



A Clean Slate

Laura Caldwell

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A Clean Slate Details

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From Reader Review A Clean Slate for online ebook

Karen says

This was the second Laura Caldwell book I have read, the first being *The Rome Affair*. I liked them both. This one in particular was a very quick read--not very deep, but fast-moving. I live in the Chicago area, so enjoyed all of the city references and this was also true in *The Rome Affair* as well. Not extremely memorable, but a nice break. The story moved along quickly, I liked the main character and was looking forward to how Caldwell would bring everything to light.

WhiteOak Library says

Although the group wasn't thrilled with this title, we still had a great discussion and our book club is growing!

Questions for discussion:

1. One of the themes of the novel is the concept that our lives are always ours to remake. Why does it take a memory loss for Kelly to realize that? Where do you see her in five years? Ten years?
2. Did you fault Laney when she admitted that she had, in a way, enjoyed it when Kelly was depressed? Have you ever experienced a time when you felt needed and important during a crisis experienced by a friend or family member?

I'm starting *A Clean Slate*: Crest Hill Book Club selection for February 15th, 2013. This novel chronicles the days of Kelly McGraw, a Chicago woman who suddenly can't remember the last five months of her life. Overwhelmed and confused but otherwise feeling wonderful, she begins to realize that she has a clean slate in life. Follow Kelly on a journey that includes her search to discover what caused her memory loss and a brutal discovery that will cause her to reevaluate both her old and new lives. The book will be available for checkout one month prior to the book club meeting. You can check it out at the Crest Hill Adult Services Desk. 1:30pm-3pm.

Lynn Spencer says

4.5 stars I do miss the Red Dress Ink line. They had some great books, and this was one of them. I first read it about 10 years ago, and it definitely held up on reread.

While it has more than a few touches of humor and a heroine who has some great adventures, **A Clean Slate** is a bit more thoughtful than the average chick lit. The heroine, Kelly McGraw, lives in Chicago and the book opens as readers discover along with her that she cannot remember the last 5 months of her life. She quickly learns that she has been laid off from her job and that her long-term boyfriend dumped her on her birthday rather than proposing as she had expected. Oh, and her house is no longer hers and she has no idea what she's been doing with her life. Scary stuff indeed.

Yet, somehow Kelly starts to open up to the possibilities of living life with her slate wiped clean. With few memories of how she lost her job, she ends up deciding to spend some time living on her severance pay

while pursuing her long-buried passion for photography. And yes, her photographer's assistant job just might work out a little *too* perfectly for her, but after all she's been through, there's some happy wish fulfillment in reading about Kelly's successes in reinventing her life.

There are some romantic escapades as well, but these are fairly muted and form only a minor part of the story. The real focus is on Kelly learning how to craft the life she wants instead of the one expected of her. I liked her as a character and I enjoyed seeing her making choices and finding her way.

Melanie says

This book was a lot of fun to read - the memory loss, which could've been so soap opera, was handled in a refreshing and interesting way; the characters were realistic; the story well done. I really enjoyed it.

Alarra says

Eh. Fairly standard chick lit, where the female protagonist undergoes some painful emotional life change (in this case, her boyfriend dumps her on her 30th birthday, just after she's been fired) but finds that ultimately it's the best thing that could've happened to her because it enables her to find her true life goal and partner. There's a small twist, but I was disappointed with that in the end, because they could've used the twist and explored so much more, but it stuck to very safe, familiar ground.

Suzanne says

A Clean Slate is about a woman who loses her memory of the last five months of her life, and the reader is taken through her journey trying to figure out what happened to cause the loss in her life. It is easy to feel a connection to the main character and feel for what she is going through. It was a quick read for me because I really enjoyed it.

Melissa says

I liked the plot of this book more than the average chick lit. While it did have some of the trappings of normal chick lit (breakup, make over, trendy apartments), it managed to go a bit deeper at the same time. An easy read and an enjoyable read.

Talea says

This book was alright. I liked the premise and liked the writing, but the plot was clearly fiction....one of those things where 'oh look! I've just been offered a perfect job! How lovely!' Not bad at all though, nice easy chick-lit.

Sandy says

Ok, I couldn't put this book down. I was fascinated by the whole theory of not remembering what had happened. I loved the main character though, could really relate to her. The only thing was I kept feeling like I was getting headaches as I was reading (but that is just my hypochondria)

Courtney says

I loved this book. It was great characters, relationships and story. I think I liked it so much because I could identify with the character. It was pretty much the last year of my life to a T, without one part - which I won't list because it would spoil. Enjoy!

Writer's Relief says

At some point in life, you may have wished for a new beginning, a chance to erase all of your misfortunes. In Laura Caldwell's A CLEAN SLATE, Kelly McGraw is suddenly given an opportunity to start over from scratch and is left to wonder...why?

Her life was going according to plan: Her long-time boyfriend was on the cusp of proposing, she recently moved into an amazing Chicago townhouse, and her boss was sure to name her partner of the firm.

But Kelly wakes up one morning to find that she is now single, unemployed, and has absolutely no memory of the last five months. Feeling completely rejuvenated with the chance to begin again, Kelly isn't sure she wants to know what caused her memory loss; after all, she's experiencing freedom and happiness she hadn't known existed. But just because she can't remember the last five months doesn't mean the problems that she left behind are gone forever too.

A CLEAN SLATE will have you thinking about the many possibilities in life and the benefits of embracing change. Laura Caldwell perfectly blends humor, suspense, and dynamic relationships in a way that have you bonding with her characters and turning the pages.

Lori says

LOVED this book! I really love Laura Caldwell and her writing. This book really inspired me to take a look at my own life and figure out what i WANT to do instead of what i NEED to do all the time! Maybe someday soon I'll figure it out!

Jennifer says

This wasn't a typical chick lit book, although it did have some of those elements with a twist. I liked how it didn't have a neat and tidy happily-ever-after ending. It was more realistic in that the character doesn't know what will happen, but she is optimistic. I liked how she sucks it up in the end and takes jobs that she thinks

are "beneath" her in order to pursue her passion. She doesn't automatically start out making big bucks doing photography. She starts at the bottom as an assistant making a measly hourly wage. She doesn't end up with a guy in the end either, but she's okay with that and there are possibilities. I also liked the friendship between her and Laney - how the book focused on her female friendship more than the romantic relationship. It makes you think about what's important and what you would do if you could start all over again.

Donna says

A good quick read. I liked the story, it was fun & light.

Although there was nothing earth shattering or truly breathtaking about this book, the characters were likable enough and the (not too subtle) underlying theme/moral of the story is universal. Everyone needs a reminder to stay true to themselves and not get caught up in the daily grind and expectations of society from time to time.

Caldwell was able to convey this gentle reminder throughout the story without the use of symbology and metaphor and fanciful prose. Instead, she simply wove the main characters woes and worries into a tale that nearly everyone can relate to on some level. It made for a nice, easy read that in the end has the reader taking stock trying to remember what is truly important to them so that they may embrace that in their life.

Karen says

I debated writing this review because I didn't finish it. When the main character starts talking about the virtues of having lost weight due to depression and how pleased she is with her new angular body, I had to stop reading. That mindset is so unhealthy and I didn't want to invite it in. I hope the character turns around and learns to love herself no matter her size or circumstance but I'm not super interested in reading about it.
