



## Open House

*Jill Mansell*

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## **Open House** Jill Mansell

Love is always just around the corner in a Jill Mansell novel - with a few surprises and a lot of humour on the way to happiness

Nell O'Driscoll's known Marcus Kilburton for years - according to her diary, she even had a crush on him as a teenager. When he decides to open Kilburton Castle to the public, Nell takes a job as his assistant - and soon sparks are flying between them. But is Nell free to pursue Marcus, when a figure from her past refuses to let go?

Meanwhile, Nell's best friend, Hetty Brewster, has other problems. Her husband has abandoned her for a bitchy but successful writer. Now the press is full of stories about the frumpy, boring wife losing out to a younger, slimmer model. But Hetty's about to get her chance for sweet revenge - if she can stop being a nice person long enough to take it!

## **Open House Details**

Date : Published March 3rd 2003 by Headline (first published January 1st 1995)

ISBN : 9780747267430

Author : Jill Mansell

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Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Fiction, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Adult, Humor, Adult Fiction, European Literature, British Literature

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## From Reader Review Open House for online ebook

### Ann says

This is a nice relaxing read, a bit predictable, you can tell from chapter one how it will pan out! However, I would rate it as a good beach book.

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### Rosie says

Another week gone another book read. This time it was Open House by Jill Mansell. I've never read one of Jill Mansell's books before and to be fair it did take me a few chapters before I got into it but I'm glad I stuck at it! The whole book is wonderfully written. The characters are lovable too! Which always helps.

The story centres around two characters. Petronella "Nell" O'Driscoll and Hetty Brewster. They're best friends and the story shows both of their lives at the same period of time. Nell finds herself working for the Earl of Kilburton (Marcus) who she used to have a crush on and love. He remembers her from their teenage years and discovers he still has some kind of feelings for her - fantasising about her most nights. Throughout the book I found myself wanting the couple to be together without any complications, but being a book that was highly unlikely. Near the beginning of the book you hear of Ben and his heartbreaking tale of how he became a resident at a nursing home, Nell is torn between Ben and Marcus. Both of which she loves.

Hetty on the other hand has a teenage daughter and her husband has recently left her for a glamorous writer (Vanessa) who is a complete cow. The writer produces books on her and her boyfriends (Tony - Hetty's ex husband) active sex life. Everyone who reads the book assumes that they have the best relationship and they have everything going for them. However, Tony is fed up with the fact he has diets thrust upon him and he always has to perform to "olympic standards" in the bedroom. So he sneaks back to Hetty who seems surprisingly happy to have him back. But it's not because she wants him back. Oh no, she wants revenge.

The book has a wonderful balance of drama and humour. There are lots of characters that you love to hate who then grow on you. Despite all the twists and turns in the story. There is a lovely heart warming ending which will leave a smile on your face. This is truly an amazing book.

The author, Jill Mansell, is a lovely woman too. She has time for her fans and is extremely talented - you must check her out!

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### Susan Pearson says

Jill Mansell does it again with another cracking read. I really enjoyed this book, the characters were really likeable (even the less likeable characters) The time I took to read it was no reflection on the novel and more to do with not giving reading enough of a priority in my schedule. I am already looking forward to the next novel of Jill's I will read.

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### Paula Nichols says

This was the first Jill Mansell book I had read, and it was perfect for the car journey to visit family. It revolved around Nell and Marcus and their work to revive Kilburton Castle. The characters were OK, and the story was entertaining, but it didn't enthral me as much as other writers in the genre.

I found Nell to be an interesting character at times, with fortune telling and working hard to stand out from the others in her family (from time to time I am sure we have all done this) but I found it difficult to believe that she would be so loyal to the point of bankruptcy in her caring for Ben, and whilst I am sure there are parents as uncaring as Ben's in this world, I do find it difficult to believe that they would totally abandon their son emotionally and financially when learning of his predicament. Jemima too I found to be very annoying; I can believe that level of snobbery but she became a caricature, and I am not sure this is what Mansell wanted. Marcus was the most believable of them all!

The turning around of Kilburton's fortunes was miraculous, and having worked in heritage where visiting public is crucial to success, I can say that the level of organisation, licenses, insurances, health and safety checks and passes needed makes this a little too miraculous an event for me, but I suppose one could say being monied does help!

It is what it is, this book. It is Rom Com/ chick lit, an easy read and entertaining. Expect nothing more or less.

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### **Kelly says**

After staying up until 1am I managed to finish it last night. I just couldn't stop so close to the end. Having only read one other Jill Mansell book, I don't have as much to compare it to, so I had a great time with it. I do think I enjoyed watching the secondary characters more than Nell and Marcus. Derry, Hetty, Tony, Vanessa and Kiki all managed to crack me up. I think we all know a Vanessa (pushy and slightly insulting) in our real life, but my concern is that I might be her in mine. :D  
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### **Georgina says**

This loses one star simply for killing off Ben Torrance. Up until that point I'd hoped Mansell would find a way for Nell (and Marcus) to deal with Ben's presence in their lives. Having read four books now by Jill Mansell, however, although drawn in by her quirky characters and witty writing, I realise she tends to take the easy way out. A shame.

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### **Anna says**

Review originally posted on Diary of an Eccentric

Jill Mansell's *Open House* begins with a spat between 15-year-old Nell O'Driscoll and the Earl of Kilburton's arrogant son, Marcus. The O'Driscolls have a reputation in the village and almost enjoy being the subject of local gossip. Fast forward a decade, and Nell finds herself working for Marcus, the new earl, as he prepares to open the family's castle to the public. Marcus sees Nell in a different light, but old hurts and secrets force her to keep her distance. Meanwhile, Nell's best friend, Hetty, is struggling to rebuild her life

since her husband left her for a successful novelist — who has no qualms about parading her sex life through the media, even if it means hurting Hetty and Tony's teenage daughter, Rachel, whose crush on Nell's younger brother, the suave Derry, pushes her down the wrong path.

The myriad characters Mansell worked into this novel — from Hetty's ex-husband's obnoxious mistress Vanessa to Marcus's over-the-top, whiny sister Jemima — were all thoroughly entertaining. There was a lot going on in this novel, but it never felt like too much. Mansell even describes various people in the village who hardly make an appearance, but doing so paints a richer portrait of life in a small town, where everyone's business is known by everyone and where gossip runs rampant. Even when I have a pretty good idea of how it's all going to play out, Mansell always manages to throw in a few surprises.

Open House is an utterly charming, feel-good novel from start to finish. Mansell never lets me down, always providing an enjoyable novel with plenty of humor, romance, and even some weightier moments. She perfectly balances the numerous subplots and secondary characters, which I usually find just as interesting as the main story. Her characters are endearingly flawed, and I can always relate to them in some way. Like the many Mansell books I've read before, Open House had me laughing out loud and never wanting it to end. Mansell is my go-to author when I'm in need of a pure comfort read.

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### **Suzanne says**

Mansell is the mistress of juggling a mass of quirky characters and resolving their various dilemmas.

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### **Patty says**

Leuk luchtig boek om tussen door te lezen. Beetje voorspelbaar maar wel de moeite waard.

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### **Elen-Hâf says**

My guilty read. I really enjoy her books.

I loved all the side characters, but I wish that we had more from them especially from the younger characters.

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### **Gloria says**

Eén van de mindere boeken dat ik gelezen heb. Een echte chicklit, dat wel, ontspannende lectuur.

Persoonlijk was ik meer geïnteresseerd in het verhaal van Nell en Ben, die dan weer minder vaak aan bod komt. Ik was dan ook een beetje teleurgesteld toen dit wat slecht afliep. In plaats daarvan komen er steeds meer andere personages bij wat het verhaal minder interessant maakt. Een beetje jammer...

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### **Goele says**

heerlijk ontspannend boekje. Verstand op nul en lezen maar.

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## **Teresa says**

I purchased Open House through Thriftbooks, which is a new goldmine for me, especially for books like this which have not yet been released in the US. Of course, I loved it. I frankly have yet to find a Mansell book that I haven't liked.

Love is always just around the corner in a Jill Mansell novel - with a few surprises and a lot of humour on the way to happiness Nell O'Driscoll's known Marcus Kilburton for years - according to her diary, she even had a crush on him as a teenager. When he decides to open Kilburton Castle to the public, Nell takes a job as his assistant - and soon sparks are flying between them. But is Nell free to pursue Marcus, when a figure from her past refuses to let go? Meanwhile, Nell's best friend, Hetty Brewster, has other problems. Her husband has abandoned her for a bitchy but successful writer. Now the press is full of stories about the frumpy, boring wife losing out to a younger, slimmer model. But Hetty's about to get her chance for sweet revenge - if she can stop being a nice person long enough to take it!

Great characters, great character storylines and of course a great ending. Perfect summer read. US readers - if you can obtain a copy, it's worth the read. Perhaps not the \$4,072.90 someone is selling it for on Amazon. That's a bit pricey even for a book dragon like me.

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## **Zwart Raafje says**

Nell O'Driscoll's volledige voornaam is Petronella en die naam is even uitzonderlijk als haar zigeurnerfamilie. Hun familienaam lijkt gemarineerd te worden in de vele voordelen van het roddelgraag dorpje waar Nella opgroeit. Het is dus maar goed dat Nell doof is voor al die praatjes en laster als is het geen leuke ervaring om als kind steeds opnieuw geconfronteerd te worden met haar – volgens andere – geringe afkomst.

Ze laat zich echter niet zomaar doen, al helemaal niet door de jonge graaf Marcus Kilberton die zich als tiener boven iedereen verheven lijkt te voelen. Nell is de enige van de Driscoll's die zich met plezier op haar studies toelegt en dankzij die inzet ontgroeit ze het dorp en vindt ze een degelijke functie in de stad.

Onverwachtse omstandigheden zorgen er echter voor dat ze haar moeder te hulp schiet door terug te keren naar haar geboortedorp en op het Kilberton Kasteel te gaan werken. De jonge graaf is ondertussen opgegroeit, maar Nell is hun verleden nog lang niet vergeten...

Mijn volledige recensie kan je hier terugvinden.

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## **Evi Desender says**

Leuke, ontspannende chicklit.

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