

Double Trouble

Claire Cross , Deborah Cooke

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Two sisters. One disaster.

First things first: I'm the bad twin. While my sister, Marcia, has the perfect family in the perfect suburb, I've been making my living as an Internet advice columnist and designing Web sites in my downtown loft. I always thought I had the right answer - and hair color - for any occasion. That is, until Marcia ran up loads of debt and ran out on her husband and kids, and I was left helping to pick up the pieces. Her husband, James, is a lawyer who I hate on principle alone.

But for a guy who's just lost his job, his marriage, and his expensive toys, he's keeping it together - and making me rethink my feelings toward him. It's not that he's traded in his conservative suits for sexy jeans. It's that he's not giving up what's important to him, and oh baby, I'm a sucker for a guy who hangs tough.

That doesn't mean I'm ready to step into Marcia's designer shoes now that she's gone AWOL.

And it doesn't mean I'm going to fall for James's easy charm...not again, anyhow. Besides, I've had a lifelong policy of not being mistaken for my twin and I'm not backing down on that one now - no matter how convenient it might be for a certain sexy (and persuasive) man...

This edition includes excerpts from ONE MORE TIME and LOVE POTION #9.

Double Trouble Details


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From Reader Review Double Trouble for online ebook

Don says

Double Narcissist Times Two

It is hard to realize this is actually a romance novel because there was so much time spent on selfish "me" stuff that there was very little time left for romantic parts. Four of the main characters in this book are super narcissists. And the main character, Maralys is the biggest one I have ever known, in fact its only because this book was written by 2 women that I don't know which one to blame for her characteristics, but I'm at a loss to know why they created her as such a cold-hearted B***h? You know that the writer is the one in charge of things like personalities of characters. It got so bad that I couldn't even stomach her "Aunt Mary" column, I just skipped over it, in fact, I skipped several chapters of her garbage thinking. The funny thing is that I teared up and got very emotional several times, so you know the authors have some redeeming qualities, but I felt like the authors were just playing with my emotions, teasing me with the little bits of romance thrown in. I felt like I was being put through the same washer that Maralys was putting James through. Every time Maralys & James had a romantic moment and I thought we were finally going to get romance going, the authors decided to have something happen to stop it cold and have Maralys turn back into that CHB again! Just so you know, the other narcissists are Maralys twin sister, Marcia and their father and James' father. I only finished the book so I could see how the authors got them to tie the knot, since I knew that would eventually happen. This really had the potential to have been a really great book, but with the personalities of all the narcissists, it just never arrived. So in the end it was double disappointing. I definitely have no interest in reading any more books by these authors. There are too many good romance books that don't put you through an emotional wringer to suffer through more like this one!

momokaachan says

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. It started out as a fluffy romance narrated by a snarky, likable MC. Then about midway through there was a plot twist and wham! things got serious and (a lot more) complicated. By then, I was thoroughly invested in finding out what would happen not only to the main characters but to several of the supporting cast. Instead of stereotypes, the characters became real, with flaws abounding. It was a satisfying relief to get to the end and find out most of the tangled threads got sorted out. Thanks for an entertaining read!

Veronica Solorzano says

Ok so my title was a little lame, que sera sera! Have you ever read a book that had all the elements well this is one of them and Im the oldest of four sisters, so this was up my alley. When I first started reading it I wasnt really sure the author was sooo detailed about everything but truthfully it worked! Maralys' dad was hilarious can I tell you when he came onto the scene I pictured conversations with my dad, he was such a character. I could sympathize with her and her sister made me soooo mad I cant tell you how many times I wanted to just punch her. Now James how can you not love a man that stands up for his kids and then for the woman he loves wow, granted I was slightly skeptical given the odd situation in Maralys' words that man could just make you melt. Maralys what can I say about her other than she was quirky a free spirit but deep down just an old-fashion kinda girl and I really liked that about her. She had a hard emotional life and sibling rilvary is no joke, there are things in life that make you who you are but like Maralys you grow and make the

best of it and sometimes there comes along something worth taking the big scary leap for! What a journey of growing up when you are already a grownup I can relate to that and made me love it more.

Suzie Quint says

This was a freebie, so I didn't expect that much from it but I ended up enjoying it. The characters all felt fully fleshed out and logically motivated, and though I was prepared to hate the heroine's twin, when she finally showed up, the author was able to get me to empathize with her. Pretty tough given the build up she had, so kudos for that.

Tina says

I probably shouldn't be reviewing this as this was a DNF for me (did not finish). This came recommended to me because I like Kristan Higgins. But While I love Kristan Higgins' voice, i found that I did not like this authors' voice. I am not a fan of 'Sex and the City' or slick chick lit and this book, and expesiall the first person voice of the heroine, was off putting to me. So I closed the book after several chapters.

Amber says

This Book drove me NUTS I didn't finish it, probably wont either but I can't promise; I did buy it (thank GOODNESS for amazons .01\$ books)

This book deals with twins. Being a twin I feel I can contect with the sisters. However, unless your a twin you will NEVER know what it feels like to be one, (its weird ::shivers::) and Miss Cross proves my point perfectly.

I don't care WHAT my sister does, says or acts like I will NEVER want her husband (Joey your a stud but sorry) want to make her children mine OR feel anything of the feelings our herion feels for her twin. Its unnatural and wrong. Yes sisters have done this before I'm sure but again I say being a twin is different then just being sisters (I know, I'm both)

ON top of all that its just boring, to complex in her job (which is computer SOMETHING and I'm no computer wiz) and she explains herself SO thuroughly you'll know what color of gum is stuck to the back of her high school year book thats packed away in a box in the closet on the third floor. (in the northwest corner next to the old brick wall)

Dawn says

I loved this story! It was frustrating and sweet and loving and sad and amazing and I didn't want it to end.

Angel says

Maralys is a fun likeable character. I loved her crazy inner dialogue. Anyone that likes contemporary romance will enjoy.

OTOH (ha), I totally could have done without the "Ariadne's" (sic). I did not think any of that storyline was necessary or interesting.

Danessa says

Funny and heartwarming

I love the characters who are nicely portrayed and interwoven in this lovely book. One could really start to dislike one party to the story based on the perspective of another, but as we know there's always two sides of the coin.

This book brings about discovery of all the main characters - Mary Elizabeth, Marcia and James. I enjoy finding out why they do what they did; the choices they made. Nicely written! Now I'm looking forward to reading the other books in the Coxwells series.

L. M. Warren says

Identical twins, complete opposites.

4 stars

One twin leaves, the other finds her true self. Well I guess that both find themselves. One just isn't all that great of a person, in my opinion. There is a lot of reforming by several characters. A plot twist that was kinda unexpected. You know something is up, yet it's not something you can guess, it more like bam! take this curve ball.

I did enjoy these characters. They all had their own personalities.

I say if you like happy ever afters, family drama, and characters that better themselves then read this book. 18+ there is sexy scenes.

Jane Stewart says

I enjoyed enough of it to make me glad I read it, but I have many complaints.

It's first person. I prefer third person to give me more points of view and more about other characters. I wanted more story about Marcia and James' mother Beverly. I was disappointed that one story was never finished - about James vs Matt in the courtroom. I did not care for the Dear Mary (advice column) questions and answers. They interrupted the story and were not interesting. I also felt the friends group was not interesting and felt like filler. You could take those parts out and not affect the story.

About midway through you discover a significant event happened years earlier. It was hard to believe. I wish

the author did more with that, developed it more.

I liked the conflict between the main characters. It was fun to see them change and fall in love. James sure is an ideal guy. I liked his direct approach - he wants a partner, a lover, a friend and a spouse. I enjoyed Marlys' character. She was a computer programmer, living where she worked in a warehouse. There were some good lines making me smile.

There was one sex scene. It felt good and I was so pleased they finally got together. But it was brief and mostly just summarized afterwards. I'm not complaining, just letting you know what to expect. There were two other sex scenes referred to, no details.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 1st person Marlys. Story length: 341 pages. Swearing language: moderate. Sexual language: none. Number of sex scenes: one. Setting: current day Boston, Massachusetts. Copyright: 2001. Genre: contemporary romance.

Rishika S. says

To begin with, let me tell you that Double Trouble is categorized as a romance. What it is though, is 276 pages of people simply rattling on with no apparent destination for their thoughts, words, or life in general. The romance is left to a few pages which, for all its build up, is highly disappointing to say the least. I personally found the book lacking any real element of romance, with the focus being more on narcissistic and prolonged drama.

And that's, unfortunately, not the only problem. The first chapter of this book starts off great! It hints at elements of suspense, heat, romance, and lots of scope for the characters to truly find themselves as they discover each other. And then it fails to live up to any of it. What follows after the first chapter is a monologue of how Maralys thinks she's the cat's cream, in spite of her drawbacks, both known and unknown. Put forth in an utterly uninteresting fashion, her character is displayed to the readers through pages and pages of 'I this' and 'I that' with a little bit of 'This is how rigid I am about everything'. The rigidity is not even the worst of the problems. In fact, it is quite the opposite. For a woman who claims to have her head on straight about everything including awareness about the things she's not good at, Maralys goes on to do everything contrary to what she claims to be... and then she justifies her actions in some weird manner which probably makes sense only to her. If that wasn't enough, she has random bursts where she refuses to do things that she, until then, was perfectly happy doing and then cites her basic character to anyone who will listen. All in all, Cooke created a character that was too confused to seem real, and definitely too twisted to associate with or even find yourself about.

Then there were the other characters. The only normal one seemed to be James, but since his role is not really that prominent (he tends to get lost in all that Maralys goes on about herself), the sanity of the book is short lived. Toss in a problematic mother on his end and you get an opportunity to see his kind side - an opportunity which seemed a bit overdone since his real self was evident from the get go really. James' introduction leaves you with the impression of him being a typical, romantic hero - one who has many layers and shades, one who will face what comes his way, and one who tries to make the best of every situation. Thankfully, he remains true to his introduction, but a man who's a bad boy on the outside and a warm, fuzzy sweetheart on the inside wasn't enough to move the rating for this book any higher.

Other characters, who are just as confused as Maralys if not more, include her father. At least his character gives us an insight into why Maralys is so self obsessed with justifying and analyzing every little thing that

she does or does not do, even though his role adds only more unnecessary drama and pages of random and pointless conversation. There are also some other characters that come into play, but their role and purpose seemed to be little more than to add length to the book so it could go from novella to novel. Maralys' friends, who come up towards the last third of the book, are each given two page long introductions that nobody cares about and a role that involved telling Maralys exactly what she's been afraid of telling herself, but known all along. My opinion - there were enough secondary characters to begin with, some of who actually had a role to play, and any one of them could have done that. There's also a small role that James' family plays, with the more mundane and unrelated aspects brought into focus and the ones that actually affect the story left to be played out in half a chapter, only to be forgotten or briefly mentioned in awkward conversations later.

Added to that was the fact that the author seemed almost too uninterested in making her own story interesting. I mean, James, Johnny and Jimmy? That's what you're going to name you lead guy and his sons? Really? Getting creative with names is not too difficult. Throw in one girl friend of Maralys' whose every burst of speech, including multiple sentences and topics, spans three paragraphs written as one sentence. What you get is a conversation that is ridiculous to try and follow, not appealing in the least, and the feeling that Cooke didn't care enough about her readers to add some punctuation (commas and full stops don't really take that much time). Then there is Marcia, Maralys' twin who does make a special appearance just so that everyone doesn't hate her, even though that's the opinion Maralys has and enforces on everyone. While the book kept jumping about from one unrelated thing to another, what didn't help the flow was the crazy, abrupt shifts from regular conversation to sex conversation, thoughts, and scenes.

To sum it up, Double Trouble is painstakingly long, never seems to end, goes off onto tangents that don't concern anything or anyone, and involves more confused and sad family drama than any real romance. The so called twist (there obviously had to be one) is not really all that twisted, is kind of predictable, and marks that point from where things actually go further south, even if you didn't think they could. I think the attempt was for Maralys to find her true self through love, but that got lost somewhere in all the 'me this' and 'me that'. My advice - read this book only if you have many days to kill, nothing better to read, and nothing better to do; or if you love reading about women who take pride in the fact that they are too confused in life and can't tell up from down, while claiming to be absolutely self reliant.

Zoe says

I debated the rating on this novel for awhile. I was tempted to give it four stars.

The pros: Wonderful characters. Maralys is a sharp-witted, smart-mouthed punk with a heart of gold. James is, the wonder of all wonders, a man who actually takes advice. Both are strong, independent, and determined to make something good of their lives (which were financially wrecked by others.) Obviously, they're made for each other. The story is, for the most part, fast moving with plot twists that you could sort of see from a mile away, but still, were fun to read when the twist actually came.

The cons: The technical jargon wasn't necessary. I'm conversant in technology myself, so while the author didn't actually lose me, I just didn't see the point. Also, I thought the scene where Maralys took her sinning nephew around and showed him the error of his ways was a touch overdone. The readers, at that point, didn't need to be convinced that she had a heart softer than a marshmallow. We already knew that, and liked her for it. No need to pound us over the head with it.

So why the five stars instead of four?

I usually delete novels off my Kindle when I'm done reading. (Removing clutter makes it easier to find the good stuff and keep track of my long TBR list.) The only ones I keep are the ones I'll read again. Most of

them are novels by established authors: Nora Roberts, Sherrilyn Kenyon, etc.

I decided to keep Double Trouble on my Kindle. That, in my mind, merits that fifth star.

Suzanne Perry says

Very good

I'm loved the story and message of this book. There are so many parts that I found to be very profound. I was all but ready to send the book to my mom at one point, but then came a sex scene. It was not overly descriptive but I could have done without any description (no, I'm not a prude, I'd just rather not read someone's description of sexual intimacies). I was very pleased to find that the story itself was important enough to the author that the focus of the book stayed there. If the other books in this series have as many profound parts as this one I will truly enjoy them.

Gary says

Double Trouble (The Coxwells 2) is number two in The Coxwells Series, which I didn't know when I read it. I don't if it hurt or help me when I was reading. The reason I noticed it was the title, then the blurb. One of my friends is a twin and I always find twin stories fascinating.

Marica and Mary Elizabeth, better known as Maryals, are the O'Reilly twins. For the majority of the read you are made to believe that Maryals is the bad twin. Maybe because my dad did the same thing as Marcia, Maryals was always the more sympathetic character. When Marcia's family started to rely on Maryals I felt it was a natural transition.

Then the revelations come out. I was totally justified. Honestly it wasn't a surprise that Marcia was the bad twin in my opinion. It was the magnitude of the betrayal, how far she took it, and for how long. These are the things that surprised me.

I can't say that it made me interested in reading the novel before, Third Time Lucky(The Coxwells) or the novel after, One More Time (The Cowells). I can say that Claire Cross created an okay standalone novel. The subplot of the story with Marcia's family works to counter point Maryals own life. At thirty-eight she's more together than she gives herself. It was nice for her to final see that in herself.
