



## Late Night Shopping

*Carmen Reid*

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## **Late Night Shopping** Carmen Reid

Uber-busy Annie Valentine - mum to two demanding children and personal shopper in a swanky London fashion store - is now intent on setting up a shoe and handbag *empire* of her own, and she'll do anything to get there.

But what about her adorable new man? As someone who wants nothing more than a quiet life, Ed is shocked to discover Annie staking their home on her success, and now their relationship is on the line.

Is Annie's surprise remedy - an extravagant friends and family holiday to Italy - really what they all need? Especially when a dashing Italian businessman promises to fulfil Annie's every dream . . .

## **Late Night Shopping Details**

Date : Published June 30th 2008 by Corgi

ISBN : 9780552154833

Author : Carmen Reid

Format : Paperback 394 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Fiction, Adult

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## From Reader Review Late Night Shopping for online ebook

### Geraldine says

Not as good as the first book but still a nice book to take my mind of other things. I was very disappointed that Ruddy cheated on Annie and did not like that part of the story. But besides that, the story was nice.

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### Chantelle (aka the Blogmonstar) says

It started off good, and not having read the first book, I am unable to say whether it was better or worse than that title, but Annie drove me crazy with a lot of her behaviour. Epecially when it was revealed that she's had an enormous credit card debt from the previous book. I just wanted to shake her and say, 'stop being stupid!' Quite frankly she was annoying and I wasn't at all surprised about some of the things that happened - including the rather big dip her relationship took.

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### Julie says

I wanted to enjoy my first piece of chick lit for quite a while, but this one did not hit the spot. The character is not particularly likeable and while I can empathise with some of her mistakes, I found her frustrating. The overall story was OK, but this offering would not prompt me to pick up another by the author.

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### Elisabetta says

Forse è stato un errore leggere immediatamente il secondo libro della serie..

Infatti, una volta conosciuta Annie, ero molto meno propensa a perdonarle le stramberie e le situazioni assurde in cui si caccia per il semplice motivo che mi aspettavo un'evoluzione del personaggio.. Sì, ok, non va più in giro a cercarsi un uomo (perché finalmente l'ha trovato), ma per il resto le sue esperienze non le hanno insegnato nulla..

Neanche Ed, il compagno di Annie, è perfetto, anzi, in alcuni momenti la pensavo proprio come Annie, ovvero un immaturo che tiene il broncio..

Una cosa che mi è piaciuta molto è stata l'ambientazione in Toscana.. Ah, la magica Toscana, con i suoi paesaggi e le sue particolarità.. Meravigliosa..

... Peccato che gli italiani non ci fanno una bella figura in questo libro.. Uomini belli che ci provano spudoratamente e che non sono quello che si definirebbe delle brave persone.. Spesso gli scrittori stranieri ricadono in questi stereotipi (Italia= pizza, mandolino, mafia), ma va beh, la Toscana di per sé ci fa invece una bellissima figura, tanto che mi verrebbe voglia di prendere la macchina e andarmene in quella meravigliosa villa che ha scovato Annie (chissà se esiste davvero...)

La linea di scrittura si mantiene la medesima utilizzata nel primo libro (inizio - complicazioni - sistemazione dei problemi), e la scrittura fluida garantisce molta scorrevolezza al testo.

I personaggi, come accennavo prima, rimangono sospesi, tali e quali a quando li avevamo conosciuti nel primo libro.

Mi aspettavo qualcosa in più sui figli di Annie, Lana e Owen, che sembrano essere un punto determinante nella vita della protagonista e allora perché non parlare di loro un po' di più? Ho notato che sono invece poco presenti, fanno quasi da sfondo, da fantasmi che interessano ad Annie solo quando gli si manifestano davanti e non può più fare finta che vada tutto bene..

In conclusione, una storia simpatica per passare piacevolmente alcune ore e per esplorare la moda, soprattutto quella italiana!!

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### **Rachel says**

This is the sequel to The Personal Shopper, but could easily be read as a stand-alone. It's not a bad read and kept me entertained on the beach, but I thought Annie treated Ed very badly and wanted to slap her for neglecting him and her family.

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### **Archana Radhakrishnan says**

Not bothered enough to write a full review. But lemme tell you one thing. She can never be another Sophie Kinsella. Not even in the wildest of dreams in that possible!  
You just can't get yourself to even remotely like Annie who's the MC. What's the point of going any further?

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### **Harsimranjot Kaur says**

This book was really good. Somehow I always end up choosing books which are in a series. I said to myself that after this book, I would not read the others in the Annie Valentine series, as I have many books in my room ready to read. However, Carmen Reid has ended the book in such a way that you feel you have to read the next book in the series to find out what happens next.  
The book was interesting and great for girlies who love a good-read. Fantastic!

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### **Kat A says**

This was a piece of chicklit that I found from mining the Girls About Town Short Stories Books. Carmen Reid is from the Scottish one. She is a good writer, and I would read her other books. The trouble with this one was, I hated the main character. She was really annoying (read irresponsible and selfish) ala Becky Bloomwood, to the point I was yelling at her. In the book. Seriously, that's over involvement. Annie is a personal shopper who wants to start her own business, but is sacrificing time with her family and partner while doing so. There was enough plot to keep me reading, but it was so ho hum, and the really interesting characters never were fully explored. There was the requisite gay best friend, so pretty run of the mill. I'm up for another turn, but give Late Night Shopping a miss.

Update: Just found out it was a sequel to a book called The Personal Shopper, but that just makes it even more like the Shopaholic series. Will read it and report back.

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## **Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says**

I picked this up at the library without realising it was the second in the series, and though I have the first *The Personal Shopper* as marked as unread I think I must have read it at some stage as the characters in this were so familiar.

I admired Annie's ambition but felt her motives and behaviour were too self serving to be sympathetic. I was waiting for her to acknowledge her actions as at least a little unreasonable and redeem herself, but I felt that the consequences for her were token at best.

The story itself was okay, fairly predictable, though amusing enough in places. It probably doesn't help that I only own 3 pairs of shoes and one \$20 handbag so I find the label dropping and lavicious descriptions of puffy sleeves and satin heels uninspiring. Mainly though I didn't much care for Annie so I didn't much care for her story.

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## **Lara says**

This book is about Annie Valentine, a personal shopper, mother of two and girlfriend to a teacher, Ed. It is the second in the Annie Valentine series, a fact which I did not know before purchasing the book. Even though I started from this book instead of the first one, in this book the author gave information about the characters, without giving too many spoilers about the first book so that this story is easy to follow.

This book reminded me of *Confessions of a Shopaholic* since Annie is also a shopaholic who cannot seem to control making huge purchases even though her credit cards are all maxed out and she cannot afford to. Annie even borrows more money from the bank on her house, without even telling Ed, her boyfriend, who owns this house with her. She is constantly lying to him about her purchases and their cost. She even hides the fact that she has a room full of items for when she starts her own business.

I found Annie's character to be frustrating most of the time since she kept buying things and lying about it to Ed, even though this hurt her relationship with him and even with her children. I really could not relate to her character and kept getting frustrated with her throughout most of this book.

Overall this book wasn't enjoyable for me and I probably won't be buying any more books from this series. I would only recommend it to fans of the *Shopaholic Series* who are looking for something along those same lines.

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## **The Sweet Bookshelf says**

What a fun little book! If you love shopping then this is your kind of book. It's all about couture! It's not your normal chic-lit, meaning it's about a woman in her 30's and she had kids! I enjoyed it. I realized that this is one of many books about Annie Valentine. I can't wait to go grab the other books. The author, Carmen Reid, is a Glaswegian! I'm looking forward to some upcoming events.

## Daisy Craydon says

As a teenager Carmen Reid quickly became one of my favourite authors for feminine story lines. A story about a heroine of a fashionista who gets up to all kinds of mischief.

A summer, quick and easy read.

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## Mel says

I picked this up after reading "The Personal Shopper" the first of the Annie Valentine novels by Carmen Reid.

Really, this review could be 8 words: it wasn't as good as the first one.

It skips a year ahead from the first one, but feels like it should be carry on directly from it.

Annie is back working at The Store after the evil boss who fired her leaves. I really wanted some sort of back story on the evil boss-why does she hate Annie, where did she go? Was she fired? Why? The book doesn't make it clear, which annoyed me. If a character does something, I want to know why! She does turn up again later, but only to be horrible to Annie.

Annie wants to start her own business by borrowing loads of money. And she spends a ridiculous amount of money on a handbag. Her partner is having doubts, so she spends almost the whole book arguing over it.

It just isn't as strong plotwise as the first book was. Personally, I don't understand people who spend over a thousand pounds on a bag. The most I've spent is twenty quid. Because of that, the plot seemed unrealistic to me and it was the same thing all through the book. Annie spends lots of money, boyfriend gets mad. Throw in the odd misunderstanding and a few funny moments with Connor, the gay best friend and that's it. The characters are still likable, but the plot not so much.

You should probably try the first one before reading this, because it is much better.

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## Leah says

Uber-busy Annie Valentine – mum to two demanding children and personal shopper in a swanky London fashion store – is now intent on setting up a shoe and handbag empire of her own, and she'll do anything to get there. But what about her adorable new man? As someone who wants nothing more than a quiet life, Ed is shocked to discover Annie staking their home on her success, and now their relationship is on the line. Is Annie's surprise remedy – an extravagant friends and family holiday to Italy – really what they all need? Especially when a dashing Italian businessman promises to fulfil Annie's every dream . . .

After finally deciding to read Carmen Reid's Annie Valentine series and thoroughly enjoying the first book, I was definitely eager to get stuck into the rest of the series. The next book Late Night Shopping has my favourite cover of all of Carmen's Annie V books (including new one New York Valentine), so I started it expecting another fun, fashion-filled read and I wasn't disappointed.

Late Night Shopping is the second novel in Carmen Reid's Annie Valentine series, with (at least) three more books to follow it, and picks up about a year after where The Personal Shopper left off. Annie is back working for The Store again, her relationship with Ed is as fantastic as ever and she's trying really hard to turn her EBay store into something a little more... real, and maybe even start up her own business. The fact

the book picks up a year later is no hardship at all and I found myself slipping back into the mad world of Annie V very easily.

The book spends a chunk of time in Italy, after Annie books a holiday for herself, Ed, the kids, her sister and Auntie and I quite enjoyed the change of scenery. Of course, being in Italy (the handbag and shoe capital of the World, I think Annie calls it) is Annie's version of heaven as she finds herself making plans to import a ton of cheap handbags from the handsome Mr Bellissimo (Annie's nickname for him). But it's on the holiday where things start to go downhill for Annie and Ed, and it looks like it might be curtains for them! I liked Reid's descriptions of Italy, and it must have taken some research to get it just so, but I think Reid got the descriptions spot on. I also liked the developing relationship between Ed, Lana and Owen. It's seems to have moved up a level since the first book and shows that step-parents aren't always wicked!

Annie is a fantastic character, there's no doubt about it. She really does shine off the pages and although she can be a little Becky Bloomwood-esque (not telling their boyfriend/husband about shopping purchases, getting into sticky situations), I do find Annie very different to Becky, but both are equally fantastic characters for different reasons. I completely admire Annie's approach to life, she's a bit like a pinball, constantly moving, always bouncing from one thing to another. Ed, her partner, on the other hand is Annie's safety vest, always looking out for her, trying to dissuade her from her more adventurous schemes and making sure her kids are looked after while she's at work. I find Ed very intriguing, he's such a lovely character. I personally don't think we saw as much of Annie's kids this time around, Lana and Owen, which was disappointing as the family as a unit makes for fabulous reading but what I saw was promising. I love how Owen is getting more confidence and seeing Lana grow up into a young adult is also great. Annie's GBF, Connor, is back and as glorious as ever, honestly, he deserves his own spin-off series.

Late Night Shopping is, like its predecessor, told from the third person perspective and it works incredibly well. I did have a few problems with the book as a whole, Annie can be a bit lacking sometimes when it comes to her kids, especially when her head is so full of ideas of starting her own business and I didn't like the way she ignored everything Ed had to say about her running her own business accusing him of not backing her. I didn't think it was fair of her, at all. But apart from those little niggles I raced through the book as eagerly as I did The Personal Shopper. Honestly, I really cannot believe it's taken me so long to read this series as it's hugely enjoyable. I truly never believed a book about a personal shopper could be so good but with a core of five fantastic characters as well as a multitude of others; family, Annie's clients, etc, makes for fascinating reading and I can't wait to get stuck into How Not To Shop.

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## **Evangeline says**

Annie Valentine was even more annoying and pathetic than she was in the first book. I don't know what Ed sees in her!

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