



The Second Husband

Louise Candlish

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His voice was sweet, intimate, demanding: 'There is a way out of this, you know. You could agree to marry me.' When Davis Calder moves in next door to Kate Easton and her seventeen-year-old daughter Roxy, neither has any idea of the devastation about to be unleashed. With Kate struggling to accept her daughter's independence and Roxy getting more secretive by the day, there's enough family tension to go around already. Before they know it, glamorous, charismatic Davis is the only one who seems able to keep the peace. Until, one wedding day later, Kate makes a discovery that blows the whole family apart ...

The Second Husband Details

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From Reader Review The Second Husband for online ebook

Roz Black says

Such a disappointment. The whole book felt like there was going to be a twist that just never happened. Extremely predictable. Although I did finish it so that's the only reason it got more than one star

DubaiReader says

Predictable.

This was well enough written but rather predictable. One twist, about half way through, prevented the book from being totally mundane, but in spite of a dash overseas and some rather irritating conversation, the ending just resolved itself, with no help from the characters. It didn't help that the narrator of my audiobook version had a rather patronising, super-sweet voice.

Kate Easton has been divorced from her first husband, Alistair, for ten years, when he announces that his child support will have to be reduced and suggests that she split the flat and take in a lodger. Reluctantly she agrees and Davis Calder takes the room. He is peripatetic teacher, coaching teenagers through their exams, and offers to help Kate's daughter Roxy in her application for Cambridge University. In spite of Kate's resolution to steer clear of men and concentrate on Roxy and her nine-year old brother, Kate is undeniably drawn to him.

Because I listened to the audio version, I fortunately missed the tag line spoiler, that was apparently on the book. But in spite of this, it wasn't too much of a surprise as there were plenty of suggestive hints in the narrative. The resolution of the resulting problem was totally ineffective as the issue, predictably, resolved itself, much as I had expected.

Not a bad listen to keep me awake on a couple of five-hour drives, but not something that makes me want to dash out and buy another book by the same author.

Mary Berger-Hughes says

Not nearly as good as her most recent work, Our House.

Sofia Grey says

This was my first Louise Candlish, and I enjoyed it. It turned into quite a dark tale and kept me engrossed. I'll read more by this author. I felt the guy-next-door-turned-husband was a creeper from the start, and I was mentally shouting "Nooooo... don't do it.....!" But she did anyway. That was a measure of how much I enjoyed the read :)

John Travers says

Not up to her usual. A slow long plod through a story that was obvious from the first chapter

Ti says

In true Louise Candlish fashion, lack of character development, poor and predictable plot, and even she seems to get bored towards the end as she sprints to the finish line after such a long, drawn out set up. Where there should be a climax is actually an anti-climax. On the plus side, there are a few giggles and this is the kind of book to read if you don't want to have to put any thought into it, or wish to fall asleep quickly. Overall, disappointing and torturous.

Gillian Manson says

2nd book of this author I have listened to. I liked it well enough. At times I was totally frustrated at the sheer stupidity of events but other times made more sense to me. I enjoy the type of books where you say to yourself "what would I do in these circumstances?"> Would have liked a fuller ending though.

Sue says

Told in the first person by Kate, a divorced woman in her late thirties who has a teenage daughter, Roxy, and a younger son Matthew. We meet Kate as she's considering who to accept as a lodger, while also becoming increasingly frustrated at Roxy.

The overall theme of the book is about the strength of parental relationships. Kate is far from perfect and gets into power struggles with both Alistair and Roxy which seem unnecessary and frustrating. She speaks without thinking, and doesn't seem to get how to relate to a teenager. But she adores both her children and would do anything to see them happy. I found her quite annoying at times since she misses much that is evident to the reader, but then one of the marks of a good writer is that characters get under my skin.

It's hard not to give any spoilers, since the strapline on the front of the book essentially gives away the basic plot. Perhaps it was meant to; maybe the author was employing the 'unreliable narrator' technique so that readers were well aware of what was going on despite her ignorance. Even if the strapline wasn't intentional, the title must have been. So we know that Kate is going to get married to someone, and it's clear from the start who that will be.

At the midway point the inevitable is revealed, and there's something of a sordid element. But I kept reading, and Kate's character develops as her priorities become clearer, and despite everything her loyalty and love as a mother trump everything.

The ending is a bit abrupt after a lengthy climax. Perhaps it's inevitable that everything comes full circle; yet Kate has moved on, finding that some of the people closest to her are much more complex - and in some cases nicer - than she had previously realised.

I didn't much like it in the middle, but by the end realised that it's quite thought-provoking.

Leanne Keenoo says

Not my usual genre but I like a change now and again.

Divorced mum Kate has 2 children, 17 year old Rocky and 10 year old Matt.

Money is tight and Kate is forced to take in a lodger...a man called Davis whom Kate finds herself almost immediately attracted to.

Things move on quickly but Davis may not be quite who he seems and Kate and Roxy are driven apart.

Easy to get into, pretty good storyline but nothing exciting.

I would class this as being a family drama in terms of genre

Teotakuu says

I saw the plot premise almost straight away. The disturbing thing to me was that I wanted there to be a punishment of some kind but, while immoral, no illegality was perpetrated. I have become a judgemental old woman

Ana says

Do NOT read this book

I have read several novels by this author and this was the absolute worst. The others haven't been works of literary genius but they've been enjoyable and satisfying reads. But this... this was awful. Where to begin! The characters were ridiculous (impossible to believe - entirely one-dimensional and boring), the plot was 100% predictable, and the ending! The ending was atrocious. This whole book was a mess and I am really annoyed that I read this and even more annoyed that I paid for it. So please don't! Save your time (and money) for a different novel! Something actually worth-reading.

Amanda Strickland White says

SO.....first off, I am NOT a fan of British fiction. I grabbed this one off a website with a decent price because it was by the author of the swimming pool and our house (which I haven't yet read but I psyched myself up over the synopsis of both) I didn't realize this was a British author until now. I've read a dozen or more British books and I've never found a connection with a single character. I'm guessing it's the writing styles and the different cultures.

Kudos to Ms Candlish first off for doing what she set out to do I think. I've never in my entire life read a book that I could feel my blood pressure go up while reading it almost from the beginning like this one did. I

literally loathed every character in this book. In fact the only one I feel like had an ounce of sense was the ex husband and his current wife of which he left the main character for before the book began.

I just couldn't make up my mind if I wanted to reach in the book and choke the daughter who was an ungrateful, bratty bitch who felt entitled to her emotions like they were far more superior to anyone else in the book OR smack the daylights out of the mother who instead of getting the daughter in check just kept deliberating how to go about appeasing her so they could still be friends all the while weighing in her head if she was a good mother.

Other than these emotions I felt nothing for anything else in the book. I'm not sure how attached I can be to a character who just had a crush then happened upon a sexcapade 5 days out of 1 week then decided she was in love enough to marry someone she's only known a mere couple months. The only emotions I felt at all other than anger was the last 5 pages where I tried to think from a Mother's prospective and had a twinge of sorry for the mother but even that couldn't make me feel satisfied with the ending. Ugh.

Marie says

Well written but lacked depth in characters and plot. The whole thing was predictable and I ended up skimming through the end because it was such cringe worthy characterisations. What horrible examples of parenting.

Itchy says

I didn't like any of the characters except young Matthew. If that idiot Kate was my mother, I would've been a teenage runaway. I won't be reading another book by this author

XXVII says

couldn't finish the book. one word, horrible!
