



About Last Night

Adele Parks

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For thirty years, best friends Stephanie and Philippa have been practically inseparable. There's nothing they would not do for one another. Until a few simple words change everything.

'I need you to say that I was with you.'

Steph, eternally solid, considerate and dependable, is begging her best friend to lie to the police as she's desperately trying to conceal two shocking secrets to protect her family. Pip, self-consigned to the role of scatty, frivolous hot-head is overwhelmed; she's normally the one asking for help in a crisis although never anything as catastrophic as this. Both women have always believed that friendship is built on mutual selflessness, compromise and trust. Are those beliefs now to be tested beyond endurance?

About Last Night Details

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From Reader Review About Last Night for online ebook

Sarah Rodgers says

I have not read anything from this author before but read a review of this book in a magazine and liked the sound of it. It is a bit chick litty which is not a genre that I usually enjoy that much but what with moving house and working 55 hours a week I needed an 'escape, non-taxing' book.

The story is about a happily married woman, Steph, her three children and her scatty single mother best friend Pip. It tells the story of Steph finding out that her perfect husband, Julian, may not be quite the perfect husband at all. Fast forward to Julian being in a coma and Steph asking Pip to lie about her whereabouts the night before asking her to tell the police she was with her all evening - what is Steph hiding?

It was an easy to read book that moved at the right pace and kept my interest, I stayed up late on a couple of evenings in order to find out what happened. I am now keen to read more by this author when I need something light to pass the time. Would recommend this book to others.

Kate's Book Spot says

I had read some good reviews for this book so when I saw it on the shelves of my local bookshop I thought I'd give it a go.

The beginning gave me an insight into Steph and Pip's childhood years and how they came to be friends. This made me feel like I understood each of their characteristics really well and so their friendship made sense to me.

There were familiar domestic scenes with Steph's husband and children and I found myself nodding my head in recognition of the little things that went on in her day-to-day life, but then this turned into something not so familiar and I wasn't too keen on it.

When the book first introduced Kirsten I couldn't figure out where she fit into the storyline and once her role became clear I felt a strong dislike towards her. I actually found it very difficult to read her scenes and a couple of times I stopped reading completely because I couldn't read any more about her! I have to say that this was purely due to the subject matter and not the writing which was obviously good to get such a reaction out of me.

I was dying to know just what had happened on the night that this whole book revolved around, the author cleverly drew it out so that the exact sequence of events weren't revealed until quite near the end – I came up with a few theories of my own, one of which was correct but I continuously switched opinions as I read.

There were a couple of surprises along the way and I just had to keep turning the pages to find out what the outcome would be. I must admit that I was a little disappointed by the ending, I would have preferred it to go a different way but it didn't spoil the book for me.

This was an enjoyable read with some thought-provoking moments.

Tanya says

Finished this book in 1.5 days. Easy, light reading.

I'm noticing a theme in Parks' books. Long-suffering, delusional housewives married to traders/bankers who are liars/cheaters. And round and round we go.

Steph's married to a stable, loving banker. Pip's husband left her. Steph and Pip could not be more different, but are BFFs.

When Steph finds out her husband is a cheating scumbag, things go from bad to worse in a fire hurry.

Predictable, light and easy to read.

Jane says

When I lived in London I commuted from almost one end of the Jubilee line to almost the other. Living near the end of the line and working near the other meant that I nearly always got a seat and that I could get a lot of reading done on the journey. Classics and serious literature didn't really work for me on the underground, I read those at home and readable, mainstream fiction on those journeys.

I think it was back in those days that I last read Adele Parks. She wrote the kind of books I threw into my book for the daily commute – chick lit, with a clever balance of gloss and grit. But in Cornwall I either drove or, more recently, walked to work and so she slipped through the net as the pattern of my life changed and as I discovered new authors.

We met again a couple of months ago, when a copy of *About Last Night* landed, unexpectedly, in my porch. I wasn't sure that it was the book for me, and so I didn't rush to begin reading. But, eventually, curiosity got the better of me and I began to read.

The opening chapter was lovely. Two girls – Steph and Pip – met at junior school and became fast friends. They were very different – Steph quiet and sensible and Pip curious and sociable – and I could see that they complemented each other beautifully.

Thirty years later they were still best friends. Steph had married a successful man. They had three children, they had a lovely home, everything they had ever wanted. Pip though had been betrayed and abandoned by her husband and it still hurt. But she still had her business, her daughter. I saw two women's lives, I understood how they had evolved, and I wondered where they were going.

I saw lives thrown out of kilter when Steph made a painful discovery. When she found that her life wasn't as perfect as she thought. How she reacts, and how Pip reacts, could change their lives, their friendship, forever.

I could empathise with each woman. I loved that sometimes they did exactly what I expected and sometimes they did something entirely different. I didn't always agree but I always understood.

The story could have been predictable, but it wasn't, and I enjoyed the third person narrative that allowed me to see so many details, look over so many lives.

It was an easy read, but an easy read with substance.

I'm afraid I was a little disappointed in the ending. It was dramatic, it was right, but it was a little too neat.

My final verdict though is positive – Adele Parks is now writing rather more grown up chick lit, still with that clever balance of gloss and grit.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

About Last Night centers around a topic that I'm sure is going to be widely debated among readers after devouring this book: Would you lie for your best friend if they asked you to? Some women would answer yes, best friends help each other out, but what happens when it comes to not only telling a lie to your best friends family and friends, but also to the police? This then enters a new ballpark completely.

Steph is a dependable, caring person, with what seems to be a dream life. She has her gorgeous successful husband Julian and her beautiful children, she lives in a stunning spacious house, she has everything she could ever want. Steph and Pip have been thick as thieves since they were eight years old, they tell each other everything. That is, until an accident happens, leaving everybody shocked, and with no clue of how it happened, Steph approaches Pip and utters the words "I need you to say that I was with you."

This is a fantastic read exploring just how far you would go to protect your best friend, and questioning how much we really know about those closest to us. I found it a fast paced read, I couldn't put it down and I desperately wanted to know what Steph was trying to cover up. Steph and Pip were very relatable as best friends, I could see parts of my own friendships in theirs and that helped make the book that bit more enjoyable.

The side characters were brilliant additions to the story and really helped you to learn more about the main characters. The only criticism I would have is that I would have loved to have seen more of Subhash, I particularly enjoyed the parts he was in and would have liked an extra few pages of him!

After I had finished the story, I gave it to my Nan to read, and she telephoned me the very next morning telling me that the story was so thrilling that she could not put it down and had to stay up in bed reading it all night! I think it is safe to say that my Nan and I will be buying her future books!

Terri Russell says

Makes you think about how far you would go to protect a friend.

Agi says

I start reading every book full of anticipation and hope that I will enjoy it. It was the same with this book. I have expected a lot of this one. But unfortunately, I am bitterly dissatisfied.

I have read page by page till more or less the half of "About last night" and reading it was more and more confused. The characters were very unfriendly, I didn't like them, Pip played with my nerves from the very beginning, Steph... I couldn't read Steph, I don't know what kind of person she is. The most expressive person is Kirsten, like it or not, I am not judging her now, I just say that she was the only one who knew what she wanted and was lively. The others were just like dolls, going there where you told them to go.

And the narration. I don't want to say it was just bla, bla, bla because I guess that without such narration there wouldn't be this book, but it was just boring, the retrospections, the feelings, thoughts... I'm really sorry but it didn't work for me, at all. And in the second half of the book I just skipped, skipped and skipped and read only there where there were dialogues.

And to be really honest, this big, big secret of Steph, the one that Pip should give her alibi... I mean, heloooo? Is that all?

Will try some of Parks's books in the future, of course I'll do this, hoping I will enjoy them much more than this one.

Jennifer Joyce says

About Last Night is set over five days but, despite the short time frame, we get to delve into the lives of best friends, Steph and Pip. The women grew up together but their lives have taken completely different paths; Steph lives in a large house with her successful husband and their three sons and never has to worry about money while Pip is a struggling single parent who relies heavily on her best friend.

At the beginning of the book, Pip's life is starting to take a turn for the better with a revival of a career and the possibility of a love life on the horizon while Steph's idyllic world is starting to crumble.

One night something terrible happens and Steph asks her friend to lie to the police and provide her with an alibi.

What is Steph hiding? And will Pip lie for her?

There is a bit of a mystery in About Last Night but I think the book is more about friendship, loyalty and trust. Steph and Pip have been best friends for thirty years but their friendship is put to the test when Steph asks Pip to lie for her. Pip begins to question Steph and what she is capable of so can their friendship survive her lack of faith?

My favourite character in the book was Kirsten. I probably shouldn't have liked her but her trains of thought were so amusing that I looked forward to the chapters centred around her. As a person, she is incredibly self-centred, dismissive and 'a bit thick' but being in her head was fantastic.

About Last Night is an enjoyable read that makes you question how far you would go to protect your friend - and your friendship.

Leia says

Enjoyable juicy chick lit book! Decent story line and good characters.

Annie says

I was given this book by my Mum - it was a signed copy as she had been to the book launch for work. I nearly put it into the charity box but felt obliged to read it. I don't normally read this type of "chic-lit" genre. It definitely held my attention and I quite liked the story but agree with previous reviews that the characters weren't really that interesting and were 2 dimensional. Not really that funny or that sad in my opinion. Easy to read and ok if your on holiday I suppose.

Aileen says

I can't say much about this book without giving away the whole story, the Author kept the reader guessing until nearly the end, a great book I would definitely recommend, I couldn't put it down and had to see what would happen.

Clo says

I haven't read any books by this author before, I think I tried reading one by her when I was about 16 and just didn't get into it.

So, I was pleasantly surprised with the book to be honest!

Stephanie - I definately preffered her over Pip, I can imagine feeling just like that if somebody cheated on me. She reminded me of myself, because she did feel guilty for having that thing with Subhash, even though nothing actually happened, despite what Julian had done she was still loyal to him and I had so much respect for her in doing and feeling that way.

To the friendship between Stephanie and Pip. If I'm all honest with myself, it is very easy to say that you would do anything for your friends in their hour of need, which I think is fair to say for most genuine relationships, but is there limits? Reading it made me question how far I would go to help my friend, and at first what I thought Pip had done was pretty harsh, disloyal even, but when I sat back and thought about it, I loved Pip for doing it; tough love hard as it seems is usually better than pandering!

Pip - wasn't my favourite character in the beginning, unorganised, scatty, a bit of a free spirit, insensitive,

tactless almost. It was only in the last few pages that I grew to respect her and love her, in fact towards the end, I preferred her!

Question is, is she pregnant? That little cliffhanger wound me up!

A happy ending, LOVE THEM!!

Catherine says

I wanted to like this book but I really struggled!!! Infact TEDIOUS is a word that comes to mind. Sorry Adele Parks but you are not a 'chick-lit' author I would recommend.....

Julie says

] have enjoyed and Loved all of adele parks books and am eagerly awaiting her new one which is not quite out yet in Calgary! Great beach read great anytime read! I can honestly say i have never disliked any one of her books

Komal says

I had heard so much about Adele Parks books, so thought to give one of her books a go. Utterly disappointed after reading it and won't be picking her book again! Want to know why???

Well, given the good blurb, which had all the ingredients to grow into a good full-blown well, she messed it with her writing style. I found her characters one-dimensional, her pace extremely slow and her grip on the story - LOOSE! The author seems to be torn between making the book a women's fiction and a chick-lit while desperately wanting to put in some element of suspense, and the result: a spoiled broth which is neither here nor there!

After knowing that Pip and Steph are forever friends, the story does not evolve till the very last chapters of the book, and when it FINALLY does, it is neither exciting climax nor a satisfying resolution of events. It made me wonder what was the whole point of writing so many pages when the author was herself unsure what to do next with the characters and in which situation to put them to make it a worth-while read. From Steph's complicated marital life to her bizarre decisions, the ending seems un-natural, as if imposed on the characters, out of the blue!

I also found that there was a dearth of dialogues between characters, while long and tedious descriptions made me yawn! The book is a classic example of how a good plot turns sour because of bad writing! Not impressed at all, Adele!
