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Are you ready to rock?

Lily Crandell has always lived in the shadow of her older sister, Lauren, who has a successful career as a wedding planner and a perfect husband and baby boy. Known within her family for being an aimless, impulsive trouble-magnet, Lily finally decides she may as well live up to her reputation: she elopes with new beau and would-be rock star Ted Dayton. But just as quickly as his band skyrockets, Lily's marriage crashes and burns. When news of her ex's new love with sultry and silicone-enhanced actress Melanie Slate hits the tabloids, she flees the country.

Hello, London!

Across the pond, Lily shares a flat with an old flame -- a commitment-phobic doctor who convinces her that the best prescription for her broken heart is volunteering at the local hospital. Turns out, he's right, as one of the patients, famed soccer star Sean Gates, takes more than a passing interest in Lily's quirky style. But things get complicated when her ex's band starts flying up the British charts. Ted comes to town, the paparazzi camp on her doorstep, and her new fling and old flame both find rumors that Lily and her ex are planning a little reunion tour rather troublesome. Is there a happily ever after at the end of this rocky road?

I Did (But I Wouldn't Now) Details

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Rebecca says

This title makes no sense, but the book was super entertaining. Lame, old chick-lit that didn't take itself seriously at all but you didn't care either.

Girl is divorcing a semi-famous rock star and escapes to London to spend time with her best friend, Dude, of course. They dated years ago, but of course, that didn't work out (you can guess where it goes at the end). Girl is super out of control, like in the way that she lives her life and the things she says, but for like the first time ever, it didn't bug me. I don't even really remember what happened in the book. Girl wasn't supposed to leave the country because she was in the middle of divorce proceedings and she hit her ex-husband or his new girlfriend, I can't even remember, but she left on her sister's passport. She volunteers at the hospital Dude works at and becomes friends with two of the other clerical/nurses that work there. A famous soccer player is staying there who flirts out of control with Girl, but she could care less. Dude starts dating his boss at the hospital who is crazy and she sets something up to kick Girl out of Dude's apartment because she wants Dude all to himself. Hospital friends set something up to catch that girlfriend who is crazy and then show it to Dude who then of course, realizes that he loves Girl and happily ever after, or something like that.

Mayhem ensues throughout the whole thing. I don't even remember what happened but it was entertaining. I like books that know they are trash so they don't take themselves seriously at all. Books that try hard and end up being trash piss me off. For the most part, I love books that take place in London that were written by Americans. There are no details into the city, they are just using it as a setting and know about as much about it as me. I hate when people that I have never been to LA write about LA though. I guess I know too much about it. Weird. This book was not hung-up on the details, which normally I am, and I sort of was in this book, but it was so crazy, that I didn't really care as much as I normally would have. If that makes any sense. Girl's sister sends her dog over to London. How it got through customs, who knows? Who cares?! At least the author admits to that and moves on. I think it's when subjects are avoided, that is when it gets annoying. It's like they are just lazy and don't want to admit to it. Admit to it, we don't care.

Grade: C+

Jerjonji says

Not sure this fits the trashy but fun shelf, but I didn't want to create a new shelf titled- trashy and boring. Fleeing an ugly divorce from a rock star, the protagonist moves in with the one guy who has always loved her- in London. Not once did I care if she fell in love or fell in the garbage dump. She's not likable or someone I want to know. With her self-centered, immature, stupid behavior, I felt like slapping her and saying, "Grow up. Wait until something bad really happens to you!" But she is constantly saved from her behavior by friends and ex-lovers. The best part of the whole book is the chapter headings numbering out reasons why divorcing a rock star is a good idea.

Krystal says

Thanks Laura (my current patron to literacy)

I am getting such a kick out of this story. It's fun, witty, has a strong female character (in the big personality kind of way, but kinda weak when it comes to relationships/love). I stayed up really late reading, I was that into it. My only complaint, and it's a small one, is that in every chapter, at least so far, the character has to remind you she's a bad girl, or at least not good. We get it, move on =)

I had such a good time with this book, and I kept trying to picture Laura and Gabe characters, so that was fun =)

I think near the end it peters out, like it's rushing towards a happily ever after, but the places it made me giggle, and the twisted things the main character did to her soon to be ex, ranked up the stars a notch. It was just a fun read.

M says

H

Annie says

I read this on Beth's recommendation and enjoyed her recommendation more than the book.

I stressed out on page 50 when the passport Lily "borrowed" from her sister was stolen. On page 69 I realized that this was not my kind of book when the main character said "The thing is, I liked Ted's mood swings. I liked not knowing which Ted I was going to get".

I didn't realize there are people out there who like living on that kind of an edge. I think that I would rather be thrown out of an airplane without a parachute than live on an emotional ledge created by my life partner.

However, my sister said that she loved this book so I perservered. And every time I started to stress I reminded myself that Beth was probably laughing at the parts where I wanted to run away FROM A FICTIONAL CHARACTER IN A BOOK!!

So yes, i'm sure I have problems, but we won't get into that. The point is this: I loved this book because I have a sister who makes me laugh and broadens my literary horizons in ways I don't expect. Without her, this book would have been meaningless. Because of her, it is memorable and reminds me why I am so grateful to have a wonderful sister like her.

Victoria says

It was good but I feel like if the main character was real she'd have trouble keeping even the most average boyfriend, let alone all these mega-studs. Entertaining but not very realistic

Cindy says

This was a cute, humorous fluff read, but I found it hard to like the heroine or to get invested in her story. She's in the midst of divorcing a rock star and fighting charges of assault and then just picks up and flees to

London to reconnect with an old friend. There's lots of humorous escapades that are somewhat reminiscent of Bridget Jones's Diary or Confessions of a Shopaholic but without the emotional investment. Lily is just hard to feel sympathetic for - she's flighty, disorganized, trouble-attracting, indulgent - in short she's her own worst enemy. I did like Carter, the old friend that she rooms with while in London, and his roommate, Ian, a Scots with an almost unintelligible accent that spends most of the book playing video games. It was okay for a fluff read but I wonder if I would have liked it better if I'd read the first of the series (I Do -- But I Don't)

Quotes I liked:

Fun is betting against the odds of fate that you'll come out all right in the end. That the thrill ride will be worth it.

In astrology, on your birthday all the stars align with the way they were on the day you were born. Some people feel this is a time to reflect, but my neighbor Fran used to always say that it's a subtle reminder that no matter how much progress you make, you always end up back where you started from.

Amy says

Awful, awful. Ludicrous plot, ridiculous characters, unlikable heroine, just bad bad bad.

Moon Love says

I loved this book! I felt really bad for Lily and the breakup of her marriage. But I loved her attitude. She's hurt, but still able to throw punches and be sassy. She's got balls. She steals her sister's passport and escapes to London to avoid her ex-husband's music and tabloid pictures of him canoodling with an actress and a pending felony assault charge against her. Lily's staying with her one and only male friend Carter, who she dated when she was 18 and he was 20. Carter's a hot orthopedic surgeon who's a wuss when it comes to confrontations and breaking up with women.

You get Lily in London, volunteering at a hospital, with two irreverent and sassy nurses as confidantes, a fat dog, a huge soccer star, paparazzi, a psycho woman who's trying to sink her hooks into Carter and make Lily leave at the same time. All of this sounds like madness but results in a great read. I read it from cover to cover without stopping and was in stitches from laughing so much. It was also really nice to see Lauren and Nick from "I Do (But I Don't)." This is another great book from Cara Lockwood!

Shelley says

This is book #2 of a chick lit read. I never read #1. Considering the first book was of the relationship of Lily's older sister, Lauren and her husband, I'm glad I missed it because Lauren is obnoxious, insecure and reading a whole book of her going off the deep end on everything would had been painful, and probably my book flying across the room. Lily was one step short of the above.

While the story was fluffy and none of the characters are likable, I could admit that the author had me entertained enough, because it was one crazy situation after another, and that could only happen in a novel....or in a movie. There aren't too many people, if any, who are broke, but can still run off (fly) to

London, using her sister's passport (sure okay?!) to escape an unhappy life, and move in with an ex boyfriend. Then there's Lilly's very much pregnant sister, who uses her mother's passport (seriously of a woman who is probably 30 years older?!) She and 3 year old child run away too, to London, because she's convinced her husband is cheating (as if any airline would allow a pregnant woman to fly within weeks of being due), add in a couple of psycho girlfriends, a wedding, a stolen dog, a rescue mission, and a whole lot of eye rolling on my part. The big question is, who does Lily love, her soon to be ex husband or her ex boyfriend? Which one will it be for a "happily ever after"? I know! I know!

Laurie says

This story was a struggle to continue reading. It just didn't seem to hold my interest. I guess I would not want to be married to a rock star anyway. Stealing her sister's passport to get away and go to London made me uncomfortable especially when a jilted girlfriend of Carter stole it. But the ending was a good surprise so I guess I am glad I stuck it out.

Shaleen says

Character does too many dumb things for my taste, but the dialogue made me laugh out loud.

Melitchko says

3.5 Stars

Alex says

At First Sight: Lily has always been the unreliable, flaky sister - particularly when compared to her older sister Lauren who is a successful wedding planner - so no one is surprised when she up and marries Ted Dayton, an up and coming musician, after only a few weeks of knowing him. And people are even less surprised when, a couple of years later, she finds herself in the middle of a nasty divorce.

With assault chargers pending over her head, forty thousand dollars in debt and tabloids running pictures of Ted (who is now a rock star) and his new gorgeous actress girlfriend 24/7; Lily decides to visit her best friend and former boyfriend, Carter, in London.

There she gets a momentary reprieve from the tabloids - though her lawyer isn't letting her forget her court date- and she's happy to let her fate up to a set of tarot cards - since she figures they can't be any worse than she is at making decisions.

But when Carter convinces her to volunteer at the hospital he works at, Lily soon has more to occupy her mind with, like Brigid - Carter's psycho girlfriend - and the fact that she's not being linked to UK football star Sean Gates.

Second Glance: I so had been looking forward to reading Lily's story, though I was a little worried about it too. In I do (But I don't), Lily came off as the type of person who always got away with stuff; she jumped into things without a second thought, expecting others to pick up her messes.

But in I did (But I wouldn't now), life has finally caught up with Lily: she's broke, her husband doesn't want her anymore, and the only one willing to take her in is Carter.

In some ways, Carter is the one who got away, but he's also her best friend. Carter is far from perfect, in fact, he tends to check out the rational part of his brain whenever he's at the beginning of a relationship (basically, sex makes him stupid), plus he's a womanizer, a coward and has a very low threshold of pain.

Still, he is a surprisingly good friend - and it sort of threw me off whenever Lily called him toxic, because aside from the "sex makes him stupid" thing, he was supportive and kind to Lily. I had a bit of trouble buying him as a romantic interest, because he is very cowardly - though, to his credit, he gets what a "Big Gesture" is supposed to be like, and acts accordingly when the occasion arises.

There is also a large cast of supporting characters - among them Carter's roommate Ian, Sean and Tanya Gates, Arnold the overweight pup, and even Lauren and her son Tyler and husband Nick making surprise visits - who keep things interesting.

Bottom Line: I did (but I wouldn't now) it's funny, engaging and witty. Lily turned out to be a great narrator, as she tells her story with Ted and with Carter and how she's handling things now. I wouldn't call it a romance novel, this is definitely more of a chick-lit story, but I still recommend it.

Favorite Quote: "People think they know the difference between hate and love, but most of the time you just can't tell." - Fran.

Dawn says

Cute book! Not as good as the first book about Lauren, but still fun to read about Lily's life. Lily's character is shallow throughout most of the book, but does somewhat grow up towards the end. I loved how the author brought Lauren back into the story towards the end:)
