



Love, Life, and the List

Kasie West

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Everyone knows Abby Turner is in love with her best friend, Cooper Wells. Including Cooper Wells. But despite what people tell her, it doesn't affect their friendship. And she's practically over it, anyway. What she really can't get over is when her boss at the local museum tells her that her paintings lack heart.

Art is Abby's passion and she hopes her future as well. She is determined to change his mind and earn her way into the upcoming exhibit at the gallery. So along with her family's help, she compiles "The Heart List," a series of soulstretching experiences that are sure to make her a deeper person and better artist in six weeks or less. When Cooper decides to complete the list along with her, she realizes this list is expanding her heart in more ways than one. Maybe she needs to start another project.

Love, Life, and the List Details

Date : Published December 26th 2017 by HarperTeen

ISBN :

Author : Kasie West

Format : Kindle Edition 389 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Young Adult, Romance

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From Reader Review Love, Life, and the List for online ebook

Jaime Arkin says

Hi... Have we met? I'm a Kasie West junkie. Whatever she's writing, I'm reading. Her writing, her characters, her stories... everything just works perfectly for me, and her latest, Love, Life & The List was such a wonderful read.

Abby and Cooper are best friends and have been for ages. The catch? Abby has some very strong, unrequited feelings for Cooper, and when she approached him about them and he didn't react as expected she very quickly made a joke and pretended she didn't mean a word. So now she's focused on her art and pretending she doesn't notice all the other girls that Cooper is hooking up with.

When her employer rejects her art from a local art show stating that her work just doesn't have enough heart, she is determined to change his mind and she decides she needs to make a list of life experiences that will help her grow as a person.

Enter the list.

Abby has one month to complete the tasks on her list and get herself in the show, but growing concerns about her mother's anxiety and Cooper being Cooper, may derail everything.

I absolutely love the way that Kasie West can weave some very important issues into a somewhat light-hearted story and present it in a way that isn't overly depressing. West hits on some big ones here... a parent deployed, a mom dealing with anxiety, unrequited feelings... and I really think she does an amazing job handling each of these issues within the story.

West also has a wonderful knack for creating these incredible friendships and relationships in her stories and I just completely loved what was going on between Abby and Cooper... and I hated that they weren't a couple!! I can say that and still love the book right? Honestly, for as much as I love Abby & Cooper, seeing Abby branch out from Cooper was incredibly gratifying and I really enjoyed seeing her grow as a character.

I'm not going to lie. Kasie made me cry a bit with this one. I don't know if I was having an overly emotional day or what, but there is one part towards the end that just broke my heart and I truly didn't know how West was going to fix it. But fix it she did, and it made my sappy heart happy.

Ultimately, this is going to have a home on my Kasie West shelf among my other favorites and if you're a fan of sweet, fun, contemporary YA this is definitely a must read for you.

Thank you so much to the publisher for an early copy in exchange for my honest thoughts.

emi says

I can barely manage to write a book review, how does Kasie West publish like 508 books a year????

While this book was better than her 507 other books, it still wasn't good.

Definitely not good enough for me to write a review for it.

???

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

One of the most different Kasie West books I've read in the sense that it has more depth in terms of plot and themes. I appreciate how it gave a refreshing twist to the best friend-to-lovers trope. It's supposedly predictable but at the same time, it's not. How the story managed to achieve that is impressive.

One of my favorite things about the novel is the main character herself. I adore her strength. In the story, she was rejected several times in different ways by different people and yet she doesn't back out. Sure her feelings get hurt, she wallows in self pity as well but she knows when it's time to move on and get back on her feet. She analyzes what she needs or what is lacking in her and her artwork to make herself and her art better and therefore the heart list- a list of things she wants to accomplish to give her art more depth. Her sarcasm is also topnotch while her relationship with her family and her friends is admirable.

I particularly loved the theme on dysfunctional family and how it was playfully and lightly approached. Abby's family even though is the exact definition of "not normal" is kind of a more accurate and realistic representation of families nowadays. Normal today is completely overrated especially when it comes to family relationships. Their love for each other and their quick wit and humor usually save each day and as usual, the addictive writing had me finishing the book in one day.

emma says

Kasie West, I am slowly giving up on you.

Agonizingly slowly. But giving up all the same.

As I have been on the record as saying before, in my own reviews and maybe in some newspapers (I don't know I don't read *every newspaper* it's a possibility shut up), I really want to like Kasie West.

I read a lot of contemporaries. Kasie West writes a lot of contemporaries. That's the kind of ideal YA-based symbiotic relationship I am looking for.

Unfortunately, all that cranking-out of romantic plotlines comes at a price. And that price is called "this book is not very good."

I used to read every Kasie West book. Now I read only the ones that sound good, which is not very many because they usually are not good. This one sounded good because it includes the words "The List" in the title, and I am a sucker for a list.

But just like I was when I was sucked in by the words "trapped in a library" in the synopsis of West's *By*

Your Side, I have been made a fool. Kasie West has once more made me a fool.

Because just as the library barely played into By Your Side and wasn't even fun when it did, THIS BOOK HAD BARELY ANY BUCKET LIST-RELATED PLOT AT ALL AND EVEN THAT PLOT WAS LIKE MY PERSONAL BUCKET LIST IS NOW ONE ITEM LONG AND THAT ITEM IS JUST NOT READING THIS BOOK ANYMORE.

Honestly!!

The main character of this was boring. She had a boring family and boring friends. Two of her boring friends were on other continents, and the other boring friend was her boring love interest. Her interactions with said love interest were so boring that I didn't realize they were endgame until they were making out and there were like a handful of pages left in the book.

Not even chemistry to entertain me for a moment, or otherwise make this book easier to get through.

Really I keep giving Kasie West chances because I liked On the Fence, but a) I read it in 2014, and I liked a lot of inadvisable things in 2014, such as Justin Bieber and the deeply uninterested boy who sat next to me in high school French class, and b) I'm pretty sure I'm getting at least 75% of the plotline mixed up with My Life Next Door, which is very similar and probably better.

So.

Bottom line: Things aren't looking good for me and Kasie. And NOT in the fun three-quarters-of-the-way-done-a-contemporary-and-everything-has-to-get-like-totally-dramatically-AWFUL-before-it-gets-perfect-and-happily-ever-after way.

PRE-REVIEW

never, in my life, have i read a contemporary with such an overall lack of chemistry that i was utterly mystified as to who the love interest was.

kasie west, you've done it again.

review to come???

wait.....this comes out *this month*? is this kasie west's 8th book of the year??????

i can't write a blog post and this woman's out here with a contemporary every week and a half

Maureen says

3.5/5 stars

I really liked this book for the most part! It features one of my favorite tropes that was, for the most part, well done - but then it got really frustrating. I ended up close to not wanting the main character and the love interest together because I really don't think he deserved her. He was great at first but then really did some stuff I didn't like that was addressed but then dismissed so quickly that it almost didn't feel like it was addressed at all. I originally had this star rating higher but the more I think about it the more frustrated I get so here we are. Overall is cute and a good journey for Abby, the main character, but ends up being pretty frustrating.

Jen Ryland says

I loved Kasie West's paranormal but have had mixed results with her contemporaries. Sad to say that overall I thought this was just okay and that some aspects of it really bothered me.

Abby is secretly in love with her best friend Cooper. A year ago she told him this, but when he didn't seem to return her feelings, she quickly claimed she'd been joking. Now she hangs around him all the time, silently pining.

Abby's also an artist who's hoping to get her work included in an upcoming art show. When the director of the show tells her that her work is technically proficient but flat and lifeless and that more life experience will make her a better artist, she takes his advice very literally. She and Cooper make a bucket list for the summer.

On the positive side, the book had some subplots and secondary characters that I appreciated. Abby's dad is deployed and her mom is agoraphobic, and Abby worries a lot about all this. Abby also has a great relationship with her grandfather.

On the negative side, Abby and Cooper's relationship had a dynamic I didn't enjoy. On the surface, their friendship seemed so cute. But underneath that, I thought she seemed lowkey/passive-aggressively angry toward him for not returning her feelings. I just thought the #1 thing on their bucket list should have been "spend the summer apart."

Then there was Elliot, a seemingly great guy that Abby had a lot in common with. Cooper's new girlfriend Iris plus Elliot (who obviously liked Abby a lot) gave the book a love triangle/rectangle dynamic that I wasn't a fan of. I'm not always anti-triangle but this was a case where I thought some of the people involved were badly treated. (view spoiler)

I LOVE stories about personal growth. I just wish Abby had shown a little more of it. Abby's bucket list did help her break out of her comfort zone, which was great. .But I would have been able to root for Abby more-romantically and as a person - if she had taken her own growth a few steps further. As mentioned in the spoiler above, I saw some behaviors in her that I found disturbing and that seem to go unacknowledged in the story.

Read more of my reviews on JenRyland.com or check out my Bookstagram!

I received a free advance copy of this book from the publisher for possible review.

Lala BooksandLala says

The cutest.

Yesy (The Book Vagrant) says

Is this now my favorite Kasie West book????

I THINK IT MAY WELL BE DANGIT!

Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

I'm torn between a 3.5 and a 4, so I guess it's more of a 3.75 but this was so cute! I loved the whole concept of it and for once for a romance, I really wasn't sure how it would end which was kind of refreshing! A great Valentine's Day read!!

Heather 'Bookables' says

What an adorable, swoon worthy ride!!!
I think this might be my new favorite Kasie West book!!!!

4.75/ 5

Cait • A Page with a View says

THIS WAS SO STINKING ADORABLE.

Basic plot: Abby is a teen artist whose paintings aren't accepted into an art show because she doesn't "have enough heart," so she makes a list of things to do that will supposedly give her the depth she needs to become a better artist.

I loved so many parts of this story (like the painting and how much everything just *felt* like summer), but I think my favorite part was probably all of the different relationships. Abby's grandpa is a major character, her best friend Cooper knows she's in love with him but pretends like everything's normal, her mother's struggle with anxiety are a huge part of the story, and Abby has actual healthy friendships outside of the main romance. All of the characters were so well done and totally felt like real people.

Ooh and I was also thrilled that Abby was motivated to do her list & change *for herself* instead of some guy. I mean, this was still one of the cutest relationships I've seen in a YA contemporary in SO long, but it was just great to see a well-balanced story with depth as well. There were some pretty hilarious and heartbreaking moments. Nothing ever got dull and I flew through the whole thing in one sitting!

Basically, EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT. This was the fluffy, lighthearted read I was looking for aaaaand now I have a book hangover and can't find anything else as cute...

may ❁ says

it was good, cute, and fluffy but also cliché and kinda boring

RTC

2.5 stars!!

~~~~~

time to keep up with tradition and immediately read anything kasie west has touched with slump

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### Lola says

I have officially outgrown Kasie West.

If we're completely honest with each other, I knew this day would come eventually. I didn't think it would be so soon, but then again, Kasie West has published three books in 2017, so it's normal that I have rapidly realized this author is just not for me anymore.

I will never hate her novels. I have never, and even if I do continue reading her books (which I doubt will happen), there is no chance of me wanting to burn any of her writings in the future. Because I do believe she has talent, and her humour is my kind of humour.

But she isn't growing as an author. Her most read book is actually her debut titled *The Distance Between Us*, and let's face it, everything that has come after that one has been a different story but with a similar enough heroine, tone, writing style...

I once found her novels unique, seeing that she does have her signature style, but the more I read her, the less impressed I am. Just like Abby's art, her stories lack depth. They aren't one-dimensional exactly, because they do contain heart (another thing Abby's art supposedly lacks) but Ms. West doesn't do enough research before crafting her stories.

For instance, Abby, as we have established, is an artist. She paints, and apparently she's done so since before she can remember. Fantastic. But that's not going to convince me, the reader, that Abby knows painting better than she knows everything else in the world. Kasie West should have described her art in detail in the first chapters, so we could truly feel bad about her being rejected from the show. And yet, all that we know is that her paintings are based on pictures.

Normally I would say that you can do better, Ms. West, but now I don't know anymore. Maybe stories that are deep, serious and realistic all at once are not your style and never will be. Maybe you just like swimming in clichés (a heroine in love with her best friend, really?). I don't, so this is our tearless goodbye.

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## Jasmine from How Useful It Is says

About: Love, Life, and the List is a young adult fiction written by Kasie West. It will be published on 12/26/17 by Harper Teen, an imprint of HarperCollins, 384 pages. The genres are contemporary, fiction, romance, and young adult.

My Experience: I started reading Love, Life, and the List on 10/20/17 and finished it on 10/25/17. This book is another fun read from Kasie West. It's full of sarcastic humor, challenges, friendship, and family. I love the easy to read pace and the go-getter character. The main character has many wants and she's doing everything she can think of, even stepping out of her comfort zone, to win the things she wants. There are setbacks, but she picks herself up and try again and it's very inspiring to read where everything is not perfect from the start.

This book is told in the first person point of view, following Abigail (Abby) Turner, a seventeen year old who loves art. She wants to display and sell her paintings at the museum, a fundraising the museum does once a year, but was told that her paintings doesn't have heart and depth. She sets out to make a list of things for her to do to achieve heart and depth. Abby recruited her best friend, Cooper Wells to join in her challenges. One of the challenges is to face her fears and Cooper takes her out to the sand dunes for a quad ride. Another challenge is to try something new and they both auditioned for a play. Some challenges are harder to achieve than others, especially when her heart already set out for someone but that person doesn't reciprocate. This book also introduce agoraphobic, a condition where a person doesn't leave the house. (Check out my review on The Woman in the Window, a thriller with a character that have that same phobia). Abby's mom stays in the house all the time while her dad is deployed to the Middle East. This story takes place in the summer so time is abundance for Abby to explore new things and take care of her family.

This book is very well written. I love books with characters that strive for what they want and don't give up when things don't go according to plans. I love how Abby sat down with her family and brainstormed together a list of challenges. I love it when family members are supportive of their children's goals. It's a good example to follow. It's a reminder that it takes efforts to obtain what we want and there will be failures before success arrives. The challenges that Abby face can be relatable to many readers. Did I mention I love Abby's Grandpa? Read this book if you are looking for motivation! Just read it for sarcastic humor because they are great!

Pro: easy to read, page turner, fast paced, humor, challenges, friendship, family, relatable, art

Con: none

I rate it 5 stars!

\*\*\*Disclaimer: Many thanks to the author Kasie West, publisher HarperTeen, and Edelweiss for the opportunity to read and review. Please be assured that my opinions are honest.

XOXO,

Jasmine at [www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com](http://www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com) for more reviews

**Korrina (OwlCrate) says**

Well that was just soooo dang cute. Just what I needed to get me out of this reading slump.

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