



LaCour's Destiny

Robert Downs

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Sam LaCour hasn't given up on men, even if they've given up on her, and she doesn't give up on her colleagues either, even when a dead body turns up, and she faints in front of the cameras, her family, and a television audience.

LaCour's Destiny Details

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Author : Robert Downs

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From Reader Review LaCour's Destiny for online ebook

Asia says

I received this title from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Ok, here's the deal. I hate giving bad reviews, I really do.

Having said that, I have to give one. Maybe it just wasn't my type of a book? The blurb promised suspense, murder and mystery, instead I found it hard to follow. The book, whose protagonist felt a bit like a robot had way too much stuff that just confused you as to why exactly where they were, details of things not really needed to be detailed. The sentences didn't flow together, jumping from one topic to another without any explanation. This made me have to re-read paragraphs to make sure I didn't skip anything, I found that confusing.

I liked that that Sam was a strong character, who didn't waiver in her expectations and stuck to her guns.

Marci says

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway. I hate that I can't give this a better review. The author definitely can write and has a way with words, however, it just didn't keep my attention. I liked the beginning of the book but then it just fell flat. The other thing that bothered me was the constant reference that the main character made to Jolly Rancher candy and green tea. I felt like the Jolly Ranchers were going to be some type of clue in the end. Again, the author can write no doubt about that...it just didn't flow for me.

Barbara Andrews says

Received this book from Goodreads First Read. Had a good story.

Tony Parsons says

Cooper Strut (Wired Consulting boss) had asked Samantha Sam LaCour (f, Wired Consulting accountant) to investigate Dana Wilson (Wired Consulting marketing department secretary).

Dana never returned to work.

Sam met Officer Ben Xander (Hampton P/D) at the Coconut Café.

Sam next meets Elena Tearz (Dana's BFF, Robert Morris University), at the Medallion Tea Room.

Officer Tommy Buchs & Frankie Kensington (f, BS, MS, Wired Consulting VP of marketing) names came up.

What did Preston Konter & Oscar Labarge want with Sam?

Dana (bi-sexual) had been murdered now it was a homicide case.

Dana Wilson's killer be brought to justice?

Warning: This book is for adults only & contains extreme violence, adult content or expletive language &/or sexually explicit scenarios. It may be offensive to some readers.

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A fairly well written who-dun-it murder mystery book. It wasn't always very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish, but never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of very unique/colorful characters to keep track of. I think it still would make another great who-dun-it murder mystery movie, or mini TV series. Wasn't exciting/suspenseful as I thought it was going to be. That said I will rate it at 4/5 stars.

Thank you for the free Goodreads; Making Connections; Oak Tree Press; Author; PDF book
Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

Ukgardenfiend says

A NetGalley Review

She is an accountant with a penchant for finding trouble in the accounts she audits. She tries hard but unfortunately for her, she has many of the traits the majority expect an accountant to have – she is nerdy, she is not fashionable, she does not have a great sense of humour, she rarely dates and even then her dates don't go well.

But she does have much more admirable traits for a human being. She is dogged, determined and once she sets out to do something she doesn't stop until she has completed the task. Our heroine is persistent and so she ends up with rather more trouble than she anticipated when she started investigated some figures that didn't 'add up' right.

She is very precise and everything is detailed down to the last item and this book shows you exactly what type of person she is.

She has one fault though – she eats Jolly Rogers – especially when concentrating or nervous.

Now what on earth are Jolly Rogers?

I made a wild guess that, as they could go in her pocket and had wrappers that they were sweets of some kind – candies if you will and sure enough Wikipedia tells me:

They are sweet, somewhat tangy or sour hard candy, gummies, fruit chews, jelly beans, and lollipops. First produced in 1949.

[photo]

I enjoyed this being written in the first person as it really made our heroine come to life in the somewhat stilted style of writing which clearly echoed the way her mind worked. In fact I felt she was talking to me rather than my reading her story. I could hear her voice in my head. So kudos to the writer.

A 5 star novel

Diane Coto says

We start with Samantha (Sam) on a hopeful date — hopeful that he will not be like the rest. Things seemed promising at first but, alas, he ultimately makes the same inappropriate moves as most of her other first dates. But, so much for men. When her co-worker goes missing, she places her entire focus into finding out where Dana Wilson disappeared to. Dana's boss made it seem like Dana was just on extended leave, but things started not to add up for Sam. They say 'follow the money'. With Sam's background into accounting, that's precisely where she starts. She also engages Ben, a policeman, who remembers Sam from their school days. The deeper she digs, the more trouble and the more danger she gets herself into.

This first person account works against this story as Sam is wordy and steers the conversation within the novel in various directions. I liked that she was portrayed as a very determined individual; once she gets something on her mind, she will follow it through to the end. I find myself left with a few questions about Sam, like why would she have lock pics and how she was able to obtain private information about people. I did enjoy the several twists captured within the story. The progression felt stilted at times. Overall rating: 3 out of 5.

Madelon says

LaCOUR'S DESTINY was a book difficult to follow. It is full of overlong descriptive paragraphs that obscure the plot. From the limited description given on NetGalley, I assumed I would be reading a murder mystery. If that's what this book is, it is a far cry from any murder mystery I've read before.

The transition from one paragraph to the next tends to be jarring and disconnected. One minute the protagonist is drinking tea and savoring various flavors of Jolly Rancher, the next she is being beaten to a pulp.

I did finish reading LaCOURS DESTINY, in great part due to the fact that I felt a commitment to NetGalley to post a review. We don't have a dead body here until a full third of the way through the narrative. The sleuthing is more than amateur, so much so in fact, that there seems to be no sleuthing at all. The female lead is anything but strong. While reading, I did make some notes, some of which were:

- * The writing is precise, polished, and technically good, but overall a pretty boring read.
- * If you like books with strong female characters, don't even bother reading this.
- * Long, meandering sentences that require re-reading till they make sense are a distraction the plot can ill afford.
- * There is so much inconsequential fluff between actual story elements that it is impossible to remember who's who, or, for that matter just what the story is.

However, as I made my way to the end, I began to wonder if I was being completely fair to the author in my assessment. At times, I thought perhaps he was trying to write a humorous murder mystery a la Stephanie Plum. If that is the case, he failed miserably.

I read to be entertained or informed (or both). This book did neither.

Hannah says

Disclosure: I received this book as a giveaway from the publisher on Goodreads.

I wanted to give this book a great rating. The plot should be enjoyable to read and completely fits in my normal category of reading.

However, this book is so difficult to follow that it became arduous to even finish it. The protagonist, Sam LaCour, has so many adventures happening at one time. There is an over abundance of characters in the book, it becomes problematic when trying to keep everyone straight. Sam has many quirks, maybe a social anxiety issues for at least half of the book, but this goes away when she is running around town chasing after murder suspects. She can interview people and talk to people of authority without any hint of anxiety, but she cannot go on a date without having an anxiety attack. Even in her most stressful situations, she keeps her cool and does not have a panic attack. This is just one example of inconsistency within the book. She is also boy crazy for about a third of the book and this is her focus, however, it comes and goes with the last chapter being all about men. The main inconsistency is in her profession. Sam is an accountant, but hardly ever goes to work and seems to forget that she even has a job with no mention of it within the last few chapters.

Inconsistencies in character development, an over abundance of characters, and places aside, this review would not be complete without touching on the author's overuse of meaningless metaphors. If the book isn't difficult enough to get through, we must read metaphor after metaphor, lending absolutely nothing to the plot or character development within the story.

If you're looking for an enjoyable book to read just for fun, this would not be my first choice. The author leaves too much up for interpretation but does not explain enough of the information that he does present. This is a difficult read and I'm sorry to say that I will not be looking out for any new books by this author.

Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

Sam LaCour was quite a difficult woman to like. I really tried to see things in her perspective, but I can't seem to share her points of view regarding men and dating. Although I have high regards of her accounting skills. Oh man... numbers and math never did make me happy when I was in school, so Samantha's mathematical genius was a welcomed treat.

This novel mentioned a dead body in the summary, but it took me past the second half of the book to see it. Sleuthing skills wise, Sam's not bad. She was able to "follow the money", investigate discrepancies, deduce and solve a mystery due to her persistence and focus.

The pacing and flow of events was another story. I couldn't quite follow the sequence of Sam's date nights because she tends to compare her dates to those previous ones she had. There's a time when she mentioned about giving her present date some benefit of the doubt, and the next thing you know, she was talking about another else. It's like she's already guessing the possible end of their meeting, or if she was narrating about something akin to her past engagements. Either way, Sam's narration were a little confusing and some were

too detailed.

Humor wise, well, I did enjoy all those quirks and banters between Sam and her sister and colleagues. Robert Downs writing was good and thorough, but reading the whole book was a little exhaustive to me.

Erin says

I received a free eGalley copy of the ARC from NetGalley & the publisher in exchange for my honest review. However, after reading 141 of 238 pages, I just am not liking it very much, so I'm giving up. I think the author needed to do more revisions or have an editor take another, closer look at it before this went to print. There are too many, "Wait, what??" moments for me--and not the good kind, but rather the kind where suddenly the author mentions details out of the blue, or a character leaves the room and a few lines later the main character is talking as though the person has magically reappeared. I can't get a handle on the setting (small town? city?) enough to picture the action, and I find much of the sleuthing Samantha does implausible. Mostly, though, I feel like this is a book that hasn't gelled yet. It could be good with a lot more work, but it's not ready for prime-time. I'll probably skip ahead to the end to see who the killer turns out to be, but I have too many other things on my To Read list to use up any more of my rare free time finishing this book. Sorry, Mr. Downs!

Maria Beltrami says

LaCour's Destiny, il destino di LaCour, che è il nome di una giovane donna impiegata come revisore dei conti in una non meglio specificata azienda che si occupa di nuove tecnologie, mi era ignoto all'inizio del romanzo e ha continuato a rimanermi ignoto alla fine dello stesso, perché la sua vita, le sue abitudini, le sue idiosincrasie e le sue peripezie alla ricerca di una disinvoltata collega scomparsa improvvisamente non hanno né capo né coda.

Due stelline perché, nonostante dovrebbe perdere tre quarti della sua consistenza per eliminare le parti inutili, non è scritto male.

Ringrazio Oak Tree Press e Netgalley per avermi fornito una copia gratuita in cambio di una recensione onesta.

LaCour is the surname of a young woman employed as an accountant in an unnamed company that deals with new technologies, and her destiny was unknown to me at the beginning of the novel and continued to be unknown to the end of the same, because her life, her habits, her idiosyncrasies and her adventures in search of a mellow colleague that suddenly disappears are without rhyme or reason.

Two stars because although the book should lose three-quarters of its consistency to eliminate unnecessary parts, is not misspelled.

Thank Oak Tree Press and Netgalley for giving me a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

REVIEW: LACOUR' S DESTINY

Psychologically, I'd peg protagonist Samantha "Sam" Lacour as obsessive-compulsive, perhaps high-

functioning Asperger's with undertones of "idiot savant" with extraordinary mathematical ability. She is a solitary, yet spends a lot of time "first-dating." An accountant, she works for a sizeable corporation on Virginia's Atlantic Coast. Sam possesses an invaluable trait for a forensic accountant [or for a homicide detective]: she is like a single-minded bloodhound when she focuses on a trail. Tasked by her superior to track discrepancies, she finds links to a missing colleague and to the scandalous CEO of another well-known corporation. Hot on the trail, minor crime like breaking and entering and industrial espionage are small matter.

Itsy Bitsy Book Bits says

LaCour's Destiny by Robert Downs is a mystery and Downs' third novel. LaCour's Destiny is a story about a missing woman named Dana and how her co-worker Samantha unravels the mystery of her disappearance and eventual death.

Samantha or Sam as "she answers to" is an excellent accountant with what seems like a mental health issue as her mind wonders...a lot. I love that Sam uses Jolly Ranchers candy to keep herself grounded in reality.

"You have a memory like a steel trap." "I do when it comes to numbers." I'd been known to memorize a string of numbers twenty-five digits long without putting forth much of an effort.

The secondary characters of Ben, the police officer, Felicia the older sister, Don the computer hacking friend and Cadence the best friend all play important roles in Sam's life either setting her up with single men, saving her from crazy killers, or getting her information to find Dana.

"You don't even write in a journal." I, however, kept a journal outlining my various dates, as I focused on their shortfalls more than their strengths. If nothing else, it might make for a good comedy routine someday."

The action picks up near the end and Sam shows her physical strength is just as good as her mental strength.

"I slid my right hand through the rope, and I almost had my left one free when she leaned down, the gun near her side. I cocked my right hand, and then I drove it forward with all my might, aiming directly at her chin. I caught her at just the right angle, and her head bobbed back."

I give this story 3 stars and I am looking forward to reading other stories by Robert Downs.

Danielle Fisher says

Received for free to give an honest review.

I always find it interesting when authors try to write the opposite gender. I think it shows a great talent for a man to be able to understand the insane....um, er....intricate details of a female's mind. Although this wasn't my typical favored personality for a protagonist, Downs showed his writing abilities by writing a believable character. I loved getting these peeks into the protagonists mind.

I did find the writing confusing at times, but I think that had to do with the amount of things going on at the time. If the book only had one or two things going on, the reader could focus on those things. Downs is a fantastic writer, so next time, he might benefit from strengthening those one or two elements up. It's such a common mistake (one that appears often in reviews of my own book ;), but I think it affects the pacing of the entire script. I also found it difficult to follow her train of thought. I'm about as ADHD as they come, but when a character is in her head as much as Sam, it disrupts the flow (again, something I'm guilty of too as a writer).

I love snark and wit and Downs definitely didn't disappoint. I went outside of my normal genre as a way to broaden my reading and I'm really glad I did. Downs is definitely an author to watch out for.

Renee says

2.5 Stars. 2 = Ok, but there's a lot of humor in this book, so extra points for that. A lot of side-bar commentary took me off the path of the plot. That said, Robert Downs has a unique writing style and I hope that he keeps on writing, because if he has the right person/people to help him with the focus, I expect a best-seller in the future. Mr. Downs, keep embracing the funny stuff and quirkiness. The chuckles were awesome! Thank you!
