



Starting From Square Two

Caren Lissner

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Starting From Square Two Details

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Author : Caren Lissner

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From Reader Review Starting From Square Two for online ebook

Jenn says

<https://jenninsf.wordpress.com/2009/0...>

Kay says

Before reading this book, I thought I'd be put off by the plot of a young widow getting back into dating after the loss of the love of her life. I did not find this off putting at all but rather absorbed by the author's skillful handling of a tough topic. This book is sensitive, funny at times, and very easy to relate to. Gert is portrayed so skillfully that I'd love to have an update on how she's doing now - 15 years appx. after this book. I guess one could criticize that the primary female characters really wanted a man and found meeting new men frustrating in New York City (after all it's full of people). However, the objects of desire, the male characters, were well portrayed. I'm currently reading two other books (one by a well known respected author) by male authors where the women just seem like beautiful objects for the male characters to possess and lament their loss. Both of the male characters are overwrought whiny men (granted they have managed to get themselves into bad situations) so I really appreciate a grounded female protagonist like Gert. Maybe that's why she feels so real to me.

Charity says

Great story about dating again after losing a spouse.

Brittany Kelly says

This book was okay. I really did feel that the story premise itself could have been executed better though. Gert (really, whhy that name?) is a young widow and the book describes her struggles to move on. Her friends are kind of annoying and don't understand her -- and the end felt abrupt.

Alarra says

A young widow tries to re-enter the dating scene after five blissful years of marriage. It's intelligent chicklit and I really liked the main characters and the way their relationship grows.

Terrie says

Again, far more depth than your average Red Dress Ink imprint book. A little too predictable though.

Ann says

Not my cup of tea when there are so many other books to read. I guess it would be a good beach read. I got half way thru it before another book from the library became available

Lynda says

I wanted to read this book because I really enjoyed her first novel, Carrie Pilby. Right from the get-go though, this novel really irritated me in all its chick-lit stereotypical glory.

Gert is recently widowed and hangs around her two single friends, Hallie and Erika. Both are jaded to the world of dating, Hallie never having had a successful relationship and Erika constantly obsessing over her ex-boyfriend Ben. Gert seems like she'll be the one to keep this book together. She even has the potential to be a strong, single woman. But no, right from the start she's in a bar meeting guys because no woman can be complete without a man.

The only reason I didn't chuck this book out of my second story window to be shred into a million pieces by the air conditioner unit below is because of the guy Gert ended up meeting at the bar. His name is Todd, he works as some sort of railroad engineer and he's about the greatest guy who's ever graced the pages of a chick-lit novel. He's kind, thoughtful and considerate and does just about everything right.

Gert doesn't treat him as well as she should and both her and her friends agree that Todd does some things which are insensitive and warrant an apology. These things are SO SMALL I don't understand how the woman was successfully married before. Maybe that husband of hers really killed himself to be rid of her and her childish expectations of men.

If you want a light and fluffy read, please by my guest and dive into this book. You'll fall in love with Todd and the (honest to God) most serious problem in this book is that Todd is working long hours and is too tired to give Gert 100% of his attention.

Wow.

Todd, I salute you! You're a great guy and don't deserve to be picked apart so much by Gert, Hallie and Erika. Better luck next time.

Just - The romance reader says

The plot itself was good, and I enjoyed the main character, Gert. She was strong and inspiring in what she was able to overcome, and learn from. With that said, I found the story would drag on from time to time.

J. R. says

Lissner develops very interesting scenarios, both in the overall story and in various episodes. I began reading her Carrie Pilby novel and have happily continued with this one. She is a thoughtful and careful writer, and reading her work is a thorough pleasure.

Patria says

I inherited this book when I moved into my cube at work. It was ok but painful to go through this woman's analysis of going through the loss of her husband at the age of 29. boo hoo. Stupid book...kind of sucked.

Kim says

A Red Dress Ink book of a different color... I enjoyed it.

Diana says

Ehhh...her friends were really annoying and the whole book felt rather shallow. I found myself reading it quickly so I could move on. End was good but not impressed with the rest.

Jonathan Maas says

I am a big Caren Lissner after reading the brilliant Carrie Pilby. I was expecting more of the same (hilarious, heartwarming comedy), but got a nice surprise in this one - this one is the opposite. Carrie Pilby makes you laugh out loud, this one makes you think.

Why? Because Starting From Square Two's main character, Gert, already had a perfect life, and then became a widow due to an accident, now is 29 and is - starting again, this time from square two.

I'm reminded a bit of Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel: A Graphic Novel, in the sense that this book was way out of my comfort zone (ie the main thrust of it is finding a boyfriend), and yet I was engaged throughout. Don't ask me how, I just was!

In any case, this is like Sex and the City, but with real life problems, namely that Gert is dealing with things she doesn't want to deal with, doing things she doesn't want to do, and learning lessons throughout. I highly recommend it!

