



The Broken Hearts Book Club

Lynsey James

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Secrets never stay buried for long...

Lucy Harper has always been good at one thing: running from her past. But when her beloved Nana Lily passes away she has no choice except to return to the one place in the world she most wants to avoid...

Luna Bay hasn't changed much in the eight years she has spent in London. The little Yorkshire village is still just as beautiful, but the new pub landlord is a gorgeous addition to the scenery!

Lucy only intended to stay for a day, yet when she discovers that Nana Lily has not only left her a cottage but also 'The Broken Hearts Book Club', Lucy is intrigued. Her Nana never have mentioned the club and Lucy can't wait to get started, but walking into her first meeting she is more aware than ever that her past is finally catching up with her.

One way or another, Lucy must finally face the past she left behind – or spend the rest of her life on the run...

The Broken Hearts Book Club is the second novel by Lynsey James – don't miss her brilliantly funny debut *Just the Way You Are*

Praise for Lynsey James

‘*The Broken Hearts Book Club* is perfect for these colder, darker nights – it’s **like a big warm comfort blanket in book form!**’ – Rather Too Fond of Books

‘I adored this book. From the gorgeous setting of Luna Bay to the highly likable protagonist, ***The Broken Hearts Book Club* was a total treat.**’ - Blabbering About Books

The Broken Hearts Book Club Details

Date : Published October 12th 2015 by Carina (first published September 4th 2015)

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Author : Lynsey James

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From Reader Review The Broken Hearts Book Club for online ebook

Simona says

Book provided by the publisher on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

This is Lynsey's second book and I'm really happy and proud of her for that! I loved her debut novel Just The Way You Are and was really excited for her second novel.

The story follows 26-year-old Lucy Harper. She is an event organiser and lives in London. The death of her Nana brings her back home to Luna Bay. It's hard for her to return, because of something that happened eight years ago. The mystery around that event follows us through the whole story, all we know is that it is connected to her then best friend Vicky.

Lucy doesn't plan to stay in Luna Bay, but her Nana leaves her her cottage by the sea and also asks her to run The Broken Heart Books Club. Lucy stays and continues what her Nana started. She has a rough start though, with the cottage needing a lot of repairs and the book club not accepting new things she tries. There is also Vicky's mum, who makes it very difficult for Lucy.

I was glad she had her mum and dad through that and also her best friends George and Elle (who is also connected to the thing that happened eight years ago).

At the pub The Purple Partridge Lucy meets Jake. The sparks fly immediately, but they take a while to really get closer. Jake also has a little secret that might be a bit surprising. I liked the two of them together, I felt however that their relationship develop too quickly and yay we're in love was there too soon. We didn't really get to read about how it all developed. When his ex comes back everything gets really complicated.

Weirdly enough I found it hard to relate to Lucy. She put a lot of heart and passion into the book club, but her way of thinking and some of her decisions just didn't make any sense to me.

There very certain parts of the storyline that just didn't feel authentic for me. Some actions were just weird in my eyes.

Yes, the story is predictable, but usually that doesn't bother me, here it kind of did. I didn't enjoy this story as much as Just The Way You Are, but I still think Lynsey is a really talented author.

I loved the setting of Luna Bay, Lynsey's descriptions made the place seem so alive and wonderful. By the sea, just beautiful. There was Nana's cottage set by the sea and also the pub, and especially The Broken Hearts Book Club. A great idea, all people with broken hearts sharing their life stories and exchanging thoughts about books. I found it a pity though that they didn't like her new ideas at first. The books Lucy chose to read in the book club were really good and diverse, I liked the thoughts on the books.

I enjoyed reading this story, Lynsey's writing makes it sweet and bubbly. You can feel that it comes from the heart.

Rating: 3.5/5

Silke says

I was kindly given a review copy through Netgalley, with many thanks to the publisher and Jenny Marston for hosting the tour.

I completely devoured this story and absolutely loved my time in Luna Bay. Because as some of the characters so perfectly explained: this place gets under your skin and it's impossible to leave afterwards.

Lynsey's writing reminded me a little bit about another one of my fave authors out there, and I do think that says a lot about her charming way of creating this story ^^

Full review up on October 17 as part of the TBHBC blog tour: <http://silkereadsandwrites.blogspot.be/>

Debbie says

4 Stars

This was a cute make everybody feel good little romance (sex is only implied for the most part) that has its happy ending. Of course, there are a few rough patches along the way and a couple of hurdles but that just adds to the suspense of will they or won't they.

It was well written and basically pretty entertaining. I did get a little tired of hearing about what Vickie did and was finally glad to hear what had happened on that dreadful night that made Lucy such an outcast in the town. Turns out it was just a mother looking for someone to blame because it wasn't Lucy's fault.

I'm still not sure if Jake was sincere about everything though. He was just with Rachael a few weeks before and didn't take him long to go running back. I don't know if I trust him.

Anyways, it was a good read, entertaining, enjoyable and fun. I would recommend it.

Thanks to Carina UK and Net Galley for the free e-galley in exchange for an honest review.

Aoife says

4.5

The only thing that knocked this is, I'd have loved if the books in the book club were all listed at the end.

Karen Mace says

I received a copy of this via NetGalley and Carina UK in return for a fair and honest review.

After loving Lynsey James' debut novel, Just The Way You Are, i was eagerly awaiting the chance to read this and I've not been disappointed!!

It is one of those books that grabs you in the first chapter with the awkwardness and funny situations - how more awkward can it be starting to sing Big Yellow Taxi at your Nana's funeral!? - and the main character Lucy Harper is so easy to relate to that you can't help but want her to get the happy ending.

Something happened in Luna Bay 8 years ago that forced Lucy to run away and get a job in London and she rarely if ever went back to visit despite her parents and family all living there. So it takes the death of her nana and an unusual bequest in the will to get Lucy back home and trying to let the past go. That isn't as easy as she'd hope as some members of the community are far from letting the tragic events of the past be forgotten

Really enjoyed seeing how Lucy quickly came to care about the members of the Lonely Hearts Book Club she was left to look after and her attempts to bring happiness back to their lives, despite her own life not being a bed of roses, was such a sweet act even if things sometimes never went smoothly!

Meanwhile her quest for true love does start to look promising and really enjoyed the build up in the relationship between her and Fitty McFitterson - oops i mean Jake!! Once again she puts herself out to help him and his failing pub business and it's only when she realises that she's close to losing things she loves that she understands what Luna Bay has always meant to her.

Thoroughly enjoyable chick-lit full of characters you care about, that had me laughing and crying! highly recommended!

Emer says

After spending money on this and to paraphrase the main character in this book; well done Emer, *you absolute banana!!!*

I'm in one of those moods where I just want to read fluffy cute books laden with rom-com cliches: a likeable MC, a cute guy to fall for, a quirky best friend, a little personal drama but all tied up with a nice happily ever after!

However!!!

That does not mean that I don't want a little emotional depth too.

Some characters with spunk, passion...make them memorable please.

Basically all I wanted was a good little story to distract me for a few hours. And this book had a nice premise. I thought it'd be cute but with a more serious heart; I thought it ticked all my boxes.

Sadly I was hopelessly wrong. It all fell so flat!

Flat characters.

Flatter plot.

And the **flattest** writing I have ever read.

You know that saying where they say if you don't have anything nice to say then don't say anything at all???

.....

One star

Rachel Gilbey says

4.5 Stars

Another pleasurable book from Lynsey James. The Broken Hearts Book Club is easy to read, with a lovely story, about how you shouldn't give up if things don't go your way.

Lucy has a habit of running away, the phrase, "when the going gets tough, the tough gets going" could have been written for her alone. She has spent 8 years in self-imposed exile in London, after a horrific event, that she felt noone would forgive her for.

She only returns to Luna Bay when her beloved Nana Lily dies, and then she discovers she has been left Rose Cottage, on one condition. She has to live there for 3 months, as well as chair the "Broken Hearts Book Club" that her Nana set up.

Based on the title of the book, you can guess whether she decides to stay for 3 months or not! The Broken Hearts Book club is made up of a group of people who are mourning the loss of either a loved one or a pet, and a struggling to deal with their grief. Lucy once she meets these people, realises she has an opportunity to help them move on.

What Lucy isn't counting on as well is the new hunky owner of the local pub, and the start of the book is filled with amusing incidents, especially when Lucy is around Jake.

In fact there is a lot to make you giggle and smile in this story, and the "little plumbing problem" scene was brilliant.

What really drew me in though was wanting to know exactly what happened 8 years ago, that Lucy feels was her fault, and it seems there are some people who are still very angry with her in town. Before long Luna Bay has worked its magic on Lucy, and you feel yourself willing herself to be stronger than she has shown herself to be.

At times I struggled a bit with Lucy as a character, as her tendency to run whenever any situation was a bit uncomfortable was infuriating, but she is a very good hearted girl, and is always trying her best to help people.

As with Lynsey James first book, I found this to have a lovely voice to the story, and it really was enjoyable to read and become involved in this story. I also loved the choices of books picked for the book club, and the discussions that were held during the book club itself.

The Broken Hearts Book Club is a fantastic book, which has a lovely story and a lovely location in Luna Bay.

Thanks to Netgalley and Carina for this review copy. This was my honest review.

Kim says

This was an absolutely beautiful read from start to finish- and loved the books chosen for the book club. I felt like I wanted to pop along and join in!

Lucy returns to Luna Bay after leaving around 8 years ago after an awful incident that is implied and not explained until the end of the book. Lucy feels responsible and hasn't felt able to return until her nan leaves her a cottage in her will- with the proviso that she takes over running the book club.

It's a book club with a difference- all the members are nursing some heartbreak and they unburden at the meetings. Lucy wants to help them all- but has a very rocky start.

She needs to keep the book club going to inherit the cottage- and will that fact upset the book club members and make them spurn her efforts?

There is a lovely romantic element running through the book with a will they/won't they? Jake is running the local pub but struggling to make ends meet. Lucy's background as an events organiser makes her 'need' to step in and save it- but she meets resistance.

I loved the friendships in the book and the way they developed- I felt the cottage became another character and fell in love with it. Who wouldn't want to own a cottage on the beach?!

It's one of those books that leaves you with a wonderful warm feeling and I will be really keen to read more by this author.

Many thanks to Net Galley for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Helen says

"I had the chance to live in the house I'd loved so much growing up.....to do that, I'd have to confront everything that made me leave Luna Bay behind. I wasn't sure I was ready to do that just yet."

As ratings go for chick lit genre, this book fell a little short. I felt all of the ingredients were there, but were not mixed together correctly for a satisfying read. I love the cover of the book and the title is what drew me in. There were some positives: there is romance, great location and of course, the compulsory happy ending. I particularly liked the use of well read favourites such as, 'The Book Thief' or 'The Rosie Project', and how the author attempted to tie to lessons/morals from the book club read to the issues they were dealing with:

"It had become a source of comfort and support when they'd needed it most. I loved the thought of ... finding strength in books and using them to escape from troubled times."

Unfortunately, however, as easy as the book is to read, it is predictable and often repetitive. Lucy's narration throughout grew rather tiresome. I particularly found issue with the 'the terrible tragedy of eight years ago' that coloured Lucy's outlook since high school and made her a supposed outcast of the town. The big reveal of that event was too long in coming and in the end I just didn't care that much for it. The suspense was well and truly worn out and you just knew it wouldn't be 'that' big to begin with.

Full review at:

<http://greatreadsandtealeaves.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-broken-hearts-book-club.html>

Fiona Wilson says

I really enjoyed this book as it was a simple story, but with a few twists along the way.

The idea of a book club for people with broken hearts is a great one, as are the books which the group have read in the past. But none of the club members seem to be moving on, they seem stuck in the same place.

Along comes Lucy, back for her Nanas funeral, who discovers that one of the clauses in her Nanas will was that Lucy run the book club for at least three months. Easy enough you say? But when her past is continually cast up by resentful locals, Lucy starts to doubt if she is the person her Nana obviously thought she was.

Also making her life more complicated is hot pub owner Jake. Jake also has baggage from his past, which unfortunately ends up affecting him in the present.

With circumstances, and other people, conspiring against Lucy at every turn will she make the right move, or will she take what she thinks is the easy route?

There are some really funny, laugh out loud, moments throughout the book. Lucy is clumsy, and doesn't always think before doing things. But these moments are what makes the book as funny as it is.

A recommended book for lovers of easy to read, simple stories.

I received an ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Laura says

After devouring Lynsey's debut Just The Way You Are I was so excited to start reading her second novel The Broken Hearts Book Club. The title grabbed me immediately and the cover only added to the excitement about picking this book up!

Lucy is back home in her childhood village Luna Bay for the funeral of her lovely Nana. For the past eight years she's been living in London and finds it hard to return to Luna Bay after she ran away all those years ago. She's avoided Christmases at home and for the past eight years has managed to avoid the place that

caused her so much heartbreak. But, with her Nana's funeral and Lucy being written into the will, Luna Bay seems to be calling her back.

In the will Lucy is left her Nana's gorgeous Rose Cottage but only on one condition: she runs The Broken Hearts Book Club for three months. Lucy doesn't know what the book club is or that her Nana even ran a book club but as she starts to find out more about the people in the club and remembers the fonder memories of time in Luna Bay, Lucy begins to wonder if it's where she truly belongs. And, with a gorgeous new pub owner in the form of Jake, life starts to look a little bit more rosy.

I adored this book. From the gorgeous setting of Luna Bay to the highly likable protagonist, The Broken Hearts Book Club was a total treat. I managed to read this book in just two evenings, snuggled in bed, completely whisked away to such a magical fictional world. I wished I could be in Luna Bay with all the characters!

There is an air of mystery that floats throughout the book linked to Lucy's past which really kept me glued to the plot wanting to know what had happened. The attitude some of the residents of Luna Bay had towards Lucy were awful and I wanted to know what Lucy had done to cause such upset all those years ago. I felt such sympathy for Lucy as it wasn't her fault yet some people still treated her so badly.

My favourite aspect of this book was the relationship between Lucy and Jake. Whilst it completely isn't smooth sailing, they have such an instant and beautiful connection that they know neither of them want to give up on. Despite life throwing them some serious curve-balls they both know that what they want most in life is each other. The scenes between them were so charged with passion and happiness that I just wanted to cheer every time they were with each other.

However, the best part of this book was the eponymous Broken Hearts Book Club. What a great idea! A group of people who are all united through their broken hearts whether it's from the death of a loved one or pet - each of them had a heart that needed to be fixed. Through books they were able to explore the feelings of loss and as Lucy finds out more about them all she thinks she might just be able to mend some of the broken hearts.

This book was so lovely. It was full of love, explorations of loss and explored what can happen when you run from the past instead of facing it head on. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would highly recommend! I can't wait to see what is next from Lynsey!

Yvonne Morgan says

I enjoyed reading this book....The storyline was great and I loved the setting . The only trouble I found was that I could not get to grips with Lucy the main female character....but other than that it was a great little read.

Cora ? Tea Party Princess says

5 Words: Family, regret, love, small-town, grief.

This was a great little read and it definitely made me smile. Perfect for cheering up on a rainy day.

All through the book I couldn't help but wonder what happened to Vicky. And although by the time I finally found out near the end I'd pretty much already guessed, I liked the way it was handled.

This story will make you smile and it will make you laugh. And it will also make you want to grab Lucy by the shoulders and give her a good shake.

I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.

Leah says

I was so disappointed in this book! I really enjoyed Lynsey's debut but this one just made me sigh and wonder if the Chick Lit genre has run out of ideas. Or maybe I'm just tiring of it? Who knows. While I loved the setting of Luna Bay, I wasn't impressed with anything else. Lucy's hiding a secret, which isn't new, and it actually got to the point where I didn't necessarily care what she'd done that was so horrific, especially as I suspected it was nowhere near as horrific as it would seem.

Initially I liked Jake, but he was a bit of a wet blanket. It's hard to root for a couple when the thing in the last quarter of the book happened.

This probably wasn't a bad book, I'm just completely dissatisfied with the whole genre in general. I've read it all before.

Carlene Inspired says

I made a comment on Twitter that the entire time I was reading this book I kept saying, "how cute!" It is entirely true now, a couple days after completion, that I think this book is one cute read.

Lucy has been running from her past for 8 years, avoiding her hometown of Luna Bay even during Christmas. Her Nana Lily's passing has brought her home and nothing is keeping Lucy there, not even the new handsome bar owner, Jake. However, things don't ever seem to work how Lucy plans them. Nana Lily's will leaves Lucy her Rose Cottage and The Broken Hearts Book Club. Lucy didn't intend to get wrapped up in The Broken Hearts Book Club, but something keeps her around and as life keeps moving on, Lucy may find herself at home in Luna Bay.

Lucy is a riot, not only is she the most random character whose POV I have read from, but she does some strange things that make me question her sanity. That said, she's genuine and watching her life, and the puzzle pieces it was left in, come together is a joy. I enjoy her interactions with her friends, her family, and all the members of the book club. I like reading about a character who solely thinks of others happiness, even when their happiness is hanging on a thread, off a cliff, ready to dive into the ocean at any time. The book club is a fascinating group and even though their stories aren't detailed, I grew to enjoy them and Lucy's interactions with them all, even the snarly ones. There are some twists that you won't expect and that I won't give away, but will surprise you and help you understand why Lucy acts how she does. This is a book about loving yourself, forgiving yourself, and learning to let others in.

The Broken Hearts Book Club is a quick read and while I struggled to get through the first 30%, I found myself turning the pages as fast as I could after that. I struggled quite a bit at keeping Lucy's thoughts arranged, it was almost easier to picture her doing odd things than reading them from her POV. I like a character I can understand and I didn't get Lucy at all at first. She did grow on me a lot though and her quirkiness became a quality I liked. The romance in this book moved at the speed of light, at one point I thought I might have missed something during an argument between two characters. While I enjoyed the romance aspect, and reading about Lucy's happiness, I couldn't quite picture the couple together because I never had a firm grasp on them from their first meetings and non-date. I like a romance that forms over time, and while this one had its struggles through the entire book before a conclusion, it never once played out in my head as a romantic story.

I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading books about books and just about anyone going through a hard time in life looking for a pick me up. It's a relaxing read and will lift your spirits reading about the characters facing their broken hearts one at a time.
