



The One Before The One

Katy Regan

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32 year old Caroline Steele is a woman in denial. After calling off her wedding to teenage sweetheart Martin, she should be moving on. Instead she's racked with guilt, drowning her sorrows with Pinot Grigio and has developed a penchant for dressing up in her never-used wedding dress.

The One Before The One Details

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Leen says

Caroline is een typische dertiger: ze heeft net een einde gemaakt aan haar jarenlange, stabiele relatie met een brave jongen, heeft een allesbehalve spannende carrière én uiteraard een seksrelatie met de (getrouwde!) hottie van het werk. Alles loopt dus op rolletjes als onverwacht haar tienerhalf zus aanbelt om de zomer bij haar in het grote, coole Londen te mogen doorbrengen. Beide vrouwen hebben genoeg geheimen voor elkaar om een soort spanning vast te houden doorheen het hele verhaal, maar zodra De Man in the picture komt is het voor zelfs de meeste naïeve lezer duidelijk waar het einde naartoe zal gaan want zo gaat dat met chicklits, het is alleen maar de vraag hoelang de schrijver alles zal laten aanslepen. Dat viel gelukkig nog mee.

Ik heb me enkel of toch vooral geërgerd aan de belachelijke toeren die de overijverige vertaler heeft uitgehaald. De resem flatters bereikte al een hoogtepunt op pagina 41, waar de tienerhalf zus haar grote zus vertelt over het liedje 'Knetter' van "Dizzy" Rascal, en daaruit zelfs een stukje begint te zingen. Dit werd volledig vertaald en het duurde even voor ik doorhad over welk nummer het ging... Wat me mezelf heeft doen beloven chicklits enkel nog in het Engels te lezen vanaf nu, één ergernis minder!

<http://youtu.be/Ci40ae8BlcE>

2*** Heerlijk om je verstand soms te kunnen uitschakelen.

Samantha says

Well... I didn't hate it, so I guess The One Before the One has THAT going for it. Good thing, because it doesn't have much else. Caroline is not very easy character to warm to; she's self absorbed and completely unaware of how her behavior affects the lives of both her friends and her family. Despite Regan's efforts to redeem Caroline at the end, it all just fell short. And what even was that epilogue? Yuck, yuck, yuck.

Stefennie says

Really enjoyed this

Frida says

I love me a little bit of chick-lit every once in a while, but this was one was just so ... silly. Maybe it's because I'm 17 myself, but I couldn't stand Lexi's character. It seems like she's either drunk, pregnant, or making casual conversation with 30-year-old drug dealers. She goes from one potential disaster to the next. (Is this how 17-year-olds act? Really?) Although, to be fair, Caroline isn't much better either. The entire book is just a build-up until that pivotal moment when she realises that having an affair and leaving the aforementioned troublesome 17-year-old at home - ALONE - whilst she's on a weekend rendezvous with a married man, weren't such good ideas after all. For god's sake. Why did it take her so long to arrive at that

conclusion? Really now.

I couldn't sympathise with any of the characters, at least not during the first part of the book. It grew on me in the end. I always was a sucker for happy endings ... And that's why it has two stars and not one.

Rea Cobb says

Katy Regan is a new author to me. After reading this book I googled her and have found that she has released a book before this one called One Thing Led To Another. Now that I have finished The One before The One I cannot wait to go back and read her first book. I am not sure why I hadn't heard of her before as the book was a great read my only thing is I am not over keen on the cover of the book.

Plot

Meet Caroline who is our main character she has called off the wedding to her long term partner Martin and is ready to be free and enjoy life but has she made the right decision? A spanner is thrown in the works when her teenage sister Lexi arrives on her door step and announces that she is going to be staying with her for the whole of the summer! Unsure of how to look after a teenager Caroline tries her best to help her sister with her problems but having her around is making it hard to see Toby who is her married work colleague who she is currently sleeping with. Caroline realises with the help of her sister that she needs to make some decisions to get her life back on track but this only means a lot of changes need to be made which can only lead to some broken hearts.

My Opinion

When I first started to read this book I found it a little strange as my partner is called Martin and my sister is called Lexi so I felt like I was going to be warm to our main character Caroline from the start, oh how could I be so wrong! I found Caroline, hard to warm to at first especially as when we meet her and her fiancé Martin he seems so charming that you couldn't help but give her the cold shoulder a little at first for breaking his heart. As the book progressed I soon started to warm more to her character and started to enjoy reading about her journey in life. I really did enjoy reading the character of Martin he just seemed to be good to be true! I enjoyed reading about the relationship between Caroline and her sister Lexi as where they had not been brought up together you found you were watching the relationship between the two grow. There was only one character in this book which I could not take to and found the more that the book went on I loathed him even more and that is the character of Toby. I found when we first met him to be smarmy and after that the feelings towards him grew worse!!

What really kept me on my toes with this book was the suspense as right until the last few chapters I was still not quite sure how it would end. I kept wondering would there be a happy ending and I think it was this which kept the pages turning for me.

I found that this book had a mixture of content to it. There was a few bits of humour put in which was a nice touch and made it a little light hearted after reading about some slightly deeper parts when it came to Lexi so the humour was a nice touch to still keep the book an enjoyable read.

I would defiantly recommend this book and as I mentioned before I will now be keeping a look out for her previous book and I suggest you all do the same to! I think this is going to be an Author to keep your eyes peeled for in the future.

**Also posted on my Blog <http://reabookreview.blogspot.com/> **

Harriet Quimby says

I enjoyed this book a lot.

I have to say my favourite character was definitely Shona. She managed to just make me laugh and she seemed like such a genuine character/person.

I found the Caroline a little annoying but I enjoyed her all the same.

Lexi was again another face she made me laugh and I fell in love with her from the beginning.

Overall I really enjoyed this book and I would recommend it.

Kim says

Het leven van de tweeëndertigjarige Caroline had erop vooruit moeten gaan nadat ze, drie maanden voor de bruiloft, haar verloving met Martin had verbroken. Met inmiddels een nieuwe to do list, een bloeiende carrière en een geheime minnaar heeft ze het toch maar mooi voor elkaar. Denkt ze. Totdat haar half zusje Lexi van zeventien onverwachts op de stoep staat en per se bij Caroline in Londen de zomer wil doorbrengen. Gedurende de zomer tuimelen de elementen van Carolines leven (inclusief exen, minnaars, werk en familie) over elkaar en moet ze enkele beslissingen nemen om haar leven te beteren. De vraag is of dat gaat lukken met de aanwezigheid van haar zusje, die duidelijk iets te verbergen heeft en tegen wie ze zelf ook niet eerlijk is.

Dit boek zag ik liggen bij de bieb. Ik vond het wel weer eens leuk om lekker een boek tussendoor te lezen. Dus afgaande op de kaft en de achterkant dacht ik dat ik met dit boek wel een goede keuze had gemaakt. En dat blijkt ook zo te zijn. Al moet ik wel zeggen dat ik bij de eerste pagina wel de neiging had om het meteen weer weg te leggen, omdat er ontzettend lange zinnen in zaten. Maar die zitten alleen op de eerste pagina. De rest van het boek heeft een goed tempo om te lezen. De relaties tussen de personen en de personen onderling worden goed uitgewerkt. Ook de voorspelbaarheid van het boek valt mee. Wat ik persoonlijk leuk vond is dat het verhaal in Londen speelt. Er worden ook verschillende plekken genoemd. Begin dit jaar ben ik zelf in Londen geweest en er kwamen heel wat plekken voorbij die ik zelf ook bezocht heb. Dit is het eerste boek van de schrijfster dat ik heb gelezen. Maar ik weet dat ze nog een boek heeft en ik denk dat ik dat ook wil lezen.

Aisha Reads Books says

acceptable.

Emer says

“Mum used to say: you wait till your 30s Caroline! Your 30s are the happiest time in your life because you will know who you are and what you want.

Sometimes I feel like that is the biggest piece of misinformation I've ever been fed. In fact sometimes, I get this feeling like is this it? Is my only stab at happiness over already?”

I don't feel particularly inspired to write this review. There was nothing too wrong with this book... but there was nothing too right either?!?! It just doesn't have that special something to make it stand out from the crowd of books in this genre. There were just too many clichés, predictable plot points and not enough humour or heart. I've just finished reading this book and am struggling to even remember the lead characters' names!! I just didn't emotionally connect with any aspect of this book.

Caroline was your typical 30-something chick-lit lead character; kind of successful yet kind of hopeless, making frustratingly bad choices everywhere in her romantic life but without the cuteness or quirkiness that would make her memorable. There was no emotional core in this book.

Our lead character's life got the usual '*turned upside down*' routine in this novel by the arrival of her teenage half-sister... Think of every cliché and stereotype under the sun about seventeen year olds and that was this character: ridiculous and disingenuous to seventeen year olds everywhere!

We had two love interests for our main character... one a terribly pantomime version of a lothario and the other who we are supposed to go all swoony for... I don't know... He was lovely I guess but oh so one dimensional!

I've read two other books by Katy Regan before and enjoyed them so right now I'm scratching my head in confuddlement a bit...

Have I exhausted my love of this genre??

Is it a case of '*it's not you, it's me*'???

I don't know... right now I just feel as flat and emotionally bereft as these characters.

Two stars

Zoe says

A feel good, fun and flirty chick-lit.

32 year old Caroline Steele is in a pickle. Not only is she having an affair with a married man, she can't seem to let go of her ex fiance whom she ditched weeks before their wedding.

Caroline's 17 year old sister Lexi comes to stay for the summer - and what at first seemed like a disaster in waiting, turned out to be the very thing Caroline needed to turn her life around.

Of course, chick-lit wouldn't be chick-lit without a love story thrown in for good measure. Predictable - but I don't mind!

Faydee Pate says

wow

Rebecca says

Good chick lit

Danielle says

This is a perfect holiday read - light and frothy with funny moments. I enjoyed it, and finished it quickly but it didn't make a deep impression on me and I won't be re-reading it.

I felt that some of the characters could have been developed more, particularly the history of Caroline and Lexi's relationship, which only came to life late in the story. In contrast, I liked the way Caroline's relationship with Toby was portrayed - it seemed quite a realistic and thoughtful depiction of the turmoil caused by affairs.

One thing which really grated on me, and apologies for being pedantic - there were lots of irritating typo's and grammatical errors in the text. Caroline looking "peeky", and not peaky when she was ill, the use of it's when it should have been its, missing words so that sentences didn't make sense.. etc etc. Sorry, but I think sloppy

proof reading always reflects badly on the quality of the book and isn't fair on the author. It was also driving me mad by the end of the book.

Other than that, a good book and I hope Katy Regan goes on to write more novels.

Tara Anderton says

This was a light easy read that kept me coming back - Lexi and Wayne were my favourite characters

Catherine says

I wasn't sure about Caroline at the beginning of this book - she's one hell of a hot mess! But I soon warmed

to her and had my fingers crossed she would get her HEA. The One Before the One had me LOLing on several occasions. If chick-lit (that's not too 'fluffy') is your thing or you just need an easy read that will make you smile you can't go past Katy Regan!
