

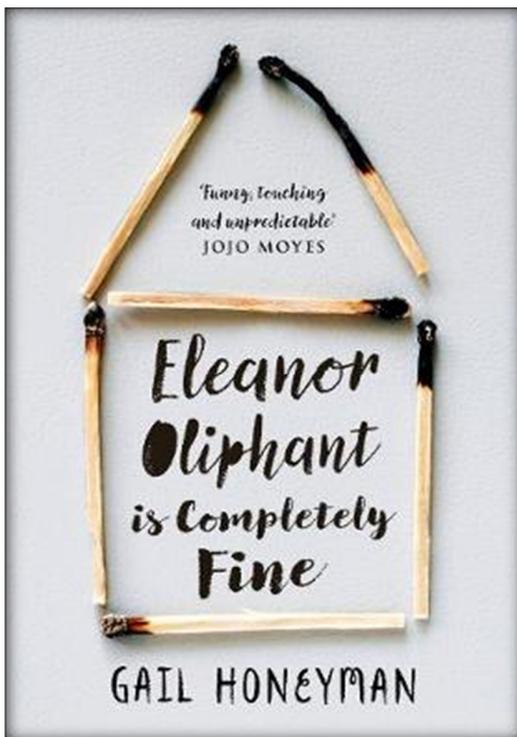


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your next book

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LoveReading Reader reviews of **Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Ellie Crowson-Jeffery

To begin with, I felt like this book was just a copy of many other books that have come before it - a girl without much to make her happy, who will inevitably find a handsome prince and ride away into the sunset with him. Eleanor isn't very nice, or even much of a main character. But, as we move on through the narrative, everything changes.

Eleanor is helped in her journey to find her future by Raymond, who's immensely realistic and easy to empathise with. Having such a human character such as him in here, one that we can immediately look at and think 'oh, yes, I know a Raymond', really gave the book its charm

and majesty.

Every page wanted me to read further, as the story unfolded bit by bit, until we finally found out what she's been running for, for so long too. Eleanor's development as a person made her gradually more likeable and a strong heroine for our times.

In all, this was such an amazing book. It was fast-paced, never boring, and a brilliant page turner.

www.tardisinthelibrary.wordpress.com

Rachel Shapey

I couldn't put this book down! Eleanor Oliphant is a unique, quirky

and pretty unlikable character who has had a difficult past. This book will have you laughing and crying in equal measures.

When I first started reading this book I thought it was going to be like 'The Rosie Project', however it soon became clear that there was a much darker theme in 'Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine'. Despite this there are many humorous moments, some of which made me laugh out loud. At the start I found Eleanor quite an annoying character, but as the author started to drip feed information about her past into the story, I began to feel very differently. In the end I just couldn't put the book down and was willing Eleanor to confront her past and move on successfully. The twist at the end took me completely by surprise!

Humaira

I feel deeply privileged to have read such an exceedingly exceptional book.

*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine is simply a book all must read. **It was heart wrenching and yet light-hearted and funny.** It made me think about how cruel the world can be but also how genuine and caring it can be. Eleanor Oliphant is inspiring. She is a hero within herself and I love every bit of her. She is such a complex and unique character and at times I found myself just wanting to give her a hug. Just read this book. You'll never feel the same way afterwards.*

Gail Honeyman has outdone herself.

Emma Caddick

A distinctive, funny and moving voice weaves this story about self-discovery and healing old wounds; including those we didn't know we had.

With a distinctive and fresh voice which pulls you in from the get go, this book is a great read. It is cleverly pulled together and yet easy to read, which is a difficult combination to achieve. It is a story about shedding our layers and healing old wounds and learning to love ourselves all as seen through the eyes of some very normal and yet extraordinary characters.

This book moved me to tears and made me laugh out loud, I really enjoyed it and would highly recommend it.

Joy Isabella

*There are books that make you laugh and books that make you cry. Very few manage to strike the perfect balance between heartfelt emotion and laugh-out-loud humour, whilst providing one of the most endearing characters I have ever had the pleasure to read about. **Gail Honeyman's debut novel, Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, is a masterclass in the art of writing.***

30 year old Eleanor Oliphant doesn't immediately strike a reader as likeable. She is socially awkward, keen to pass judgement and seems a little bit too attached to her absent "Mummy." With a fondness for vodka, for its anaesthetic benefits, Eleanor has perfected the outward persona of holding it together at the expense of pushing everyone aside. But Raymond, IT worker and all-round good guy, doesn't let this put him off. His openness not only acts as a vessel for kindness, but he draws us towards Eleanor; as we seek to uncover her past and will her towards a brighter future.

'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine' is one of the finest books I have read and Eleanor will remain with me. We hold such a lot in common - but Gail Honeyman has taught us that a story extends beyond the first story we're told.

www.joyisabella.com

Nicola Cooper

Heart-warming and captivating; the best book I have read in a long time.

Loved this debut book from Gail Honeyman. The main character Eleanor is captivating and got my attention in the first chapter. She was a little odd and had some strange ways but that made for interesting reading and was quite humorous at times. Her unstable past started to unravel and along the way she made friends with some other interesting characters such as Raymond and she started to grow at work and socially. The book was happy and sad but I loved every bit of it and would highly recommend. Can't wait for the next one from this Author, maybe even a sequel?

Sam Lewis

This book is so beautiful, in fact is the best book I have read in a long time. *The main character is hilarious and often has you laughing out loud at her ideas of life. However it quickly becomes apparent that the exact things that*

make her thoughts so funny are the very things that have made her life so sad. The journey of her self-discovery and healing is both admirable and heart-breaking. Through her memories and new friendships she reveals that there is more to life than just being completely fine and that the smallest actions can make big impacts and bring on great emotions. I cannot recommend this story enough. After reading this I immediately searched for other books from the author having missed the part where this is a debut. Knowing this has made the story even more amazing and I shall be on the lookout for her in future!

Jennifer Merville

Eleanor Oliphant is the girl at the office that no one notices - or if they do then they chat about her behind her back. She is invisible to most people.

Her background is sad - she is disfigured due to the fact she was trapped in a fire and she receives weekly phone calls from her mother who to say the least is quite disturbing at times telling Eleanor quite bluntly that she is a nobody and will never amount to much in her life.

Then she meets a guy from her works who is sent from another department to fix her computer. They meet regularly for lunch, she meets and befriends his disabled mother and he gets her to realise she has a social life. They meet a man injured in the street and help him get to hospital and Eleanor becomes a friend of the family. Through friends she has her hair cut, changes her image completely buying new clothing and make up and even goes regularly for a game of chess with an old man.

But things are not what they seem but with help from people she has good days and bad days and through her eyes you see some of the problems she faces on a daily basis.

I must admit that through the first part of the book I never would have guessed the ending - I had something quite different in my head but as you read the latter part you begin to wonder and finally the truth behind Eleanor's life is revealed.

This is a book that draws you in as you get to know the main character quite well. There are some funny as well as sad parts to the book. This is definitely a book I would read again.

Judith Waring

I really enjoyed this book and I have to say that the author has written an excellent and quite unique novel.

Initially I found Eleanor's story very sad and depressing as she cut such a forlorn figure in her rigidly structured life and I really felt for this character and the gaping holes in her social development and how she was so badly prepared at coping with life.

But I loved her dry acerbic wit and her naïve observations which pepper the storyline and made me smile wryly at her take on life and other people. She says it as it is because she doesn't know any better and her ingenuity is touching.

She is a step out of line with the life that goes on around her but her unflinching manners and upbringing which form her boundaries are good and beyond reproach and I quickly warmed to Eleanor and championed her.

The story is drip fed throughout with little comments that start to hint at her past and lay a trail of questions in your head and you realise that there really must be something awful at the root of it all which have caused her scars, both external and internal.

My heart went out to her when it started to fall apart and I have to admit it brought tears to my eyes but it also brought smiles to my face by the end and it was wonderful to see the butterfly emerge from her cocoon.

I will definitely be recommending this book to friends and family to read.

Michelle McKernan

Wow, I just loved this book. Right from the start I was hooked in a way that I couldn't really explain. The author keeps the pace steady and drops bread crumbs throughout to keep you guessing. Brilliant.

'Eleanor Oliphant' is an amazing book. From the start you can see how vulnerable Eleanor is and how her world is so small. Her relationship with others is strained and the one with her mother has me on the verge of tears more than once. The books follows her development through friendship with beauty and clarity. The underlying cause of her 'condition' is only ever hinted at until the end and I was so surprised. I'm upset that I've finished it now, I could easily read more about Miss Oliphant. An excellent book.

Edel Waugh

From the beginning of the book Eleanor comes across as being very different

*from the general public. Preferring her own company she keeps a distance from those she comes into regular contact with. We learn very quickly that there may be something the reader is not being told, this makes the plot so good! I was imagining all sorts of past history for Eleanor that would lead her to be the way she is, detached and guarded with exact ideas of how things should be done, when I found out what was going on with this character I wanted to give her the biggest bear hug! Yes, seriously! **What started off as an unlikeable character soon became an unlikely loveable one that I was cheering for. I loved her bravery, gumption and ability to adapt. I highly recommend this to everyone in need of an unusual fabulous heroine.***

Cathy Burman

A brilliantly written, bittersweet, funny, sad, thought provoking book.

When you start to read this book you build up a picture of Eleanor but as you turn the pages this picture begins to change and by the end of the book your picture of Eleanor is so very different to the picture you first imagined. I was captivated throughout, my mind trying to race ahead and I did not predict the ending, which was not at all disappointing but which further added to my enjoyment (I am not a fan of predictable endings) Eleanor is a creature of habit, following routines that she feels comfortable with and then all that changes with consequences that are life changing. If you like a well written, absorbing, book which will make you laugh and make you cry, which includes romance and mystery then this book is for you. I loved it and highly recommend it.

Sarah Harper

Although dark, this story is so full of humour and warmth it left me feeling uplifted. I absolutely loved, loved, loved this book but most of all I loved Eleanor Oliphant. She really made me smile.

Eleanor Oliphant is a little bit strange. A bit of an awkward misfit, Eleanor struggles to understand what is and is not socially acceptable. A creature of habit, she finds comfort in her solitude, her cryptic crosswords and Glens vodka. But a chance encounter, one small act of kindness and a new-found friend conspire to gently nudge Eleanor out of her comfort zone and into a whole new, better phase of her life. For Eleanor hasn't had a good life so far, she has the scars to prove it, and she deserves so much more. As she navigates the

complexities of modern clothing and her first family 'do' at a squash club, Eleanor learns what it takes to fit in, but not everybody is made to conform and Eleanor certainly doesn't. Her gifts for the birthday boy, and the reasoning behind them, are classic. Her inner thoughts on Raymond's clothing are priceless and then there's her heart-wrenchingly cringe-worthy first visit to a public house.

In short, Eleanor is wonderful. I love the way in which she interacts with her fellow humans (and felines), her candid assessment of the world around her and her forthright manner. The thought of growing up with such a monster for a mother was so terribly sad any yet this dark story is so full of humour and warmth that it left me feeling uplifted. I absolutely loved, loved, loved this book but most of all I loved Eleanor Oliphant. She really made me smile.