



Second Chances

Melanie Jacobson

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After walking out of a thankless job at a prestigious marketing firm, feisty California entrepreneur Louisa Gibson is going into business for herself. Lou's pioneering venture, The Mormon Bachelor, is a reality dating web series sure to be fabulous advertising for her new marketing firm. And as a bonus, she can solve a problem close to home: while Huntington Beach is crawling with eligible, sun-bronzed Saints, they've forgotten the vital skill of dating. Lou hopes the reality show will finally inspire this group of hangout enthusiasts to pair off. But shortly before filming begins, the unthinkable happens—Trentyn, a.k.a. The Bachelor, gets a girlfriend. And Lou needs a new leading man—fast.

Enter Nick, Lou's devastatingly handsome ex-boy-friend. He's the stereotypical actor: shallow, self-serving . . . and perfect for the job. A whirlwind of dating ensues, with Nick at the center of it all. Things are going according to plan—that is, until Lou is forced to step in as a substitute bachelorette, becoming an unwitting cast member on her own show. Despite Nick's attempts to reestablish their friendship and the growing spark between them, Lou is determined to keep her distance. The show must go on—but what's a girl to do when the Mr. Wrong of the past just may be the Mr. Right of the future?

Second Chances Details

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From Reader Review Second Chances for online ebook

Arika says

Right from the start I knew Louisa and Nick were going to get back together. But I waited it out and finally finished it. And it happened! I loved this book so much.

Valerie Waters says

Ahhhh what a great book!!! I love this author! She writes great feel good romances. I felt so sad for Lou but I LOVED the twist. And Nick!!! Ahhhh so good!!

Emily Morris says

I struggled with a rating for this one. I did not particularly enjoy the story, but it was decently presented and I couldn't help but think it would appeal to many others. So I leave it at 3 stars despite the fact reading this became a chore.

Lou is a young woman with marketing skills trying to drum up her own business. Irritated by the lack of proper dating among the LDS singles of the L.A. area, she creates a web series "The Mormon Bachelor" (just what it sounds like) in order to pull in clients for advertizing. A last-minute relationship leads Lou to using her ex-boyfriend Nick as the Bachelor, and emotions start popping up...

It sounded cute enough, and it is, but I felt so much of the story was bogged down down by the details of Lou's business as she looks for clients and monitors comments and whatnot. Though the writing is fresh and lively, I felt very little characterization.

For me, the book epitomized the situation of that area's single Saints a little too much: lots of work, lots of show, and too little of that emotional stuff Lou was complaining about. Ironic.

Frankly, I didn't get interested in the plot until 2/3 of the way.

Still, the basic plot itself is cute and I did enjoy the writing. Well-presented, just probably not for me.

Melanie Jacobson says

This one is so fun, guys. I mean . . . I hope it is! It takes readers back to Huntington Beach for a little peek into what happens in Matt and Ashley's (from The List) happily ever after as the readers get to know Matt's sister, Lou, even better on her crazy road to love. With a smokin' hot guy, of course.

Susan K says

Romance, LDS, Christian (although light)

Have loved all of the nuances in MJ writing. Even though the HEA isn't sure until the very last pages, there are such subtle hints. Watching Lou fall again, and realize that she is so unsure what will happen, fighting her feelings all the way, makes for such a sweet and fun ending. Seeing all of Lou's struggles as she fights the growing awareness she has of her love for her ex-boyfriend, her and her self-awareness of all of her short-comings and weaknesses, gently shown her by her family, friends, and herself as she is analyzing her relationship with Nick, and watches his reactions and dates with the other women he dates on TMB is heart-wrenching, poignant and funny as she stumbles through and reaches success in many areas, not just love. The journey from business success, to romantic success is a fun, sweet ride. Love any of MJ books! This is second or third read for me, not sure why I didn't post a review!

JR says

I have to start this review out by saying, "Boy do my eyes hurt right now!" Why do they hurt you ask? Because I couldn't put this book down and had to finish it before going to bed tonight. Hopefully my eyes will feel better tomorrow.

Anyway, on with my review. I really enjoyed this book. I am guilty of being a fan of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette", so it was fun to read a book sorta based on the series. I think I'll have to look up the real Mormon Bachelor web-series sometime.

This book was fun. I liked the chemistry between the characters. It did seem to drag a bit in the middle. I wasn't as interested in all the different dates that Nick went on and so I wished to skip over some of that and get onto Nick and Louisa's interactions.

This is a LDS Romance. But for those who are worried, its not preachy at all... So I'd even recommend it to non-LDS people.

Great book and I'll be reading more from Melanie Jacobson in the future.

Katie W says

I've said this before and I'll say it again: There's something about competition dating that is so fascinating to me, yet I don't watch The Bachelor. Maybe I should? I really liked this one because everyone had standards and it was done in a very nice way. In some of the others I've read, the contestants are sooo mean to each other, but this one showed maturity and kindness, which was very refreshing to me.

Nick is Louisa's ex-boyfriend, but when the real Mormon Bachelor suddenly finds love just before this web show starts, she's desperate to find a replacement and asks Nick for the favor. Lou is a very organized, almost OCD, person who learns some very important lessons along the way. Nick is great!! He had so many opportunities to bash the girls or to sabotage the show, yet he proved he is a true gentleman and acted in a very mature way. He went through some crazy dates and situations and handled it all very well.

I really enjoy this type of book because it's fun, clean, and not preachy, yet religion is mentioned a little.

Content: clean.

Amy says

A book about reality TV? Ugh. So I fought that reaction the entire time.

I found the female lead challenging to like, she came off a bit mean-girl in that fake-nice way some Relief Society ladies pull out when your best effort doesn't meet their standard. I don't think I would have ever gotten an invite to her Sunday dinner. I started to like the male lead for his efforts at kindness but when he began to seem manipulative (even for good reasons-ish) all the heartache of the last chapters still couldn't convince me they were ready for a happy ending with each other. No warm fuzzies from the final pages although the ending was "happy". A lot of this book seemed very shallow with so much emphasis on appearances, status, wealth, and social standing.

No violence, no sex, no swearing

Sheridan says

I read Melanie's book today and enjoyed every minute. It makes me happy to not be in dating world anymore. :) But so glad to have a nice clean romance to read and take me away from the reality that is my life.

Erika B. (SOS BOOKS) says

This was cute and cheesy and will please anyone who loves the TV show "The Bachelor". My one complaint that I'm issuing to all Mormon romance authors is could we please every now and then have an epilogue?! Another chapter perhaps? It always ends like, for example, if Prince Charming kissed Snow White and she woke up and we faded to black! I want the ride off into the sunset scene! Give me happily ever after and we'll live happily ever after as reader and writer! :-)

Tausha says

This was a really fun book. :) I have never seen the tv show the bachelor but know enough about it to enjoy the mormon spin off of it. My heart went to Lou...what a tough situation for her to have to share her man! Ugh! Fun, clean, read with a wonderful happily ever after!

Jacob Proffitt says

I'm a sucker for second-chance romances and, as the title gives away, this is one such. And it was a great deal of fun, though the second chance was rather deflected for most of the story.

I liked Louisa right from the start and Nick was even better. And though the premise of the story was a bit shaky, I still enjoyed it as a frame for Nick and Lou to interact at enough remove to let them rebuild the friendship they once had. I loved how they interacted and how Lou came to get to know him almost anew from the man she had dumped three years before. Indeed, getting to know Nick through her perception was the best part of the book. And yeah, in retrospect he may have been a bit too perfect, but mostly in how well-tailored he was to the woman he loves and I find I don't mind that at all.

This was a solid four stars throughout. I'd have been tempted to go higher except for the rather awkward

integration of the past relationship into the present. Mainly it was a bit over-expositiony and I thought Lou should have been a bit quicker on discerning the differences between present Nick and the guy she left (however reluctantly). The final reveal was a little too well-orchestrated, too, but since Jacobson worked a HEA for Molly in while she was at it, I find I didn't mind.

A note about LDS: As with previous Jacobson novels, this is heavily Mormon. More than the rest, this one depends on cultural identifiers and details of uniquely-Mormon spirituality markers as part of its plot. At a minimum, this will confuse non-LDS readers in key aspects, though I'm sure a determined reader will get through if they persevere.

Sharon says

This is the second time I've read this book. I have to say I love it still. If you want to read a "Jane Austen Persuasionesque" book then this is a great one! I love the characters in this book. I have to say I not really a fan of "The Bachelor" and very few of these books grab my attention. This is one of the few exceptions!! I love Melani Jacobson's writing. I gave this book the five stars I think it earned. It's story line is fun and complicated just like Lou's life. I am a story in the narrative kind of gal but I like the perspective of this story and it works not to know what's going on in everybody's mind, just Louisa's. Nick is a wonderful character also. I like the way they mesh together. Even though this is my second time through I wondered how it was all going to work out.

Thanks Melanie for another great read!!!

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I really liked this one. I've found a few "reality dating" books lately that have been a lot of fun. I love watching The Bachelor and its fun to read more of the behind the scenes action. I liked our leading characters, Nick and Louisa. They had fun chemistry together. I admit, there were times I wondered what Nick's motivations were, but I knew this is a HEA type book and was looking forward to seeing how things were going to work out for the two of them. Both really had to make some changes for things to work out between them this time around.

I did think twenty-one girls was a bit much. I think he should have had to date a smaller number of women. I also was confused why they only "aired" about five minutes of each date. I don't think that would be enough time to really show any of the date or conversations. That five minutes would take up all the mid-date and end-of-date interviews. I think for a web show at least twenty minutes would have made a little more sense. At least to me. There were a few other minor things, but overall I thought it was really enjoyable. It kept me reading and when I did have to put it down to take care of kids, I was always eager to get back to it. Will definitely be a re-read for me.

Julie says

Second Chances by Melanie Jacobson starts out with two businesswomen/roommates who are trying to start a web version of The Bachelor but with a twist---it's a Mormon bachelor and it's to help jump-start the dating

scene in Huntington Beach and launch her marketing company. Louisa, the owner, has the bachelor back out at the last minute (he got a girlfriend) and she's going to lose everything she's worked for (the girl is living on oatmeal packets and ramen as it is!) if she doesn't find someone quick.

Enter her ex-boyfriend Nick, who is an actor. She broke up with him three years ago because he was sort of shallow and even though she would see flashes of depth in him, he never really let her in. (She still watches his show re-runs on late night TV, though) But, in her desperation that all her business plans not be ruined, she calls him and he agrees to be the bachelor for her. What follows is fun and quirky and made me laugh out loud.

But, there's something unexpected.

There is some real growth in the heroine during this story. With the set-up, I was expecting the guy to have changed and he would realize why she left and they would have their happily ever after. But this book isn't cliché like that. The heroine has some real growth as a person and for me, that sets it apart from the other romances I've been reading lately. I like it when you can have a fun story with some depth to it because it seems sort of rare these days.

So, if you are looking for a can't-put-down book that has some great bachelor dating situations (read: funny), some romance with realistic characters that feel like your best friends, and a hero to sigh over, then this is the book for you. And as a bonus, Ms. Jacobson throws in an update on my favorite couple from her book *The List*. You may remember I complained a teeny bit in my review that I didn't feel closure with them. Well, now I do. Thank you for that!

Originally reviewed on <http://ldswritermom.blogspot.com>
