



Watermelon

Marian Keyes

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February the fifteenth is a very special day for me. It is the day I gave birth to my first child. It is also the day my husband left me...I can only assume the two events weren't entirely unrelated.

Claire has everything she ever wanted: a husband she adores, a great apartment, a good job. Then, on the day she gives birth to their first baby, James informs her that he's leaving her. Claire is left with a newborn daughter, a broken heart, and a postpartum body that she can hardly bear to look at.

She decides to go home to Dublin. And there, sheltered by the love of a quirky family, she gets better. So much so, in fact, that when James slithers back into her life, he's in for a bit of a surprise.

Watermelon Details

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From Reader Review Watermelon for online ebook

Magda Tatiana says

Este es mi primer chick lit y he quedado bastante satisfecha. Y es que tenía algo de prejuicio por el género y este libro me lo ha curado. La narración es bastante ágil y apenas si decae sobre la mitad del libro para recuperarse rápidamente. La virtud de la escritora de este libro, radica en hacerlo cercano con su personaje principal, Clare, uno puede sentirse identificada con varias actitudes, sentimientos e inseguridades. Lo que más me gustó es como retrata estas situaciones cotidianas con una narrativa... con un humor cínico, muy bien puesto y empleado. También logra muy buenos personajes, entrañables, y en su carácter muy humanos, como la protagonista. Este primer libro, mi primer libro de Marian Keyes, me ha dejado con ganas de volver a leer a esta autora.

Tea Jovanovi? says

Marijanu i njenog muža Tonija upoznala sam 2002. godine na sajmu u Njujorku... I zaprepastila se... Pa, oni znaju ponešto da kažu na srpskom! Misterija je brzo rešena, Marijanin brat oženjen je Beograđankom Ljiljanom i otud poznavanje i srpskog jezika i kulture, a bogme i hrane... :) Po povratku u Beograd, odmah sam krenula da čitam Lubenicu, totalno se zaljubila u Marijanino pisanje i nagovorila svog izdavača da odmah kupimo prava za pet Marijanin knjiga... i poslušao me je... A onda su Marijana i Toni došli u Beograd da se Marijana druži sa svojim čitaocima... Porodica Volš iz Marijaninih knjiga veoma podseća na njenu... I ona ima braću i sestre... Ukupno ih je petoro dece u porodici i veoma su vezani i rasejani svud po svetu... Kasnije sam je "ponela" sa sobom kod drugog izdavača ali su uspeli da je izgube zbog nemara i loših korica... Toni me je glede jednih korica bojažljivo priupitao: "A što su ove nove korice tako crne i mračne, jel' ova knjiga izdavača asocira na 11. septembar?"... I tako se Laguna dočepala autorke... :) Marijane duhovite tekstove možete čitati i na njenoj veb-stranici... :)

Elena says

3,5/5 Mi estreno con Marian Keyes ha estado bien, pero quizá por las expectativas, creía que sería mejor. Lo que se me ha hecho pesado en muchas ocasiones han sido los pensamientos de Claire, se alejaba tanto del tema en cuestión que me perdía y me costaba volver a coger el hilo, aunque a otra persona puede que no le pase y que simplemente no era el momento para leer este tipo de historia, pero con la sinopsis me parecía una lectura perfecta para el verano. Me ha parecido muy peculiar la familia Walsh, así que posiblemente siga conociendo las historias de las otras hermanas, así como otros libros de Marian que me han recomendado.

Lauren says

I picked this book up after I finished Lucy Sullivan is Getting Married. Like Lucy Sullivan, I enjoyed Marian Keyes chatty style. Reading this book feels like a chat with a friend and I found that I got to know the main character very well. Marian Keyes excels at character development.

As you probably know, this story is about Claire, a 29 year old Irish woman living in London. A few hours after she gave birth, her husband James announces that he doesn't love her anymore and that he is leaving her

for another woman. Devastated, Claire left London for her family in Dublin. In Dublin we experience with Claire her stages of "mourning," which seem quite accurate for a woman in her predicament. First, she wants her husband to come back to her and for everything to return how it was, then she is angry, and then she finds acceptance. As Claire goes on with her life and meets someone new, her husband James pops back into her life and wants her back. Claire contemplates taking him back because she wants to have the perfect family and her old life back. In the end, she realizes that she cannot forgive her husband. The book is a predictable plotline, of course, but what is special about it is how Claire wrestles with her changing perception of her husband and herself. She realizes that she had placed her husband on a pedestal and she figures out that he was really not the guy she thought he was.

Yes, Claire gets annoying at times. Don't we all? And aren't most people who go through big breakups kind of selfish and self-centered? The fact is, Claire is a very real person. She has her flaws and faults, but the reader grows to care about her.

I gave this book four stars because some sections were kind of wordy and at some points (e.g. the baggage claim scene when Claire first arrives in Dublin) where it looks like the author is trying too hard to be funny. But this is a fantastic book if you are looking for a light, funny read.

Moni says

No sé muy bien cómo calificar este libro, porque es un SI pero NO. Dos meses me ha durado y con eso ya lo digo casi todo. A ratos me he sentido sobrecargada de tanto pensamiento de Claire, incluso tengo que reconocer que algunos párrafos me los he saltado, porque creo que son excesivos, y eso que sólo me lo he leído en los días de playa. Pero por otro lado, las ideas y pensamientos de Claire son ingeniosas y divertidas y me he reído mucho. A partir del momento conozco a Adam, creo que mejora todo el libro. No sé si será suficiente para que me lea otro libro de esta autora ;)

Ruth Soz says

A Christmas present from Megan...I was really excited to read this because it is the story of the oldest Walsh sister.

The very day she gives birth to their first child, Claire is told by her husband that he is leaving her for another woman. She returns home to Dublin, seeking the comfort of her crazy and quirky family, while she figures out how to deal with this abrupt change in her life. Something I love about Keyes' writing - although her books are most definitely of the chick-lit genre, the story lines involve aspects of the darker side of life.

I was not disappointed, and will be picking up more Marian Keyes - once I get through my long list of to-reads! I'm sad that I only have one sister left to read about. Although, fingers crossed that the youngest sister's book is still yet to come!

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: February fifteenth is a very special day for me. It is the day I gave birth to my first child. It is also the day my husband left me. As he was present at the birth, I can only assume the two events weren't

entirely unrelated.

ABOUT THIS BOOK: Claire has everything she ever wanted: a husband she adores, a great apartment, a good job. Then, on the day she gives birth to their first baby, James informs her that he's leaving her. Claire is left with a newborn daughter, a broken heart, and a postpartum body that she can hardly bear to look at.

She decides to go home to Dublin. And there, sheltered by the love of a quirky family, she gets better. So much so, in fact, that when James slithers back into her life, he's in for a bit of a surprise.

MY THOUGHTS: This was the first book by Marian Keyes that I ever read. I read it quite some time after she had made a name for herself with *Rachel's Holiday*. The first time I read *Watermelon*, and there have been several readings over the years, I was enamoured by Keyes' writing. Warm and witty, it was like sitting down and having a good gossip session with your best friend and a bottle of wine. . . 'And did you hear about Claire?....No? Well, James has only gone and left her, and with a brand new baby. . . And you'll never guess who he left her for. . .'

I haven't always liked all of Keyes' books (*Rachel's Holiday* being one in particular), but *Watermelon*? I loved it.
????

THE AUTHOR: Marian Keyes (born 10 September 1963) is an Irish novelist and non-fiction writer, best known for her work in women's literature. She is an Irish Book Awards winner. Over 22 million copies of her novels have been sold worldwide and her books have been translated into 32 languages. She became known worldwide for *Watermelon*, *Lucy Sullivan is Getting Married*, and *This Charming Man*, with themes including domestic violence and alcoholism.

DISCLOSURE: I own my copy of *Watermelon* by Marian Keyes. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system.

This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com
[https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/...](https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/)

Emma says

I don't think I've ever been so glad to finish a book. Of course I wasn't expecting this to be a literary masterpiece but I thought being to some degree enjoyable wouldn't have been too much to ask.

The premise is probably standard for a chick-lit novel - a woman's husband tells her he's been having an affair for six months and is leaving her the day she gives birth to their first child. But that all happens within the first few pages and it seems that nothing else of much interest occurs in the massive amount of pages that come next.

Instead Claire's emotions take on capital letters as she recounts their little plays in her head, she repeats and repeats and goes over things and goes over things and takes us on random trips down memory lane with seemingly unrelated antidotes about her family. At so many points I just wanted to yell "Shut up and get on with the story!" I also seemed to worry more about the baby's whereabouts than its mother did as it

conveniently disappeared into the background.

Keyes does write with some humour and there are some great funny lines but these are too often then reiterated upon until they lose any entertainment value and just become annoying.

This book may have been more tolerable if it had been shorter. As in *much shorter*. There's just no excuse for its chunky 600+ pages, I wouldn't recommend it.

Meg says

This is chick-lit, so you can't come in thinking it will be masterfully written. That said, this was worse than most. I picked it up because it was recommended and looked like a quick read. It was even quicker than expected, because I was able to skip a huge portion of the angst at the beginning and jump directly to the climax.

The premise of the book is that Claire's husband announces his affair and their separation on the day that Claire has their baby. The break-up of her marriage leaves Claire in a state of depression where we plumb the depths of her soul for about 150 pages. The plot is thin on the ground for this portion of the book, and we mostly hear about how dreadful she feels. Fortunately, she has what must be the easiest newborn ever and apparently needs to spend little time actually caring for the baby. Events proceed predictably, and (at the risk of spoilers), she meets another man. Finally, she is forced to choose between her marriage and the other man, but (gasp!) perhaps she can't really recover either relationship.

The denouement of the book begins with chapter 24. If you get sick of the characters before you reach that point, but want to find out what happens (like I did), I recommend skimming from that point on.

Sarah says

I am quite random myself, skipping from subject to subject without segways, but Keyes takes it to another level. I just felt like yelling "get to the point!". Some of Claire's inner dialog was funny, but by page 30 I was skipping over large chunks to get to the actual moving plot line of the book. A couldn't whole heartedly recommend this to anyone looking for a mindless chick book that is a quick read, cause it was too annoying to be mindless. Marian Keyes came highly recommended too, but I don't think I'll bother with anything else by her. I don't have the time or patience.

Ivana A. says

View my full review on: diaryofdifference.com/2018/04/25/wate...

A lovely read! Marian Keyes is one of my favourite authors of all time. The story of how I discovered Marian is quite funny, actually.

It was back in the days when I was a teenager and I was in love with the Gifted Series from Marilyn Kaye. I have read only the first two books and I have asked my mum to bring me the rest of them (there were six in total). She came back with a book with an author that had a similar name, and here we are today :)

I have read Watermelon a long time ago, but I have decided to share my thoughts with you now.

This is a chick lit book about a woman left on her own right after she gives birth to her first child and then goes back to her parent's house to start her life over.

This is a story about bravely, love, family and all little things that will melt your heart.
Prepare to cry - Actually, prepare to cry a lot, and don't say I haven't warned you.

A story that will stick with you for years after you've read it. The characters that will make you wish you met them and were their friends over and over again!

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Laura says

I'm having ups and downs with this so far. I really love Marian Keyes humor, and that's what keeps me going. I'm having a hard time totally caring about Claire though, and I'm not sure what I'm missing. I almost feel like there is just too much of her that I don't know. I know her sisters better than her. I can't identify with the new mom thing, or the husband leaving her thing, and I'm just not finding anything to latch on to. Except the drinking, as I've done a bit of that lately myself :) I'm planning to stick with it, as I'm really only 1/3 of the way in. But so far it just doesn't meet my Lucy Sullivan standards...This has gotten much better since I hit about 1/2 way. I'm really enjoying the style of the author talking to me. It's like a phone conversation with a friend, telling the story to ME, not just to any random person. That's unique, and really appeals to me. I've also gotten to know Claire much better, and just read the funniest thing ever about which sexual position she favors. NOW I can identify with her :) Actually, I'm finding that she's a bit of a vanilla person, but is perfectly happy being a vanilla person. I think that is what I'm finding most endearing about her at this point...Finally done. I discovered the parts that were dragging were when Claire would go on and on about her and James, analyzing the whole situation. Much like having a friend drone on and on, talking non-stop about their drama. But aside from that part, I'd say this was pretty good in the end.

Norabee says

What a Way to Start a Brand New Baby's Life!

Claire can't believe that the very day that she gives birth to her first child is the same day that her husband decides to leave her. What Luck! Marian Keyes pulls out all the stops in the development of the story and the characters. Claire and her husband James have been married for a few years and are living in New York. She thought things were going just great, then out of nowhere James announces that he's fallen for someone else and is leaving their home to move in the with the other woman.

Claire is devastated and decides to move back home to her family in Ireland. Once she gets there, her parents and her sisters (there are five girls altogether – poor Dad!) try their best to help her deal with her abandonment and pitch in to help take care of the baby – she even has to name her baby girl without James' input. So she's down but she's not out and after a bout of depression in which she terrorizes her family – she finally decides to move on with her life and she...leaves the house – for the first time in weeks!

She meets Adam, one of her sister Helen's college classmates who although a little older than the average

college student, is still a little young for her, but he's hot and she can't help being drawn to him and he seems to have a fondness for her brand new baby. Claire is still heart-broken over her husband's betrayal, but maybe she can find a way to see the good in mankind by befriending Adam. Claire discovers a lot about herself, about her marriage and finds out the truth about her husband and comes to a crossroads and makes a decision about the way she's going to live her life and raise her daughter.

This is my first Marian Keyes novel and I was instantly swept up in Claire's personality and the humor that's infused in her books. I especially enjoyed listening to the battles that would go on in Claire's head between the good vs. evil – masterfully done. I was engrossed in every page and read it quickly and was sorry to have it end and then was so pleased to learn that there were more books in this series – I would like the chance to get to know the Walsh sisters better and I know that I've found a favorite author in Marian Keyes.

Skyler Autumn says

1 Stars

Watermelon follow's our protagonist Claire as she is left by her husband James for her downstairs neighbour, about 2 minutes after giving birth to their daughter. She soon after takes her newborn child back to her eccentric family so she can lick her wounds in the comfort of her old home and thus meets a new younger man named Adam.

To say Claire is an embarrassing wet drip of woman is putting it lightly. She spends 40% of this way too long novel in a depression slump where she neglects her new born child to sulk and drink and sulk and sleep and then drink some more. Instead of going through some momentous montage scene of getting her shit together and realizing she's an empowered single mom that doesn't need a horrible man in her life. The author decides the only way to get over one man is under another (literally). My god feminist writing at work here people.

I'm fine with romance but not when it is the pivotal turning point that makes the character change her ways and get out of her depression. Why couldn't it be her dysfunctional but loving family or her NEW BORN CHILD that made her wake up and realize that the world doesn't stop spinning because of one horrible man?

The new love interest for our lead was no improvement from her husband. He was just as controlling but in entirely different way but none the less bossy. He was the type of man that tells you what's good for you like; how have you been able to properly take care of yourself without him telling you how to do so kind of bastard. When a man tells me whats best for me, I want to punch him in his face. I'm adult woman I'm quite aware whats best for me I don't need your commentary from the peanut gallery.

James (her ex-husband) was written not just as insufferable but like an actual sociopath. A pathological liar, that was manipulative, bitter, and just kept forgetting he had a daughter like literally every second was like 'oh ya, I have her I guess.' It was a really weird character choice the author made because now I'm questioning our protagonists intellect because she married a crazy person like psych ward crazy. Like keep an eye on your kid because she's got his genes so look out for prolonged bed wetting and her killing the house pets in your future BECAUSE YOU MARRIED A STRAIGHT UP LUNATIC!

The lead character was such a weak insecure woman that you couldn't even be satisfied with her triumphant 'I don't need you in my life' attitude in the end because it took about a thousand people telling her that her husband is a manipulative asshole to get her there. It wasn't even her in the end that realized he was horrible

it was everyone telling her to wake the fuck up and have some self respect. And then she was all "oh maybe I should defend myself?" Like nope took you way too long to get to this point, I no longer care you weak willed sad excuse for a woman. It was like pulling fucking teeth to get this character to do anything that involved her using her back bone. Which made it so lack luster in the end when she finally stood up for herself.

If you want to read a book about thousand pages too long revolving around a weak willed woman running from one man into the arms of another because she's has no ability to take care of herself may I suggest Watermelon by Marian Keyes. You'll love it.

Buggy says

Opening Line:" *"I'm sorry, you must think I'm very rude. We've hardly even been introduced and here I am telling you all about the terrible things that have happened to me."*

Claire thought she had the perfect life right up until her husband James announced that he didn't love her anymore and was leaving her for another woman. He might have picked a better day to deliver this earth shattering news than directly after the birth of their first child. Shocked, heartbroken and now packing some serious baby weight, Claire flees London and retreats back to her dysfunctional family in Ireland to regroup. Claire's idea of regrouping is of course to take to bed and only emerge when the baby needs feeding or she runs out of liquor.

Eventually she does get out of bed, hitting her father's dusty stationary bike to work off the rage and inadvertently the pounds. Yes her period of mourning has gone from devastation to depression to rage. And then she goes about starting her life again. Along the way one of her sisters drags home Adam, the cute, younger and (obviously unobtainable) man that honestly seems to be flirting with her. Before long Claire has almost forgotten James, well not really but he's no longer her first waking thought and besides Adam has a really nice bum. So then the story gets kinda predictable because of course James comes slinking back. He has some interesting excuses for having his affair but now basically just wants everything to go back to the way it was!

Okay I have to talk about James, what an asshat. I understand he is meant to be the antagonist here but jeez. It's not so much his character I am judging but that of the author deciding our heroine would actually be dumb enough to consider taking him back after the shit he pulled. I mean he hasn't phoned once or even asked after his daughter, in fact doesn't even know her name and to top it all off he blames Claire for the fact that he had an affair. And then Keyes continued to write him in such a way that he actually comes across a bit psycho, with moods changing on a dime (yes she loves to use idioms) and yet Claire still wants him in her daughter's life. I would be doing everything I could to make sure he never had contact with her. Anyways.

This was a super long book (614 pages) which wouldn't have been an issue if the author had stayed on track. As it was this could have been cut by about 200 pages as the heroine's silly (see annoying) inner dialogue prattled on with random off topic issues, spending 8 pages talking about the history of her parents' liquor cabinet and other non-related issues. Some of her inner ramblings were funny but I'll be honest it got to the point where I was skimming just to get on with the actual story (this continued for the entire 600 page read.)

I did enjoy the sections where it was written as though the author/heroine is talking directly to the reader. However I still never got a real "feel" for her. I also had a hard time believing that she was a new mother, her baby is such a non-issue throughout this book, just part of the plot and then she remains in the background as an accessory while Claire goes about her binge drinking and depression at her parents' house. And with that in mind I would have to describe this as bitter chick-lit because while it has its moments of humour its

always with a harsh edge so that you're not so much laughing as cringing. 380jb3.5
