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Your Roots Are Showing

Elise Chidley

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Lizzie Buckley has a life many women dream of - a gorgeous husband, a beautiful home and darling (when they're not fighting) three-year-old twins. But ever since the birth of her children, she's had a fantasy about locking herself in her bedroom for twenty-four hours with a good book and a box of chocolates.

Unfortunately, her husband James doesn't understand her feelings. And when Lizzie unburdens herself in a flaming email to her sister Janie, then hits send at the wrong moment and accidentally shoots it off to James instead, her fairytale life gets a big dose of reality. With the word "divorce" ringing in her ears, Lizzie finds herself moving out and embarking on a totally different life - working hard to reinvent herself as a runner, a gardener, and a writer of children's books.

But despite transforming her body, her neglected career, and her libido (courtesy of the local landscape gardener), Lizzie can't get over her soon-to-be ex. As Lizzie discovers, sometimes the fairytale ending is just the beginning of the real story.

Your Roots Are Showing Details

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From Reader Review Your Roots Are Showing for online ebook

Wicked Incognito Now says

This is a chick/lit type book. Not standard to the romance genre, because the love interest is unclear, nor very much part of the story. This was like Bridget Jones after she already landed Mark Darcy, but more serious (and not as silly as the Carol Fields sequel to Bridget Jones).

I really liked this book, and the author's handling of the subject. I would've given it four stars, but I was SO irritated by how the whole thing ended....I feel myself just so disappointed.

More on that later.

The feelings and issues this mother/wife were going through as she dealt with the break-up of her marriage, were realistic and emotionally-wrought. I felt like laying down and crying myself while reading this. I felt her despair so acutely. I even found myself angry at my own husband, because these issues are so universal and so often unacknowledged. We all go around trying so hard not to admit that everything isn't always perfect.

So, I read this book compulsively. I even skipped out on a commitment because I just couldn't put it down. The writing really is very well done, and I can't wait to read more from Elise Chidley.

HOWEVER the ending was wrapped up TOO TOO prettily. It ruined the entire effect of a novel full of realistic feelings. The lead character had VERY little actual interaction with her husband throughout the story, and it is just so darn unrealistic for them never to communicate at all. In real life, resolution is impossible without some serious hardwork acknowledgment.

Amanda says

I knew what this book was going to be about, and could even generally tell the road it was going to take to get to the ending, I still enjoyed the story.

You don't often find chick-lit (I dislike the term, but that's what this is) that reflects on the effects of postpartum depression on a marriage. Lizzie has gained weight, lost interest in her health and appearance, her husband, and sex. The only thing she is interested in is her children and scarfing as many carbs as possible. She's also simmering with tamped-down and unexamined rage over the limitations of her life and the freedom she has lost, especially compared to her husband's relatively carefree life.

A misdirected email brings everything in the open, and the next year is a chance for Lizzie to figure out the things about her life she's been stubbornly ignoring.

One thing that this book has in common with other chick-lit (and most soap operas) is that the entire story is based on a situation caused by people NOT TALKING to each other. If Lizzie and James had ever just spoken honestly about how they felt, and not made decisions based on what they thought the other person felt, they wouldn't have had any problems. But what's the fun in writing a book about that?

Sara says

Splendid and delightful! Your Roots Are Showing by Elise Chidley is a perfect under the covers read. The main character, Lizzie, is an exhausted mother of twin toddlers. She inadvertently alienates her husband and finds herself starting life over (alone) from square one. Though she still is very much in love with her ex-husband, Lizzie is forced to make the best of it and re-build a life of her own.

This book runs the gamut from humorous to heart breaking to deliciously romantic. Lizzie is a heroine with spunk; if you are a mom or a wife, you'll just get her from the first page. Chidley relays the story with impressive ease which makes for a wonderful debut. I highly recommend this novel--you simply can't ask for a more enjoyable read.

Chloe says

Lizzie Buckley had it all – a huge house, handsome husband James and 2 beautiful twin children Ellie and Alex. But when Lizzie accidentally sends a moaning email meant for sister Janie in Australia to her husband, her life starts to fall apart around her. James doesn't want her anymore, she's left in a grotty cottage with 2 toddlers, no money, no job and feels very alone.

Lizzie is determined to win James back, so sets about getting a new body and career thanks to best friend Tessa, hoping it's enough to get James to fall back in love with her again. But is it all too little, too late to the couple? And was Lizzie really just the wrong sort of wife?

I first saw this book in the library where I work on the new releases shelf, so I knew I was going to get around to reading it at some point! The striking black, white and pink cover makes it stand out on the shelf from some of the more wishy-washy covers out there, so it's definitely got that going for it! This is Elise Chidley's debut novel (which goes by the title of Your Roots Are Showing in the US) and what a brilliant debut it is too. Chidley has another book coming out last this year and I'm definitely going to be getting a copy of that as soon as it's released!

Anyway, back to this book. It immediately draws you straight into the story with Lizzie moving into her new cottage with the children all alone, and the break down of her marriage being hinted at. We aren't told immediately what happened between the pair (although it is on the blurb on the back of the book!) but the build-up to this is very well written and kept my attention. The story has little flashbacks throughout the book to happier times for James and Lizzie, so it sets the scene in your mind for the pair and makes you hope that they will get back together again as they seem such a lovely couple!

Lizzie is such a normal character, you can't help but love her. Anyone who has a toddler at home, let alone twins, will be able to relate to everything that happens to Lizzie in this book and she seems so down to earth, it's very refreshing! To really get into a book, I have to care about and like the main character, and Chidley has definitely delivered on both of these counts for me. James was the character I disliked, but didn't quite want to for some reason! His behaviour was bad, but because you could see why he did it, it didn't seem quite so bad... but because I loved Lizzie so much, I had to dislike him a little bit! Bruno was a real cad – I

didn't like him from the minute he came into the book but couldn't put my finger on why! Tessa and Maria are Lizzie's lovely friends and are good supporting characters, albeit somewhat irregular throughout the book.

The book travels between Kent and Gloucestershire, and through various times of course, and it's very well written. Chidley clearly visited both places before writing this book because she brings both places to life with her vivid descriptions of the surrounding towns, countryside and the glorious mansion of James' parents. She uses such beautiful language that it puts the place straight into your mind and you can imagine you are in there with James and Lizzie watching the action happen before your eyes. Chidley writes with such ease it is just a pleasure to read, and the third person narrative works so well for the purpose of the story, yet we still feel right in there with Lizzie, which goes to show how talented Chidley is.

As you can probably tell, I really loved this book. It is well-written, there are a good few twists and turns in there to keep you hooked, although I would have been without these anyway! I loved the characters, they are all believable people who I came to care about and consequently I couldn't put the book down. I loved the day to day life of Lizzie which I could totally relate to as a mother of a 3 year old, and the friendships in the book were ones I wished I could have! There were some real laughs in there as well as parts to make you well up with tears – this book has it all! It'll leave you hoping for a happy ending, and you'll eagerly be turning the pages to get there, and find yourself so disappointed that it's ended! This is definitely a super book, and I would recommend it for a great read, not just for summer but any time of the year.

Kim says

2.5 stars, cute chick lit.

Miriam says

If you miss your subway stop reading a book, it should get 5 stars, right? There are some serious moments in this book, about marriage, divorce, love, depression, weight loss (and gain) and child-rearing and yet, I would say that it was a funny novel because of the voice.

Bobbie Crawford says

Your Roots Are Showing

Written By: Elise Chidley

Published By: Hachette Book Group, New York, 2008, First Edition, 367 pages, paperback, ISBN 978-0-446-17814-3

"Your Roots Are Showing is a stirring and entertaining tale of overcoming the odds and believing in yourself."BCM

Lizzie Buckley has everything a woman could possibly want; a beautiful home, a wealthy, handsome husband and two beautiful young children.

When an e-mailed rant accidentally goes to her husband instead of her sister, Lizzie's picture perfect world

falls apart.

She finds herself depressed and alone with her three year old twins Alex and Ellie while she looks over her new 'home away from home', Back Lane Cottage.

As she struggles to get her life in order, lose some 'baby weight' and hopefully win back her husband James, Lizzie finds herself falling...

**Please follow the link to read the whole review:

<http://bookreviewsbybobbie.wordpress....>

Laura says

I loved this book, it made me happy, sad and occasionally angry. It was a relatively easy read but with many different and interesting characters that kept you on your toes! There were those wonderful moments when you thought "no! don't, don't, don't!" and then you wondered if the book would head off in the 'and they all lived happily ever after' direction, or the 'life will never be the same again' direction. There are elements of this fabulous book that are very close to my experiences of motherhood and relationships, and they are brilliantly written. The emotions that go hand-in-hand with a new baby and the extreme tiredness it causes are so accurately portrayed that I could have wept all over again, as I did many times with my baby daughter. However, don't be fooled into thinking that this is a book just for women! It is a genuinely good read, and if you are a new dad there are many parts of it that you will sympathise with or perhaps it will simply give you a greater understanding. I think we should watch this author, judging by her literary nominations I think we will be seeing a lot more of her!

Jamie says

I picked this up in London last spring (title there is Wrong Sort of Wife?) and was thrilled to discover a new favorite author. You are drawn in from the beginning when the main character does something most of us have done before-- sent an email to the wrong person. Lizzie is a well-developed character that mothers (and non-mothers, too!) will relate to easily. The writing is witty and fast-paced. My only complaint was a lack of sleep for a couple of days due to some late night reading.

Can't wait for the next novel from Elise Chidley!

Cheryl says

Lizzie Buckley didn't have the perfect life but she did live a happy one with her husband James and her twin children. One thing Lizzie never imagined she would experience is depression...postpartum depression to be specific. Before Lizzie can even say one... two... three, she finds herself moving to the country with her children and living in a run down cottage. James has left Lizzie and it's all her fault. Lizzie accidentally sent an email to James. Some of the items written in the email were really hurtful. Do you know just how hard it is to take care of two children, deal with your marriage; all while trying to put yourself back together? That is the million dollar question that Lizzie will try to find an answer to.

I thought Your Roots Are Showing was a simple but sweet book about love, sadness, joy, freedom and cherishment. This book just goes to show you that writing what you know can produce great results. Though I can't say I can relate to Lizzie, I do know that I felt like I really connected with her and her family from the first moment I met them. I dare you to put this book down and walk away from it; you will find yourself having a hard time doing so. For anyone who is looking for a new and fresh voice to read then you have got to check out Elise Chidley's debut novel Your Roots Are Showing.

Nicola says

Elise Chidley is an exceptionally talented writer. I was totally enthralled with her debut book and couldn't put it down! Ms Chidley writes with ease, wit and an easy-to-read style. I read the English version that launched in South Africa earlier this year. Ms Chidley has received rave reviews from the South African press - which is no surprise. I'm looking forward to reading any of Ms Chidley's future novels.

★, • * ° * ?*Blanka*?*°°*•, . ♥★ says

Lizzie Buckley is having doubts about her picture-perfect world. She does love her country estate, precocious three-year-old twins, and handsome husband, James. But nobody warned her about postpartum depression and the toll it would take on her marriage. Or how she'd fantasize about chucking it all for a box of chocolates and an uninterrupted bath.

Lizzie vents these frustrations in an e-mail and her life is shattered: James gets the message by mistake. Lizzie soon finds herself uprooting her children to start over in a ramshackle garden cottage. Now facing life – and the twins – alone, Lizzie struggles to reinvent herself and forget about her soon-to-be ex. But when thoughts of James still haunt her, she begins to wonder if the best part of marriage starts after the fairy tale ends . . .

Lizzie is sleep deprived, cranky, out of shape and frustrated that her husband doesn't understand why she's not her perky old self. Her husband James is a more distant character, and the reader doesn't get to know him in depth.

A lot of the misunderstandings between Lizzie and James come from a lack of communication, and part of the tension in the story comes from Lizzie not knowing what James is thinking. I would have liked to have learned more about James, and read more dialogue between the two characters, but I also understood that that would have taken the story in a different direction.

I also would have liked a longer confrontation scene between Lizzie and James in the end, considering how much anger and how many grievances Lizzie had. It would have been nice if James would have ranted too, as I'm sure his character also had many legitimate complaints. While this type of drawn out confrontation was not necessary to the plot, I think it would have been more satisfying.

Debbie says

I loved this book. It is both funny and touching and I think every new father should read it to get an understanding of what a woman experiences after bearing children. It is also wonderful in that it gives you

insight into why us mothers behave the way we do after children and reassures us that we are not the only ones who feel like this. The story is about Lizzie who goes off sex in a big way after children and the terrible e-mail she sends in a moment of depression about her feelings about intimacy. It was for her sister's eyes' only but alas she sends it to her husband who takes it very personally. During the speedy journey towards divorce Lizzie confronts her demons and picks herself up and finds her way. She deals with her eating issues and comes to realise that her perceptions of her marriage are not quite accurate. She finds her self-esteem and all ends well. Read it, you won't be able to put it down

Odette Watson says

I loved this book - I read the English version (The Wrong Sort of Wife). Lizzie is warm, funny and endearing and Ms. Chidley is a wonderfully fresh and sympathetic new voice...

Any dates for the European release of Book two?

Clodagh McCoole says

This is a fun read with a likeable character that most women will relate to. Overwhelmed by children and preferring sleep to sex, she gets herself into a downward spiral by a misdirected email.

The book is set in England. A grown-up Bridget Jones who doesn't believe she deserves it all but gets it by being true to herself! A good book to get into the bath with!
