



Beyond the Lens

Hannah Ellis

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When twenty-six-year-old Lucy Mitchell loses her job, she momentarily loses her mind too and agrees to take part in a reality TV show. Before she knows it she's jetting off to a piece of paradise on a beautiful Spanish island.

Much to her surprise, Lucy makes new friends and has the time of her life, even indulging in a behind-the-scenes romance with a hunky cameraman.

Convinced the production will never make it to the screen, Lucy returns home on cloud nine, but soon finds that things are not always as they seem.

Beyond the Lens Details

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From Reader Review Beyond the Lens for online ebook

Samantha March says

Beyond the Lens by Hannah Ellis was an immediate attention-grabber. It's very quick to the point – Lucy Mitchell loses her job and her sense of reality for a brief moment – and while her guard is down, she gets asked to partake in a reality show . . . in Spain. Still reeling from the news of her redundancy and her mother telling her to be more adventurous, Lucy says yes and is immediately whisked onto a plane with a camera in her face and a lot of strangers turned roommates to try to befriend.

The actual filming of the reality show was so fun to read. It doesn't seem like the typical reality show – the cast mates get along, drunken hook-ups are to a minimum, and the cast actually overhears the director calling them boring and being worried the show won't air. Lucy has an excellent time with her vacation, partaking in challenges with her new friends and even catching the eye of cameraman Adam. But once filming is wrapped and they head back home, a new reality awaits. Turns out the show already aired, and it's a very different reality from what actually happened during the week of filming. Lucy is portrayed horribly on screen, and the public is out to remind her of that whenever she steps out. She goes into hiding, and her once budding romance with Adam comes to a halt. Until. . . the twist that I didn't even see coming!

Beyond the Lens by Hannah Ellis was so incredibly fun to read. From jet-setting to Spain to being just as confused as Lucy with the reality show, I was hooked. The twist definitely surprised me, but even after that big reveal, the story doesn't just end. We still get a little more of a glimpse into Lucy's life and her new beginning. I also see this is a part of a series, and I eagerly await a new book!

Archit Ojha says

There are so many things I want to talk about right now!

First of all, this book is dazzling !

I loved everything about it.

Lucy Mitchell, 26 year old has lost her decent paying job just half an hour before and currently she's standing in front of the camera. They are shooting a reality show and they ask her all of a sudden that if she'd like to be a contestant.

Without thinking anything, she says 'Yes'. A big 'Yes'. They are about to shoot her 24/7. A cameraman would follow her entire time. Well, she was being only a positive person by signing up the contracts to go to Spain for one week and shoot the reality show.

The cameraman, who is assigned to her is cute and handsome. So there was no way, she'll take back her statement. They also inform the contestants that it might not make to the screen. She is well satisfied with this.

But is that really so? Can you trust people around you? Is it possible that what you see is always true?

The eye-pleasing colored cover was enough to entice me into it. Fluid and lucid writing style play enough enchanting tricks on you and you find yourself already trapped with its beauty. The reality show touch to the story has done wonders to the story.

This is a perfect book for spending your Sunday with. Holding this book reminds me of myself sitting on a sofa, enjoying the breeze on a beach and reading it peacefully. Wow. I have loved every instance of Beyond The Lens. I look forward to reading the author more.

If you're a person wanting to read romance, you should go for Hannah Ellis' novels.

I say you should also become a 'Yes' person like Lucy.

Sarah Fraser says

A fourth fantastic offering from novelist, Hannah Ellis.

Beyond the Lens is the first book in a brand new series, this time we meet Lucy Mitchell and discover what happens when you suddenly become a "yes" person.

This story had me entertained from the outset, and, quite simply, I loved it.

I recommend this book to people who want some fun, light reading, and a bit of escapism from reality! Only books I've wanted to read twice get 5 stars.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader's Copy of this book.

kirsty says

Great

Fab read really enjoyed thank you for writing I love your books x x x x x x x x

Sofie says

Beyond the Lens was the first novel I read from author Hannah Ellis and I liked it. The story is cute and will leave a smile on your face while reading.

When Lucy loses her job, she gets whisked away to an island for a reality tv show. She soon befriends the other candidates and they spend their days completing challenges, swimming in the pool and having fun. But when they return home after one week, there is a shocking surprise waiting for them.

The story is told in 2 parts and I'm sure that you won't see the twist in part 2 coming. That makes it really fun to read and to try and guess what's going on. One small remark I have is that the pace of the first part might have been upped a bit. For me it was a bit too slow.

Robin says

Sweet Romantic Comedy That Shows There is More to Reality TV Than What We See

I received an ARC of Behind the Lens by Hannah Ellis in exchange for my honest review. This was a cute concept, Lucy, our heroine, is let go from her job and stopped on the street to join a new reality TV show about strangers going on vacation together. Risk adverse Lucy is encouraged by her crazy, free-spirited mom to take more risks and her amazing stepmom to try it out. So off she goes.

Almost immediately, like while being filmed getting ready to leave, Lucy connects with Adam, one of the cameramen. She also clicks with Chrissie who becomes her roommate. All of the contestants, plus the cameramen, on vacation together grow to be like family, a tight knit group happy to play, tease but also having one another's backs. The characters and their evolving relationships are one of the best parts of this novel.

The romance between Lucy and Adam grows slowly and we get more insight into Adam once they return from their reality TV vacation home. The romance is sweet, easy and fun.

Unlike many reality TV show based romances this one is split between the filming and what happens when the reality TV contestants return home. What is real and accepted as reality to the TV audience vs. what is actually real?

The week in Spain moved slowly in the first half of the book while the time on their return to England, the back half of the book, seems to move at a rapid pace. Overall I enjoyed the book with its sweet romance and interesting characters. I also loved the insight into how reality TV works and is anything but reality. The book was original and fun to read even if it was a little slow and superficial.

Amanda says

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Copy of this book

Lucy has just been laid off from her job and doesn't know what to do. When an opportunity to go on a week getaway in Spain is offered Lucy is excited and a bit reluctant. There's just a catch - she would have to agree to be filmed for a possible reality show.

I will admit that I am guilty of watching reality shows and taking their word for what happened. But reality shows are anything but reality. I really enjoyed how the book presented the show and then showed the true aftermath.

Sometimes I wanted to say no read the stupid contract before you sign it, but then that wouldn't make for a good story. Ha!

The other characters like Adam (camera man), Kelly, Matt are great characters and I enjoyed a good chuckle. Lucy grows a bit as a character and while she sometimes frustrated me - I just couldn't hate her for going to Spain.

I would definitely recommend this series to anybody who enjoys some good witty comedy and a good will

they or won't they romance.

Pooja says

Artistic and Original.

Beyond the lens opens up with a fantastic start. Lucy just figured out that she has lost her job. Her Mom is so excited about it! No, seriously! In the way to her home, Lucy encounters a reality television show team and asked in front of the live audience, if she's up for a challenge!

She replies with a YES and since then, we see that her life will never be the same. Where will her fate lead to her, we don't know yet! There's only one way to find out, read the book!

The cover allures you. It's terrific. Writing style is funky, frank and adorable. It reminds you of the time when you are bubbling up with first love. The flow of the story was exactly as a reader wants since the very beginning. For train rides, rainy days, hectic days - this book is perfect for all of them. You can always grab it up and get engrossed in Beyond the Lens.

I can't wait to read the next installment.

Recommended for Young Adult, Romance readers.

Martu Castro Vallejo says

I went into this baby without knowing what it was about and I read it in like two sittings. Yes, it was that good.

At the beginning of the week, Lucy is just a regular girl that lacks the sense of adventure. All it took to trigger this journey was a "yes". This book showcases the path from ordinary to famous. Who would have guessed that she would meet such a great group of people and a cute but shy cameraman in the process?

I found the plot to be extremely original; I've never read anything like it. The TV is plagued by reality shows, yet I've never read a book about what goes on behind the cameras.

We're presented with a very odd yet hilarious group of people, and it was lovely to see how their friendship got stronger as the days passed. We need more of these friends in the real world. Friends who take care of each other (well, mostly. I'm looking at you Ryan,) and don't succumb to the claws of fame.

What pleasantly surprised me was how in the span of a short book, we get to see how much Lucy grows as a person and how her confidence increases. We don't get much of this in contemporary books. And when we do, it seems that the confidence boost is always related to a guy. Thankfully, that's not the case here.

I loved the mystery regarding Maria's apartment. And although I saw it coming, it was a great twist.

The second twist, though. It hit me like a truck. It was great! Congrats, Hannah, you played us all.

My only issue with this book was the distribution of the “problems” to be solved. The first half was too perfect and then it all goes downhill. I thought there were way too many things going on. Or maybe it’s just that I’m not used to it. It’s not that bad, really. I’m just making it sound worse than it is.

This book is a perfect summer read, but it’s not just that. It highlights the importance of how not everything is what it seems. In an era in which we’re surrounded by technology and information at the reach of our fingers, we should be careful with who we trust and what we hear.

With that being said, let’s end this review with the other important moral from this story: let’s say yes every once in a while. We have to take some risks. If not now, then when?

Rating

4 out of 5 stars

I Want to thank Hannah Ellis for providing me with a copy of this amazing book! I can't wait to read the next one.

B.R. Maycock says

You’ll remember I reviewed Friends Like These by Hannah Ellis (read review here) and My Kind Of Perfect (review here and extract here) and was thrilled with how warm and relatable her characters were, and how easy it was to fall into the story lines and accompany said characters on their journeys. This book, I’m happy to say, also ticked the box in this regard, plus so many more.

We meet Lucy Mitchell, shocked by the fact that she’s just lost her job, and in the mood to rebel just a little:

‘I’d never stolen anything before in my life. I couldn’t even bring myself to take a mint from the bowl beside the till at the hairdresser, so I was quite proud of the stapler in my handbag. At first, I’d considered returning it. I’d actually retraced my steps, sure I couldn’t live with the knowledge that I was basically a common thief.’

And that’s Lucy. Someone who has the hint of a rebel inside her that has tried to conform as much as possible. I warmed to Lucy straight away, as I did with most of the characters and smiled very early on in the book as Lucy realised that she was going to take her Mum’s, who’s motto surely is ‘seize the day,’ advice and do just that. I accompanied Lucy on holidays, again, as with Ms. Ellis’ other books, walking alongside her, grinning as events unfolded, and wondering where this journey would take her personally. I enjoyed the pacing, which ambled along in a book full of warm, light hearted banter, with friendships and romances blooming all around. There was everyday, easygoing action, as the contestants completed trials to get prizes, with comedy interspersed.

I must admit I then wondered what we were catching a glimpse of when hints of mystery were flashed at us. I knew that there was something coming, and was not prepared for the twist that arose. When I saw ‘part 2’ and things began to speed up, I was beyond surprised. The twist was great, and I began to question everyone ‘we’ had met, including Adam, which came as a surprise to me. This gave me my only issue, because

although I had enjoyed the first part and was taken along with it, when the pacing picked up in part 2, I did wish that part 1 had been that bit more snappy and part 2 had been prolonged, just a little.

The characters were great, ones I look forward to meeting again, the romance was every gorgeous shade of perfect, and the comedy, warmth and mystery definitely satisfied.

Rating: 4/5

Linda says

?Will Lucy's true character show through when a reality show rocks her world and leads her to love?!!

February 9, 2018

Format: Kindle Edition|Verified Purchase

???A sweet romantic adventure, well-written and a very enjoyable read with a satisfying conclusion for just about every character. I thought the plot was original and the main, slow-blooming romance for heroine and newly-unemployed Lucy was lovely, though fraught with hiccups! The book was split into two parts. The travel adventure in Spain/first part felt a bit drawn out to me. The second part, after Lucy and her fellow contestants return to England, moved faster and was more interesting. Whereas the contestants recount some of their backstories in part one, Adam the cameraman's work and family life only come out once they are back in England. I liked his character so much more after learning about his family background and his career goals.

Lucy is a great heroine who shows a good deal of growth through the book but still comes off a bit immature by the story's end. Thank goodness she's got a solid support network to help her through some truly ghastly consequences of her impulsive decision to try the world of reality shows. The author peppered some great twists into the tale.:-(

Susan Barton says

Beyond the Lens is a light read, suitable for a weekend at the beach or sitting beside a pool. The characters are all pretty likable and endearing.

I enjoyed Part 2 much more than I did Part 1. I found the beginning of the book to be just a tad boring and repetitive after a while - seven days of romping in the pool, innocent flirting,etc. which all went to prove that all the "contestants" really did get along with one another.

Overall, this is a good, quick book to read over a weekend. The writing is good enough to compel me to read more from this author.

Surabhi Sharma says

Reality behind the reality shows. You are an ordinary person one day and after a week you become a household name. Some loved you and others hate you. And now you cannot amend what is already done.

Lucy Mitchell gets redundant from her job. She walked passed signal then a lady holding a mike with a camera focused on her, appeared. She asked her to join a reality show from a famous production company soon to be aired, which will be shouting in Spain. Lucy said 'Yes' spontaneously and packed her stuff followed by a cameraman everywhere she steps. There are a total of seven people selected for this show.

'A Trip to Remember', a show which changed their life forever. The show made them an overnight sensation. But, everything comes with a cost. When the show aired Lucy Mitchell could not bear the sight of her on TV. She was lovingly hated by everyone around. What happened with the other six people? Why everyone hates her? The show turns out to be a biggest mistake and a blessing at the same time.

The story is their journey from ordinary to celebrity. How one moment when they agreed for this show has changed their life! The way a reality show has been made and portrayed the contestants the way they wanted. Everything you see and claimed to be real is not always real; there is a different reality behind a reality show. A pleasant and stupendous read; a week of shot to fame.

<https://thereviewauthor.wordpress.com/>

Nese says

I received this eBook for free from Amazon for an honest review.

Although some people may find it interesting and a fun read, this book is not my cup of tea. I can't really say it is a badly written book because it is not really a book but reads like somebody's vacation memoir. Most of the book is a one long dialog among the characters and the rest goes something like this: "took the cab to go home to pack, was driven to the airport to board on a plane, got off the plane in Spain, arrived to the motel, went to bed, got up, ate breakfast, and went for a swim. I had to force myself to finish this book, but I put it down half-way through after a chicken who has a name and gets to be treated like a pet gets her neck broken while being petted. I wondered why I wasted my time trying to read this. However I found the excerpts from the second book of the same series which was at the end of this book promising.

A'ndrea (Auni) says

Hannah Ellis delivers again. I really enjoy her books. The characters in this book are extremely likable. I love a good chick lit type of book.
