



# Confessions from a Coffee Shop

*T.B. Markinson*

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## Confessions from a Coffee Shop Details

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Author : T.B. Markinson

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## **From Reader Review Confessions from a Coffee Shop for online ebook**

### **Heidi says**

It tells the story of two women in love. They each have issues and struggles, but loving each other is not part of those struggles. Adding an old high school crush to the mix, certainly makes the story interesting. Will the relationship stay strong? Will insecurity dissolve the relationship? The family dynamic always adds to the mix of a story. Cori's mom made me laugh. This book wasn't what I expected, but was enjoyable. Even though I was told in advance it wasn't like her other books, I expected more drama, more intensity.

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### **Hilary Grossman says**

She did it again!

This is the third book that I have read by T. B. Markinson, and it is the third book by her that I love.... Just as in her other two books, the author weaves a tale that captures you and prevents you from putting the book down. I finished the story in one day. My favorite part was all the well rounded (and usually hysterical) supporting characters! I truly hope that TB finds a way to bring them back in a future novel!

I received an advance copy in exchange for an honest review...

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### **Shikurro says**

I really love this book.. someone should make a movie out of this.. dysfunctional family is a win win.

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### **T.F. says**

Confessions From a Coffee Shop tackles the struggles of a relationship between Cori and Kat. No doubt that Cori adores Kat, even to the point where she takes three jobs, plus her writing career, to cover her girlfriend's addiction. If that isn't true love, not sure what is. And despite Kat's obvious downfalls, she's such an engaging character, I found myself drawn to her. And I could see why Cori worked so hard to pay the debts. But the issues around the couple only deepen. I loved how some the couple's problems were resolved when Cori started opening up more. It says a lot about relationships.

Markinson has a gorgeous way of telling stories that pulls you in and you're hooked before you know it. This is the third book I've read of hers, and she's on my favorite author list. I love her quirky and humorous characters. Highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys a good love story.

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## angie says

There's no doubt about it: T.B. Markinson is a terrific writer, with a great sense of humor. I laughed out loud at sentences like "I gave her the drink, being careful not to touch her hand, fearful I might break it--or pet her." Full of strong writing and lots of conflict, *Confessions From A Coffee Shop* is never dull, not for a second.

I wanted to like the novel more than I did, but I just couldn't...mostly because of main character Cori. She asks in the beginning, "Who am I to judge others?" yet it's all she does. She is quick to label one woman as "dowdy," often forming opinions of others by their appearances rather than who they are as people. Her tendency to think rather highly of her own physique and talents as a writer comes across as arrogant rather than honest self-appraisal. She is the exact opposite of her very kind, if fiscally irresponsible, girlfriend Kat.

Even though Kat spends money like it's water without serious consideration of what can go wrong when you do that, she is rather quite endearing. She is the reason I continued to read long after I wanted to throw some coffee (not scalding, of course!) over Cori and her exasperating ways. Kat may need to curb her shopping habits, but she has such a good heart and truly cares for Cori. Often, solid romances work best when two people are completely different from each other. That's sure the case here!

I don't regret reading *Confessions From A Coffee Shop* at all, though. T.B. Markinson's previous book *Marionette* is so outstanding and so gloriously good I guess part of me is still thinking of that and unfairly comparing it to this. Instead, I should focus on how refreshing and wonderful it is that the author never repeats herself when she writes a new book.

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## Charlene says

\*copy received from the author in exchange for an honest review\*

*Confessions from a Coffee Shop* is the third novel I've read by T.B. Markinson, and while more of a romance than the others, it deals with some of the same themes of finding yourself and dealing with a relationship. To be honest, I spent much of this novel disliking both Cori and Kat. I didn't understand why Cori wouldn't confront Kat about her spending issues, and why she felt that she had to be the "provider" in the relationship. Seems like a bit of an antiquated notion to me...I've always felt that the 2 people in a relationship should be more like partners. In the end though, I thought both characters were nicely redeemed. Once Cori begins to deal with her inability to open up to others, everything falls into place. All is not as it seemed...and isn't that the lesson here? Communicate with each other...you might be surprised what happens when you do!

I'd be totally remiss if I didn't mention my favourite character, Harold. I love how he blossoms under Kat's tutelage! A real diamond in the rough.

4 stars

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## Line Bookaholic says

2.5/5

I found this book for free on Amazon and thought: why not? I don't often read LGBT and so I decided to try.

It did not work. I don't mean LGBT doesn't work for me, but this book in particular. There were too many things that I was not ok with.

First of all, I did not like the main character. She is supposed to be a vegetarian but drink oyster stout, eat shrimp etc. I mean, it's ok, people eat what they want, but why pretend she is a vegetarian and she has beliefs if these are not to be respected? I found it really stupid and upsetting. Her way of thinkings was also getting on my nerves, why doesn't she confronts her girlfriend about things? Aaaaaarh.

Then, there was the sex. I know it's a new adult book and that there will be sex, it's not the problem, the sex scenes were not too bad, but it's the endless talk about sex and the attitude of the character towards other people. I mean, "I bet he's never had a BJ in his life", why do we care? Seriously, it's really wrong to say things like that, and it happened a lot.

After 7% of the book (and seeing too many times the word "fucking" and too many attitudes that made me roll my eyes), I almost decided to stop reading it. But then, there were still positive things in this book.

The plot was not too bad and I wanted to know what was going to happen. The whole Sam things was well done and I liked how it ended (not what I expected and that's good!). I also liked the references about books and movies and stuff on the Internet that I know and that I enjoy. Goodreads was mentioned, and that was really great. As well as Neil Gaiman, Brandon Sanderson, Twilight... Stuff you don't often find in books and that made me happy cause I know these references.

Some things were funny, some things were great about this book, but it did not work at all for me.

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### **Beth Ann says**

Cori is stuck. She is a writer with a partly finished book that is going nowhere. Her partner, Kat, is a looker. And one that has a serious shopping addiction so Cori finds herself working multiple jobs in an effort to pay the bills. One of those jobs is being a barista at a coffee shop so she knows that business well but would rather not know it quite so well. The extra money is simply to help make ends meet but then life gets more and more complicated .

Family dynamics enter full force and both Cori and Kat find themselves dealing with issues that swirl around them endlessly -- threatening to cause chasms between them that they may not be able to overcome.

TB Markinson is a skilled author who weaves a story that I simply can not put down. I read this one on a trip from Dallas to Des Moines and even frequent interruptions from my drunken seatmate did not deter me from finishing!

I have had the privilege of receiving advance copies of all 3 of TB Markinson's novels for reviewing and can honestly say that they just keep getting better and better! Her attention to the details of crafting a quality book shine through repeatedly and her story lines are always believable and engaging. Character development is an important part of any book and this author has the skill for inserting the reader right smack dab in the middle of the lives of her characters.

I love to read good fiction. This is not only good-- it is great. Keep writing, T B Markinson!!! Please!!!!

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### **Ben says**

Books about writers with writers block are a little too self-indulgent for me.

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## Cindy says

Sometimes we read to escape, and it doesn't matter whether the characters or events are realistic as long as we are swept away by the story and entertained. However, other times the most fulfilling read of all is one that paints a picture of real life, a story that we can relate to on various levels, with characters who remind us of ourselves or of people we know. A journey begins on the first page and we, as the readers, are allowed to hop aboard the train along with the characters and experience the trip through the mountains and valleys of life until the ultimate destination is reached. This is *Confessions from a Coffee Shop*.

Cori Tisdale is a Harvard graduate who teaches British literature at a local university. She is highly educated, comes from a family of successful women, and is in the midst of writing a novel herself, but the ending forever eludes her. In the meantime, the only way she can make ends meet is to grab whatever hours she can at Beantown Café. Her girlfriend of three years, Kat, is a shopaholic and has racked up Cori's credit cards so high that Cori has to resort to making fancy coffees to help pay off the debt, but she does so without complaint because she loves Kat dearly and can't imagine life without her. While trying to figure out how to pull her life back in line, Cori never fails to receive support from her family and friends, even though sometimes she may not know it. She's smart but has no confidence in herself. She's stubborn and independent, and she has trouble opening up to allow people to see her for who she really is. What follows is a story of growth and a journey of discovery where Cori must learn to relax and realize that she is not a failure and that she has everything going for her if she will just allow herself to break through the walls she has built up around herself.

Once again, T.B. Markinson's writing style captured my attention immediately. She doesn't just ease you into the story slowly and carefully. Instead, she grabs you and yanks you in with that first attention grabbing sentence and keeps you mesmerized right through to the last page. Don't get me wrong. This book is neither action packed nor filled with mystery and suspense. However, I could not put it down because the characters were so wonderfully diverse, and I really found myself becoming attached to them and wanting to find out the paths their lives would take. Markinson takes the time at the beginning to paint the most vivid character descriptions so that you can easily picture what they are like and get to know them well before you even find out what the story is going to be about. No two characters are alike, and they all have flaws just like we do in real life, but they never fail to love and support each other which is very heartwarming. They are also very funny and quirky which makes for an interesting read. *Confessions from a Coffee Shop* is a wonderful character study, and like a character in another book I read recently stated, "people are inherently interested in other people". I think that's one of the reasons why I found this story so appealing.

*Confessions* is an easy read, not because it's too short or too simple but rather because it flows so well. It is rich with detail, emotion, and food for thought. You can't help but read this story and find yourself growing as a person alongside Cori. I highly recommend this book - it has something for everyone.

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## Gerd says

I've got to say that the author has a nice flowing style to her writing that I honestly enjoyed. I couldn't however get along with the narrators voice:

"Samantha was the cheerleader everyone had wanted to fuck. She had to have known that back

then, but she never acted as if she did, which only made her more fuckable, at least in my mind"

Sentences like these just aren't bound to make me enamoured with a character; seeing how I wouldn't meet up with people that seem to see others solely as gateways to fleeting sexual pleasure I sure as hell don't plan to put up with them in my reading.

So this goes straight (<-ha!) to my did-not-finish shelf.

I still would recommend it to readers that mind this kind of lingo less than I do.

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### **Kas says**

Couldn't finish this book. I only got to the second chapter before I had to drop it. The first chapter seemed promising, but then the second chapter was just clunky writing doing nothing but informing the reader about every family member in the protagonist's life and lots of details about them, many which seemed trivial and unimportant. While the family members may play an important role in the protagonist's life and in the story overall, it was just an information dump out of the blue and I couldn't wade my way through it.

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### **Jenna says**

I feel a little bit guilty rating this one at only 3 stars. If I based the review entirely on the strength of the writing, the book would be at least 4 stars. T.B. Markinson is very skilled; her characters have consistent, individual voices, the dialogue is witty, and her stories flow very well.

Still, I had a really difficult time sympathizing with the characters. All of the characters seemed like unhappy people living troubled lives, heading for what seemed to be inevitable wreckage almost entirely because *no one* bothered to have an honest conversation with anyone else. As a result, I rapidly became frustrated with...well, everyone.

I will say that this book is more complex, more nuanced, than the average romance novel. The challenges involved in dealing with the protagonists' families weren't the typical homophobia issues. Ms. Markinson capably demonstrated how Cori and Kat were shaped by said families simply by showing their interactions with one another. Additionally, the reader isn't absolutely certain who's going to end up with whom until well into the book, and that uncertainty helped maintain some tension.

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### **Tanya says**

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Confessions From A Coffee Shop is about a girl named Cori who lives in Boston with her girlfriend, Kat, and works 3 jobs. Kat has a bit of a spending habit and thus they're in debt. She also has to deal with her melodramatic mother and she needs to finish her novel.

I like the main character, even if I don't understand the way she thinks sometimes. Her mom is a bit difficult, but I like her aunt. I spent most of the book being annoyed at her girlfriend, Kat, but I liked her a bit more by the end. I think Harold was a fun character just because of how clueless he is. Sam and Lucy are nice as well. I sort of thought Cori was going to try to cheat on Kat with Sam, but I'm happy that I was wrong. My least favorite character in the book was Kat's dad, Phineas Finn. He's a pompous jerk. He just informed Cori that she was working for him now. Both of Kat's parents were boring and frigid, though I think that was the point.

I loved Cori's "inner dialogue." I think that part was really well done. She's pretty introverted most of the time, unless alcohol is involved. I just wish she wouldn't have blamed herself for Kat's spending habits. It really wasn't her fault. If I was her, I would've cancelled the credit card account. I like that she's vegetarian too. I might be a bit biased though since I'm also a vegetarian. I really liked Cori's relationship with her father. I like that her and her mom do stuff together too, but books don't seem to show nice father/daughter relationships.

I figured out one part of the story before it was revealed, but that didn't make me like it any less. The book was a light read and I read most of it in one night. The ending was cute. I'd recommend this to anyone who likes romance.

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### **Anuradha says**

3.5 stars. This wasn't half bad! It had likeable characters, a decent plot, and correct grammar. I stand by my earlier observation; that LGBT romances are somehow written more... tastefully than straight romances. Probably because there's a lot less swooning. But then again, I kind of held back on my rating because despite having every fucking thing in life, Cori has atrociously low self esteem. She also whines. A lot. The ending was kind of forced; I mean, things don't just fall into place so easily.

Also, I'm sorry, but pumpkin spice latte and praline latte do not qualify as coffees. Anyone who drinks that is not a coffee snob.

Yours,

An actual coffee snob.

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