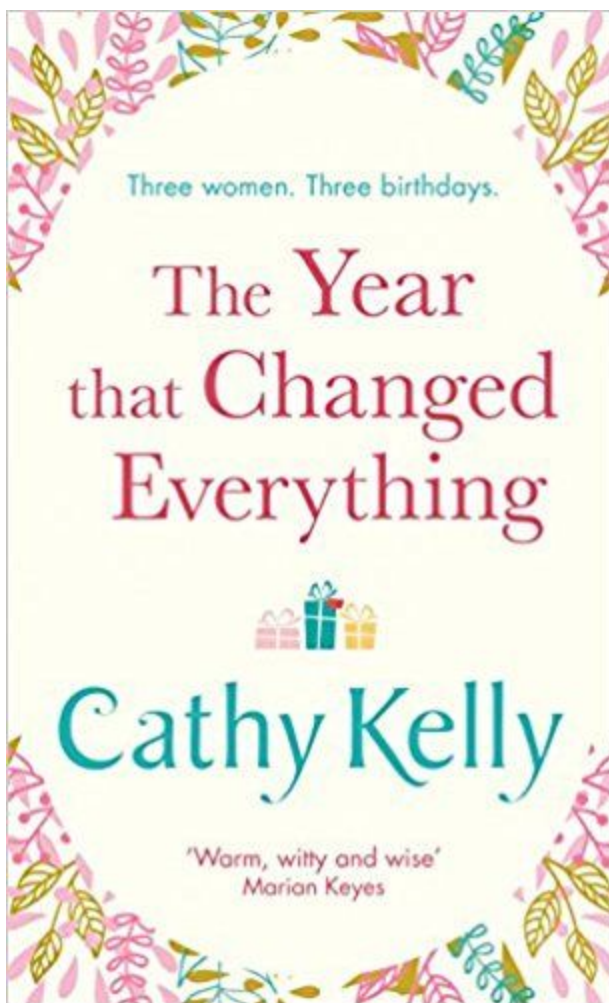


LoveReading Reader reviews of The Year That Changed Everything

By Cathy Kelly

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Elisabeth Thomas

Three women, three landmark birthdays and three events that will change their lives forever.

Callie is turning 50, living a well-off existence with nothing to worry about. Little does she realise but on the night of her 50th birthday party, her world will come crashing down on her.

Sam is turning 40 and finally about to give birth to the baby that she has longed for. When she goes into labour she doesn't realise how demanding full-time motherhood will be.

Ginger is turning 30. On her 30th birthday she is celebrating a friend's wedding when she overhears a conversation that will make her question her whole being.

The Year that Changed Everything is a story of women coping, coping with what the world is throwing at them and although they don't think they will come out of it the other side – they manage to with the support of family and friends.

This book is an amazing read, I devoured this book at every opportunity – the characters were strong and facing real life problems. I have read books previously by Cathy Kelly but so far this is my favourite one.

Pauline Braisher

I loved this book - it is Chick-lit at its best. It's a story of friendship, love and family, of reconciliation - and of betrayal. The story follows a year in the life of three strong women, starting on their shared birthdays - 30, 40 and 50 respectively. Despite their differing backgrounds they are destined to meet and are thrown together by extraordinary circumstances. As the story progresses, focussing on each character in turn and the journey she is forced to make. You will laugh and cry with them because this very well-written book and therefore the reader cares about what is happening to them. What I appreciated about this book is that there is a detailed back story and this enables the reader to better understand the reactions of the protagonists. Unusually, the supporting characters also play more than a cameo role and this adds depth to the plot. The pace of the story is just right to hold the reader's interest and to ensure you read "just one more chapter". It deserves to be a holiday "must-read"

Alison Bisping

Another Cathy Kelly masterpiece! How does she keep doing it?

Cathy Kelly has done it again! Another book that I didn't want to put down. It has all the usual characteristics that she has mastered so well.

This is the story of three women - Cally, Sam and Ginger. They don't know each other, but they have in common the same birthday, albeit one is 30, one 40, and one 50.

Each chapter is a story about one of the characters and either what happens on their 30th, 40th or 50th birthday, or the consequences of that event. It is beautifully woven together until through various circumstances, the three of them meet.

Beautiful!

Ann Peet

Warm, engaging novel.

Cathy Kelly always seems to come up with a warm, engaging novel. Here we really have three stories as the book follows three women with the same birthday but of different ages and facing different dilemmas. Callie, married to a rich, successful businessman, is celebrating her 50th birthday when her world is torn apart. Sam gives birth to a daughter on her 40th and finds that her expectations of being a mother do not match the reality. Ginger at 30, with low self esteem and weight issues finds out what her supposed best friend thinks of her.

We follow them as they come to terms with the changes in their lives. All three are well drawn, likeable characters who we can sympathise with. It could perhaps be argued that all three, and Callie and Ginger in particular, have been somewhat naive to get into those situations but what matter is the way they cope with their altered circumstances. It is an excellent feel good novel showing interesting aspects of women's lives today in an enjoyable and captivating style. A great escape into a world where things can turn out well if you have good friends, family support and strong, brave women.

Kathryn Whitfield

A fantastic inspirational story about 3 women, different ages, who live different lives but have something in common, their birthday celebrations don't go to plan.

Cathy Kelly doesn't disappoint, I couldn't put this book down. It was so warm and full of wisdom, I loved everything about this story. The characters are so real and inspirational and I could relate to Sam's story but I loved Ginger she was my favourite. I love how the author has each chapter about a different character and takes turns in telling their devoting story. I was hooked from the first page and didn't want it to end. I look forward to reading more from Cathy Kelly.

Lucy Hall

I couldn't put this book down... and enjoyed every moment of it... all 3 characters have traits that we can all resonate with, personally I felt a connection with Ginger, her story was very true to this day and age.

I liked the way that Cathy Kelly gave a good background to each individual character prior to them all coming together, it is definitely a page turner and you will want to do 'one more chapter' before you go to sleep!!

Carrie Jones

Life changing challenges faced with wit and warmth.

I was excited to have the opportunity to review this book, I've been a fan of Cathy Kelly for many years and love her style and humour.

The story focuses on three women of different ages and backgrounds, who all have their milestone birthdays on the same day, and all have a life changing event occur on their birthday. It is written using three different voices, and although to start with I kept having to flick back to check who was who, the characters develop into very different personalities, with very different stories to tell.

I enjoyed the book, and although I did not find it as challenging as some of the author's previous novels, I cared about the women, particularly Ginger, who is a larger than life individual in every way. I was intrigued to see how they coped with the issues they had to deal with. I think most women will be able to relate to one of the characters, both from an age and personality point of view, and the situations described are extremely realistic. I did find myself grinning at some of the comments and asides, and wishing I'd thought of them- they are extremely witty! This is going to be a great book for curling up with on a cold Sunday afternoon.

Lynette McCann

A heartwarming story of three women and the friendship they come to have. A typical Cathy Kelly book, giving hours of enjoyment. Perfect read for fans of chick lit.

Three women with birthdays on the same day, a 30th, 40th and 50th start their

celebrations, but happiness is not guaranteed for them. This warm and compelling novel was a joy to read, but left me wondering how the author would bring them all together. It was a disappointment how it was done, didn't somehow seem real at that point, how they suddenly became best friends for life, though that didn't take away the enjoyment of the book by my favourite author. It was easy to identify with the three women, especially Callie whose story was great from start to end, losing what she thought was happiness only to regain it. Ginger's story will ring bells with so many readers, her lack of confidence in herself and her friends changes as the story unfolds. Sam's story was interesting too and will be enjoyed by so many pregnant women, especially the way these women were there for each other. Another good Cathy Kelly read, though have read better books of hers.