow your dream, or do you face up to the responsibilities of the here and now? The book is quite sexy in some parts too, but not overtly erotic, just realistic.

All in all it's very easy reading because the characters are nice to get to know, to understand and most of all, to like. If all Terry Tyler's books are as good as this one, I'll have to read them.

Susan Buchanan says

I had read Ms Tyler's other books and enjoyed them all, so was awaiting this release, which I devoured in a day and a half. Not knowing anything about rock music, initially I was a little concerned that I might not enjoy it as much as the other three books. I need not have worried. After a bit of scene setting and introducing the band, we swiftly engage with single mother, Janice, who I really felt for throughout the book. I'm sure we have all seen this chain of events happen over and over in real life.

The author once again delivers realistic characters, with real depth, which we can't help but like. Even those we want to rap over the head and knock some sense into, we can't feel too mad at them for long. I am not a fan of reality TV shows, but in the same way as Ben Elton sent up some of the early shows, Terry Tyler does this in Dream On. The collection of weirdos that come out of the woodwork ((namely bodhran playing Glynis) as well as those who genuinely want to make their living from music, rounded off by the barely talented, Melodie, made me laugh. So, whether you love or hate reality TV shows, you will love this book! I also liked the life lessons learned by more than one of the characters, as well as secondary characters like Max and Harley, too, was a sweetie. The very touching scenes about a relative with dementia were particularly well portrayed and accurate.

I could imagine the pub scene, certain characters barely getting a round of applause, others getting totally lost in their dreams, to the exclusion of all else, even when it was to their detriment. We've all met people like that, whether rock stars or another pipe dream.

Dave, the male protagonist was lovely, but needed a talking to. And Shane, he needed neutered! Ritchie just needed to stop waffling!

The bottom line is a very funny book, with warm, real characters that you might bump into down your local.

Clive Mullis says

Dream On is the first Terry Tyler book I've read, and I must say I enjoyed it immensely.

The story revolves around a group of friends who aspire to greater things, but as we know, things don't always go to plan.

The story centres on Dave, and his tangled private life, as he tries to hit the big time with his rock band Thor. Dave is fundamentally a nice guy, though his heart is pulled in two different directions....what he should do, and what he wants to do. The background to this is his band, and its attempts at achieving stardom.

Janice is his long suffering girlfriend and the mother of his child; but her nemesis, in the shape of Dave's beautiful ex-girlfriend, arrives back in town....Ariel Swan also harbours a desire to succeed in the music business.

What follows is a wry look into the lives of these people, and their dreams. The premise is a simple one, but that doesn't mean that it's a simple story; it is also a social commentary on the modern day phenomenon of celebrity, and the many persons' aspirations to achieve those great heights with little discernible talent.

Written in a good paced free flowing style, the story jogs along nicely. Humour is interlaced throughout, and you find yourself often grinning as the characters develop and the story progresses. The journey takes us through the early gigs of the band, the wrangled personal lives of those involved, and the decision to enter an X-factor style talent competition....there is even a brief dip into the Jeremy Kyle show.

All in all, this is a book that could be termed "a rattling good read". Chic-lit it's not, it's quite simply a well crafted novel, and I would recommend it to anyone who simply enjoys reading for pleasure.
