

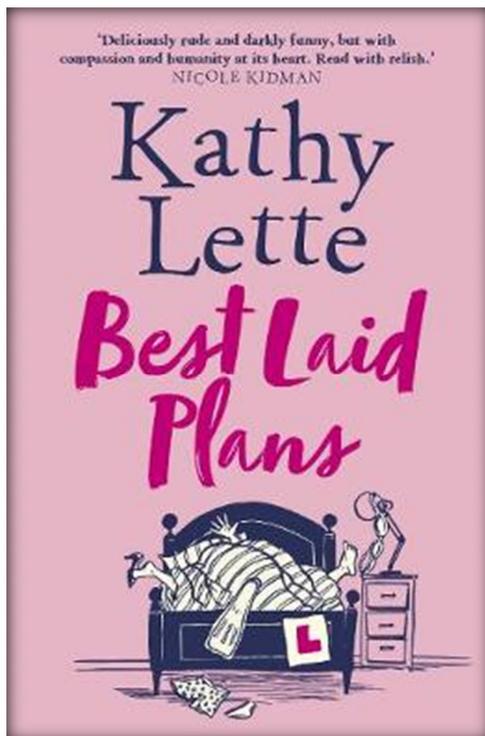


Helping you choose
your next book



LoveReading Reader reviews of **Best Laid Plans** By Kathy Lette

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Ann Peet

Great fun - a compassionate and moving story full of both laugh-out-loud and dark humour - a real treat.

There are laughs on every page here as respectable teacher, Lucy, gets herself involved in hilarious farcical situations as she tries to help her autistic 20 year old son find a girlfriend and lose his virginity.

As well as the amusing situational comedy, I also loved the exuberant and witty language - Kathy Lette is expert at the clever one-liner and at sparkling dialogue. It is full of entertaining twists but at the heart there is the heart wrenching story of a mother's love for her autistic son and this

issue is treated with compassion and empathy. There are no dull moments and it becomes a real page turner as it builds to a climax where Lucy satisfyingly turns the tables on her slimy treacherous ex-husband.

Great fun. If you want to read something to cheer you up this is perfect.

Cathy Small

How far as a mother should you go to support your child? Lucy will do anything to support her son even try to get him a prostitute, score some drugs or protect him from the wrong woman.

Merlin sells life and himself differently to everyone else. Lucy will do anything to protect him and keep him happy under her mothering instincts. She even tries to get him a prostitute for his 21st birthday. It all starts to go wrong from that

point with 2 girlfriends, an untrustworthy ex-husband, a social worker and the police not understanding that all Lucy wants is for Merlin to be happy. **An amusing story that will make you cringe but laugh at the same time.** All that should happen is that Merlin should find true love in whoever that may be, if it was only that simple.

Sue Burton

This was a great book with humour and also warmth.

This is **one of the funniest books I have read in a while.** The situations are real and wonderfully described. This was another witty read by the author and I just loved Merlin.

Angie Rhodes

Lucy is a single mum a crossword addicted teacher, mum to Merlin, her charming, good looking autistic son, who at the grand old age of twenty, (yes I said twenty and grand old in the same sentence) is desperate to lose his virginity, but has problems meeting girls. Desperation rearing its ugly head, Lucy decides to do what all mums do, (and shouldn't), she decides to help, and where better to find a woman or girl for Merlin, but things don't go to plan, and Lucy gets arrested, for kerb crawling, with Merlin in the back of the car!

This is just the start, of her problems, and like the title *The Best Laid Plans* are not always the right ones!!

A laugh out loud book, that will have you in tears of laughter, smiling to yourself as you know in the back of your mind, you too would go to any lengths to help your children.

Edel Waugh

This is the hilarious account of a single Mother's day to day struggles with rearing her 21 year old son. Her son Merlin is autistic and has a terrific sense of humour and their conversations are the funniest and pure comedy gold! **The book mixes real tenderness with laugh out loud, tears streaming down your face moments, making this a very enjoyable read as well as showing us what life is like for family members living with autism.** This is a feel good story complete with plenty of bad guys and a mother who deserves her very own superwoman cape. Awesome ! I recommend

this to anyone in need of a good chuckle.

Bev Farningham

Lucy does not have an easy life on her own she has to bring up her autistic son who's brain is brilliant but unfortunately does not connect with normal every day life he is getting deeply depressed as a day short of his 21st birthday he has never had sex. A party is a big no as he has no friends so Lucy decides to go kerb crawling instead to pick up a prostitute for him good idea? No - she gets arrested, much to the pleasure of her lawyer ex husband fortunately she gets off with a caution so her job as an english teacher is safe but then she runs up against the law again whilst trying to buy ecstasy tablets to improve her sons mood. This time her ex is determined to wrest control of their son is there an ulterior motive to this?

A very quick read and obviously the dialogue well thought out especially from the son as it must have taken a lot of research into autism however I found after a time that it dragged and would have been better to have some 'normal' people in it holding normal conversations so the former could have made more. 3.75 stars

Val Rowe

One for loyal Kathy Lette fans perhaps but not my cup of tea at all!

Lucy is struggling to support her 20 year old autistic son, Merlin, who seeks to enter into his first sexual relationship. Although he is a bright and interesting young man, he finds relationships challenging and despairs of losing his virginity. With her sister Phoebe's support and cushioned by copious glasses of wine, Lucy will stop at nothing to achieve his desire.

This is the first time that I have read a novel by Kathy Lette and I fear that it may well be my last.

I struggled to complete this novel and was slightly bemused by its theme, characters and supposed 'humour'.

Lette claims that she spoke to autistic friends and families whilst conducting her research but as a former special need's teacher, I know that most of the parents I worked with would have found much of the content quite insulting.

I would forgive some of my forementioned comments if I felt that the humour was well written. However, I found it completely contrived as though Lette were

trying too hard to be amusing.

Do read it and explain to me what I am missing!

Emily Wright

This riotously funny romp of a novel is a feel good celebration of the fact that not everyone conforms to society's stereotypes.

Lucy is Merlin's dotting supermum. Merlin, who has Autism, is about to turn twenty one and is desperate to lose his virginity before the big day. Lucy has always endeavoured to pave Merlin's way through life, so feels she has little choice but to find a willing lady to help him achieve his goal. The chain of events which follows is a fast paced, glorious sequence of comedy moments, with an added soupçon of pathos as the reader sees Lucy attempting to help Merlin find his way in a neurotypical world.

The relationship Kathy Lette has created between her two central characters is an absolute delight. All the elements, from Lucy's frustration with the world to the scene in which Merlin expresses his rarely verbalized gratitude to Lucy, will be familiar to anyone living with, or loving, someone who has Autism.

The situations in the book are ridiculous in the best possible way, and as always with comedy there is enough truth in the scenarios to ensure they resonate with the reader. Much of the humour comes from the candid things Merlin says and does; these parts were written with such empathy that I always felt I was laughing with Merlin rather than at him. There's a very good baddie in the novel, Lucy's ex-husband, who I was, on the other hand, more than happy to laugh at!

Emily Curnow

This is a laugh out loud roller coaster of a book. Going from disaster to disaster, we watch Lucy the mother of Merlin (who has autism) tries to find love for her 20 year old son. A highly enjoyable book that addresses serious issues. Fans of "the Rosie project" are going to love this one.