

## LoveReading Reader reviews of A Mother's Story by Amanda Prowse

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

### Celia Cohen

***Heart rending but absolutely captivating.***

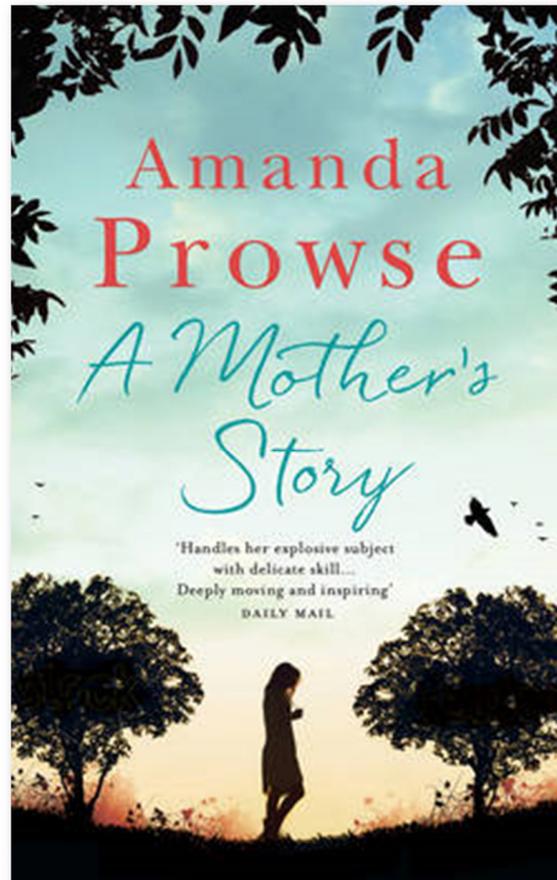
*A wonderful book. I've read other books by Amanda Prowse so I was really looking forward to this one. I wasn't disappointed. I read it in one sitting, just couldn't put it down. The subject of post natal depression is not one I had any experience with and maybe I would have been a bit dismissive and unsympathetic before but this book has changed my mind.*

### Judith Waring

*Without giving the storyline away I can say that this is a really moving book to read and it's so easy to relate to Jess, who is a lovely, almost scatter-brained, female, who is so full of love and happiness with Matt, her loving and protective husband.*

*But from the start there lurks the hint of a deep darkness to come. The story unfolds gradually through Jess's diary inserts which are between the chapters which build up a picture of their happy and settled life together, to the present day and the surroundings that Jess now finds herself in.*

*We don't know exactly what has happened, we can only try and put the clues together, and the story builds up gradually in the first half of the book and then we crest the wave and plunge back down as we start to uncover the truths which just keep on unrolling page after page.*



*Amanda Prowse writes so well and has researched her subject matter so completely that it is all too easy to feel and understand Jess's anguish, her deep despair and bewilderment at what is happening to her.*

***This is a really gripping read and many congratulations to the author for highlighting a 'taboo' subject and helping to shed some much needed light on it.***

*I so enjoyed reading this novel and totally devoured it within four days of starting it and I know it will resonate and stay with me for sometime to come.*

**Kim Feasey**

***Amazingly well written book with characters you really care about. Jessica and Matthew have the perfect relationship- a baby can only cement it, can't it? A real page turner.***

*I loved this book. I enjoyed Amanda Prowse's writing style and was drawn into the book very quickly. I wanted to know exactly what had happened and the book cleverly weaves Jessica's diary entries with her earlier life.*

*Jessica and Matthews wedding day was lovely, and their friends were well written. Topaz was a particular treasure and the way he fitted into already well established friendships. Both families are lovely and the scene at the baby shower particularly amusing.*

*They are so in love that the news that they are expecting a baby should be the best news ever. But will things run smoothly- exactly what has happened to Jessica and where is she now?*

*The book covers post natal depression and the traumatic way it can affect lives and how misunderstood it can be.*

*I can't wait to read more by Amanda Prowse.*

<http://kims366.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Carolyn Huckfield**

*The prologue of this story lets us know immediately that this is no feel good chick lit tale. The first section makes it appear that this is the happy love story of Jessica and Matthew. Jessica is fun loving and wacky and Matthew is her more stable husband. After their fairy tale wedding and the birth of Lilly surely their life is complete. Post natal depression is hard for any mother to understand if*

*they haven't experienced it. Jessica suffers so badly that she commits an almost unforgivable crime.*

*Amanda Prowse tells the story with sympathy and understanding. She explores mental illness very sensitively. We can make up our own minds about the situation but she challenges our preconceptions over mothers who can't cope. We see how it happens and the tragic results that can come from it.*

***This is a sensitively written and beautifully told exploration of mental illness. It is hard to read in places but in the end is hopeful and uplifting.***

### **Victoria Goldman**

**I loved this book and couldn't put it down. A Mother's Story triggered so many of my emotions - I laughed, I cried, I felt angry, I felt sad, I worried, I pitied ...**

*The book's prologue pulled me in straight away, as Jessica enters into her new 'home', clearly distraught, scared and broken by recent events.*

*The rest of the book carefully weaves together two parallel stories. There's Jessica and Matthew in past, getting married, setting up home and planning their future together. Then there's Jessica writing in her present day diary (starting after the prologue), which spans nearly three years.*

*Jessica and Matthew seem so normal - no different to any other couple about to become parents for the first time. Yet when their baby is born, after a difficult labour and birth, Jessica struggles to cope. She refuses to ask for help, and Matthew and her family believe that she just needs to pull herself out of her 'baby blues'.*

*'A Mother's Story' is written beautifully. While it's a fictional account, the underlying issue of post-natal depression is a serious one for many women, and Amanda Prowse has tackled it with great sensitivity. I read the last couple of chapters hiding from my family, so they didn't see the tears running down my cheeks. This was **one of the most moving books I have read for some time** - maybe because it tackles such a 'real' issue and has such 'normal' characters.*

<http://off-the-shelfbooks.blogspot.co.uk>

### **Catherine Fagan**

***The most emotional book I've read in a long time. Deeply moving and handled with the utmost sensitivity.***

*This book is fantastic. It's emotionally charged from start to finish. The characters are wonderfully crafted, hugely likeable and real. The format of the book, in two different times in the main character's life, is so clever. The author has managed to create a stark contrast that is deeply moving to the reader. I found the book heart breaking, tragic, harrowing at times, but ultimately it was an uplifting tale.*

**Lisa Hall**

***This was my first Amanda Prowse novel, and its not going to be my last - a little different to my usual read, the story line pulled me in from the beginning.***

*This was my first Amanda Prowse novel, and its not going to be my last - a little different to my usual read, I thought I would struggle to get into it but the story line pulled me in from the beginning. In the beginning I couldn't take to Jess's character at all - she comes across as fairly childish and almost a little selfish, but I did enjoy seeing her grow up through out the story and once she became pregnant I found her a lot more likeable.*

*The characters are all well-written, and I liked the way Paz and Polly were supportive of Jessica all the way through the story, without giving away any spoilers. The subject was handled incredibly sensitively, and I think there are many aspects to the novel that many first-time mums can relate to, I know that there were certain times through Jess' pregnancy when I stopped and thought, "I know that feeling!"*

*The ending is heartbreaking and emotional, and not quite what I expected - a good thing, and I am impressed with the way Amanda Prowse has dealt with Jess' story.*

<http://reading-room-with-a-view.blogspot.co.uk>

**Alison Bisping**

*This was a very compelling story.*

*Jessica and Matthew have what seems to be a fairytale life.*

*His parents have money, a holiday home and can help them out, her parents have very little. Together they seem a good match. They have a plan for the*

*future - but then Jessica finds herself pregnant.*

*I'm not going to go into the plot - this is a story about post-natal depression, how it can be obvious to other people but not to yourself.*

*I really hope this book will help raise awareness. Will help anybody suffering realise what is happening to them (assuming they can read the book). Will help even a few people get help.*

***It's a serious, emotive subject and Amanda Prowse handles it very well. Thank you Amanda.***

**Shilawati Rahman**

***It is a superb, moving, sensitive and heart-breaking story regarding post-natal depression, which is surprisingly quite common in the UK.***

*It tells how Jessica's one perfect world came crumbling down without anyone close to her noticing the signs. Keep the tissues handy.*

**Sally Doel**

***Wow! What a powerful and emotional book. I loved this book and couldn't put it down.*** *It was, as is stated in the 'blurb' a very emotive and controversial subject.*

*It was brilliantly done and gives a true and accurate insight into the misery of post-natal depression and how it affects its subjects and their loved ones.*

*Although it was a very heavy storyline, it was very well written and engrossing. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and though it made me cry and cry in places, I was so glad I read it. I would definitely recommend this, but be warned it's not light reading.*

*Jessica, the main character is very likeable and her suffering is unbearable, as well as that of those around her in so many ways.*

*It is a well-told story and the characters are all interesting, as well as being sympathetic, but not really having much understanding of what Jessica is going through. It is anger provoking for anybody who understands depression, when Jessica is told to "snap out of it" at a couple of points, but illustrates how depression is still so very misunderstood (with terrifying consequences).*

***Great book, would definitely read another by this author.***

**Sharon McKinlay**

***Very moving book showing how a perfect family can fall to pieces without anyone noticing the signs.***

*This is a very moving, powerful story showing how a seemingly perfect family can fall to pieces without anyone really noticing the signs. Amanda Prowse has created believable characters that you really feel for. From the beginning to the end I was willing Jessica to get better & I loved the different parts of the story showing what was happening now & what happened back then. This book does a lot to highlight post-natal depression. I would love to read a sequel to find out what happens next.*

**Rebecca Whymark**

***Sadly captivating and heart-breaking.***

*I can't even describe what I thought of this. It was almost as if I was reading someone's autobiography. Having not had children yet it's hard to imagine not loving your child as you know you should. Yet the author manages to describe how a mother may feel having been thrown into turmoil at the birth of a child that was wanted and yet not at the same time. I'm sure that not every mother/family that experiences post-natal depression would have the same experiences but the way the author handles the delicate subject with the worst case scenarios that are in the book is excellent.*

**Lisa Wise**

***A Mother's Story will have you laughing out loud one minute & crying uncontrollably the next. A heart-breaking insight into postnatal depression. A fantastic read!***

*The story gives a heart-breaking insight into postnatal depression. It follows the life of Jessica, a smart if somewhat dizzy but very likeable character. The book switches from past & present, alternating in each chapter. As Jess & Matthew's love story unfolds you really do get drawn into the excitement of new love, you follow their rollercoaster ride through marriage & the birth of their first baby daughter, Lilly.*

*My heart ached for Jess as postnatal depression takes its hold & brings her down to the depths of despair, the chapters set in the present give you an idea of*

*how the story will unfold.*

*I must admit at times I found the story hard to read, as a Mum myself, but at the same time I couldn't put it down. I felt a warmth towards the characters in the book & at times made my partner jump as I laughed out loud at some of the hilarious situations Jess & Matthew find themselves in.*

*The end wasn't disappointing! I'm so glad I read A Mother's Story, with no experience of postnatal depression myself it gave me an insight into this horror of an illness. A fantastic read!*