Lovereading Reader reviews of
The Year I Met You by Cecelia Ahern

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Cat Hogwood

A book of unexpected friendships and how one event can change the course of your life!

‘The Year I Met You’ follows Jasmine, a hard working professional whose life revolves around work and her sister Heather. When she is fired from her job but unable to work for one year she is forced to slow down and assess her life. She forges a very unexpected friendship with her neighbour Matt, someone she once despised and suddenly finds herself aware of the neighbourhood around her.

This book shows how life can take a sudden turn and how your initial judgement of people can be wrong at times! I loved this book and found it a real page turner. The love and protectiveness Jasmine shows for her sister is incredible and I felt connected with each character.

It makes you wonder how our lives would be different if work was suddenly taken out of the equation. In this book Jasmine found a replacement for work in her garden, friendships and love.

I would highly recommend this book!

Rachel Hall

‘The Year I Met You’ takes the reader on a year long journey in the life of Jasmine, a career woman who is defined by her job, helping business start-ups.
Her other all consuming passion is for her Down's syndrome sister, Heather, for whom she has effectively taken on a mothering role, trying to protect and insulate her from the sometimes harsh realities of life. Jasmine is on a headlong journey, oblivious to her surroundings, focusing on the key priorities in her life and achieving the next goal. It is only when she is sacked from her job and put on a years gardening leave that she is forced to slow down and consider things that she begins the journey of real self discovery.

Forced to be more home based, Jasmine notices her neighbourhood and finds herself fixated on the goings on opposite - at the home of Matt Murphy, a well known radio presenter who Jasmine has long despised. He is undergoing an enforced leave of absence from his work too and seems to hold the same dislike for her, but are their feelings about each other fully justified? Have they both got a role to play in each others journey of self discovery? Encompassing a whole spectrum of emotions from family relationships through to friendship and love it is an insightful and uplifting read.

There are some truly evocative analogies in this book, most obviously the seasonal changes depicting the changing emotions and inner turmoil of Jasmine. **Full of the trademark dry wit of Cecelia Ahern this is a joy of a novel which I can guarantee you will be recommending to friends!**

The abstract for this novel does not hint at the depth of emotion it contains and in my opinion, sells itself short. It left me in a reflective frame of mind and will stay with me for a very long time. A truly beautiful story of how it can often take a person being forced to slow down to discover their true identity.

**Suzanne Marsh - www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com**

**I have become a fan of Cecelia Ahern novels, after reading 'How To Fall In Love' which has led me to read 'The Year I Met You', which is a fabulous page turning story.**

Jasmine loves her vulnerable sister Heather and her work. As Jasmine became irritated by seeing people not do their job properly she started up her own business. As Jasmine's own business became so successful someone offered to buy it from her. After selling her business Jasmine was full of buzzing ideas which led Larry and Jasmine develop a business idea together with Jasmine being the co-founder.

Jasmine helped Larry's company grow and watched it mature, develop beyond their wildest dreams, and prepared for the moment when they would sell it. That didn't happen. With sudden shock, six weeks just before Christmas Larry
fired Jasmine.

For Jasmine not having a job the story takes us through what Jasmine initially really feels now she has been fired and what she does next.

This is little of what happened in the story, but what readers can expect is that far more happens in the story of ‘The Year I Met You’ to keep you glued to the page after page.

Cathy Small

We meet Jasmine just as she is forced into 12 months away from work. She used to fill her life with her sister and her work but now she is forced to face long lonely days.

Cecelia writes from Jasmine’s perspective in her own unique way with a story that is written by Jasmine but to Matt her neighbour. Jasmine has been sent on garden leave for 12 months. She is used to her life being filled with work and her sister and now she faces empty days. Her loneliness and boredom starts her taking an interest in what happens outside her front door and starts to watch the antics and potential self destruction of her neighbour who has also been forced onto garden leave. Their relationship starts as hatred but eventually blossoms into friendship as Jasmine starts to understand herself truly rather than hiding behind the past and within protecting her older sister and work. It is that life changing moment, although it takes Jasmine all her garden leave, to look at her life to understand the things not right but also the past and the others that she is hiding behind before she can find herself.

Sienna Logan - www.losttobooks.blogspot.com / Twitter @losttobooks

I haven't read many books by Ahern, but I really wanted to like this novel. Sadly it just didn't engage me. I found the story was too close to real life and I like books that allow me to escape this.

I haven't read many books by Ahern but I really wanted to like this novel, especially when I saw the beautiful cover. Sadly though, it didn't engage or connect with me. My biggest problem was that I find this author to be very text-heavy and not use speech as often. Personally, this makes it very hard for me to connect with characters and stay interested as I feel they don’t really have a voice. I never felt connected to Matt or Jasmine in the way I like when reading.
However, like with other books, things do get better towards the end, but it’s always too late into the story. I always find myself asking why it couldn’t have started earlier with this author and it does become frustrating.

Moreover, I read to escape the troubles of real life, and even though there are some novels by this author I’ve liked, most don’t do much for me as they are too close to normal lives. I like more drama in books and to read about exciting things. I just feel the whole of this book was too calm and normal. I don't want to say boring, but it really was a slow read for me.

I hate to say that about books and I really did want to like it but I just couldn't bring myself to care about the characters. Unfortunately, I don’t think I'll be reading more by this author as I don't think her work is right for me.

Sophia Ufton

Wow, this is a lovely story, I had to read all this book before I could put it down!

All I will say is this story about Jasmine and Matt has an unexpected twist!
Read this book!!

Tanya Thurling

As a massive fan of Cecilia I was super excited to have this book and couldn’t wait to devour it. Unfortunately that didn’t happen. Whilst I enjoyed the story and it plodded along quite nicely at an even pace I was slightly disappointed that it didn’t have the 'Cecilia' charm, magic and mystery that her previous books have had and that I’ve grown to expect I guess. For me that magical, unknown element is what makes her books stand out and be different, capture your attention and feed your imagination and this one just didn’t have it.

The story is about Jasmine, a successful business woman who finds herself fired and on gardening leave unable to work for a year. During this time she slowly befriends her neighbour also on gardening leave and with a lot of problems of his own. Together they help each other, learn a few life lessons, and find themselves. As I said it plods along nicely, it just needs a touch of magic.

Rebecca Jayne - www.prettylittlememoirs.blogspot.co.uk / @LittleMemoirs

Being a massive Cecelia Ahern fan, I was thrilled to read ‘The Year I Met You’
and had the highest hopes for it – and surely enough, it lived up to my expectations and more.

Jasmine cares for her sister; Heather, more than anything. After starting up her own business – an extremely successful one at that – someone offers to buy her business from her. After selling, Jasmine became inspired and motivated with ideas bursting from every corner of her brain. But when she’s suddenly fired from her new venture, she strikes an unlikely friendship with her neighbour Matt, someone she hasn’t always seen eye to eye with.

‘The Year I Met You’ is about friendship, triumph, love and how life is completely unpredictable. I loved the relationship between Jasmine and her sister, and I felt deeply for all the characters that seemed so lifelike to me.

A definite hit for me, Cecelia Ahern proves that her books get better and better with every new one that hits the shelves. 5 stars without a doubt!

Cheryl Kinney - twitter @cheryl_bookworm

Good Story.

I haven't read any of Cecelia Ahern’s previous books, so thought would try something new. I liked the story and the characters were likable. I found her style to be different to other books I have recently read and this took a bit of getting used to. Overall it was a pleasant read.

Helen Treadwell

I have read many of Cecilia Aherne’s previous novels and enjoyed them immensely. I found ‘The Year I Met You’ to be slightly different but in a really fascinating and engaging way.

The novel is written as though the main character, Jasmine, is talking to someone. This someone turns out to be Matt, her neighbour across the road. This is the first time I have read a novel with this approach and after a short adjustment period I found it very refreshing.

I was gripped by the character of Jasmine who started out as quite unsympathetic but various events in her life and her friendship with Matt help her to realise that she doesn’t have to keep living her life in the same way.

Although this book doesn’t have any magical elements as many of her novels do, I actually preferred the more “true to life” style of this novel. I became very
emotionally involved with the story and actually cried at the ending.

Whether you are a fan of her previous novels or not, I think you should read ‘The Year I Met You’.

Zarina de Ruiter - www.pagetostagereviews.com

Ever since I picked up 'The Book of Tomorrow' a few years ago I've been enchanted by the storytelling abilities of Irish author Cecelia Ahern and the touch of magic that runs through her romantic novels.

When I started reading ‘The Year I Met You’ I initially found it incredibly difficult to understand where main characters Jasmine and Matt were coming from. To them being on gardening leave was the worst thing in the universe and Jasmine in particular came dangerously close to becoming depressed by her situation. In a day and age where everyone is still feeling the hardships of the recent recession and for many it is a blessing to have an actual income, people moaning about not being able to work yet still getting a hefty salary sound hugely ungrateful, making it difficult to relate to them.

Thankfully somewhere along the line my annoyance with the characters’ selfish attitudes moved to the background as it started to focus more on intelligent and thoughtful conversations between Jasmine, Matt and another neighbour, as well as Jasmine's personal character growth with her family and in particular her sister Heather. I found these aspects much more interesting and rewarding than the endless moaning about not being able to work.

Though ‘The Year I Met You’ certainly picked up towards the end, this is unfortunately still my least favourite out of Ahern’s novels I have read. However, if like me you feel annoyed by the characters in the beginning, don’t give up as I can promise you that you will be rewarded with an interesting and certainly thought-provoking story in the end.

Susan Andrews

Jasmine has lost her job and her self worth and has a year to think about it.

I received this book in great anticipation, as I had not read any of this authors books before but she has a big following, so thought I'd probably like it.

However, I was disappointed! The story is written in the first person Jasmine, who seems to have only two things of worth in her life; Heather her sister who
has Downs Syndrome and who she protects fiercely and her job, starting up companies and selling them.

When she loses her job, her world is shaken to the core, and then even her sister doesn't need her protection any more.

Jasmine is on gardening leave for a year. During that time she is not allowed to work for other companies.

I found this book very bitty in that I liked parts of it and wanted to read more and others in which I didn't want to read it at all. My main problem was that I didn't particularly like Jasmine.

I'm in the minority, as other people have loved the book. But not for me!