

LoveReading Reader reviews of Seeing Other People by Mike Gayle

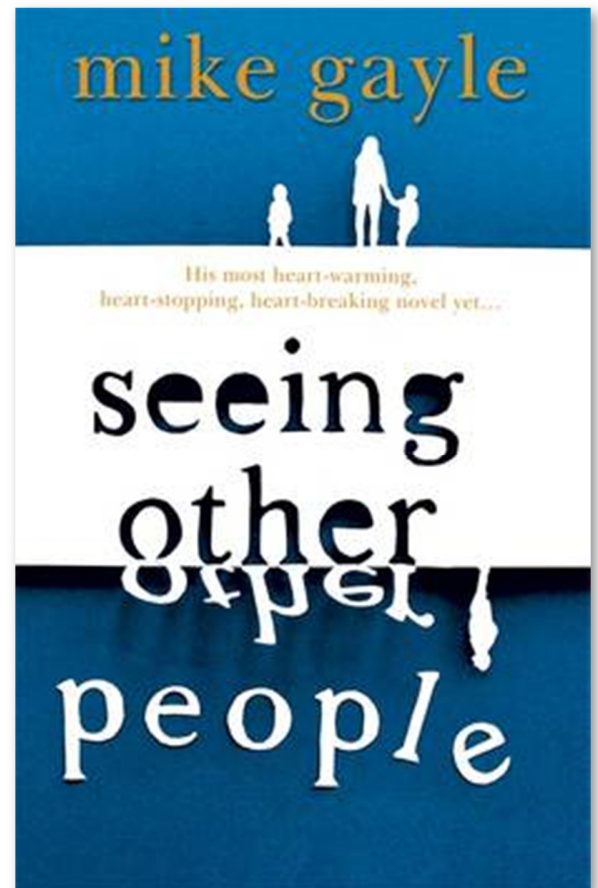
Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Iris Clements

This is Joe's story – sometimes funny, sometimes sad but nevertheless a delightful account from a man's perspective. Something we see too little of but brilliantly depicted by the author.

Love, fidelity and a touch of the whimsical keeps the reader rooting for Joe as his life untangles before his eyes. Mike Gayle has portrayed an ethical man who, against his better judgement, may, just may, have compromised his principles, and the subsequent fall-out will be devastating for all concerned.

I enjoyed this book immensely, strong colourful characters and an unexpected subtle depth which made for an interesting and enjoyable read.



Celia Cohen

Heartbreaking, heart warming, thought provoking and extremely readable.

A wonderful book. Anybody who has gone through the heartaches of a divorce will recognise what Joe and Penny were going through and for those just contemplating divorce, well after reading this book it might make them think twice about it. I found myself moved to tears one minute then smiling the next. I loved the twist in the tale too - very clever. Yes I thoroughly recommend this book, you'll find yourself hooked from the very first page. ***I'm off now to***

find some of his other books!

Joanne Nuttie

I have read every one of Mike Gayle's books over the years he has always been a favourite author. I was chuffed to be chosen to review this book! He didn't let me down.

A funny, easy, light hearted book. Read it very quickly in three sittings. Loved all the characters especially Joe and I wanted to give him a big hug... Mike as usual portrayed the characters very well I could smell Fiona's poison perfume as if she was next to me. And loved the quirky characters from the divorced dads club.

This book will be recommended to lots of people, a holiday read for all women out there. If you want a book that's easy to read, keeps your interest and has a few twists and turns this is most definitely for you.

Well done to Mike Gayle and looking forward to reading another of his books very soon.

Tanya Thurling

What a lovely book. *I must say I've read plenty of books about infidelity and the effects it has on a person but these books have always been from a woman's point of view. It was quite refreshing to read it from a male perspective. You always assume it never affects the man as much and they brush it off and carry on but this book definitely shows you otherwise.*

The story is basically Joe Clarke, a guy who makes a choice one night and then lives to regret it. You go through an emotional, honest and very heartwarming journey of what happens next. This story goes to show that you should never take what you have for granted because once it's gone you may never get it back and it'll certainly never be the same again.

It was lovely to read just how much Joe loved and adored his kids and wife and you certainly feel for his heartache at being away from his children and missing out on the everyday things that he probably hadn't appreciated before. I never thought I'd feel compassion for the 'cheater' but you certainly do as you follow Joe on his journey through the aftermath. Throw in an angry ghost of girlfriends past (don't let it put you off. At first I wasn't expecting it but it certainly adds a certain humour to the story) and you have a story well worth a

read.

This is the first book I've read by Mike Gayle and I shall certainly be reading more.

Linda Hill

Charming and engaging 'chick-lit' that successfully fulfils all the conventions of good chick-lit.

'Seeing Other People' has a duality of meaning in its title which makes for a very engaging read. The story concerns the relationship between Joe and Penny Clarke and the effect separation and divorce can have on those involved and their children and families. However, a supernatural element adds another dimension to the text.

It is refreshing to read a book written in a chick-lit style from the male perspective and as Joe examines his relationships with his wife Penny, his children, his new Divorced Dad Club mates, and Fiona and Bella, we are given a rounded and totally believable character.

Although the plot is relatively simple, I found I thoroughly enjoyed how it unfolded and Mike Gayle is skilful at creating an emotional response in the reader.

'Seeing Other People' isn't a challenging read, but it is a heart warming and satisfying one. This is exactly the kind of book to pack for a holiday.

Cat Hogwood

A novel exploring love, family and those alternative possibilities we dream about.

This story follows the Clarke family, particularly the father Joe. Without giving too much of the story away it revolves around a decision Joe makes and an incident which changes the course of his life.

I grew to love the characters in this book as it shows how friendship can come from places you least expect it. It demonstrates how life can change as a result of one small decision/moment but particularly how families are bonded for life, through good and bad times.

*I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to friends and family. **Its slight twist sets it apart from other novels and at the end of***

the book you realise you've been on the journey with the characters.

Neil Williams - @Tashman

A bitter-sweet tale of what could be.

A very enjoyable read. Mike Gayle has a great way of making the everyday enjoyable on the page. In this case the pain of separation on a family, including a novel twist.

The way the emotion of each situation and the reactions of the principal characters is put across on the page allows the reader to feel they're being confided in and allowed into these very personal circumstances, all with a great element of humour too.

Kate Thacker

The only things bad about this book is that it alerted me to the fact I have never read Mike Gayle before!! and I am now seeking out all his others.

It's an emotional read and a story that brings many things into question for both the character and then the reader. What would you do in the same situation? What would you want him to do?

I really cared about the characters and from the start after reading the blurb I was desperately wanting things to turn out ok.

Great read.

Lynda DeFreitas

You only live once - make it the best you can.

The first chapter begins with a mystery. How could someone find himself in a situation where he wakes up in a strange bed next to someone he barely knows, and not remember how he got there? Joe knows he wasn't that drunk the night before, but everything is a blank.

The story then goes back one week and as Joe's life begins to unravel he learns some hard lessons. As author Mike Gayle says through Joe's dead ex-girlfriend "You. Only. Live. Once.", and if you have a life that you love why jeopardise it for something fleeting and definitely not worth it.

This tale is light-hearted, funny, thought provoking and at times heart-rending, I enjoyed reading this book from an author I'd not read before and I'm going to be looking out for more of his books.

Donna Smith

'Seeing Other People' - A good story, of a family struggle as told by the man of the house.

This is another great book from Mike Gayle. He is able to tell a good fast paced story, get right to the heart of the matter, and tell it in such a way as to never make you feel so uncomfortable, laced with both humour and emotion at the way our minds can play tricks on us.

The story is comprised of friendship, love, honour, marriage, youth, growing up, families, divorce, death, accidental liaisons and ghosts. It has a mixture of everything and it covers so much so well.

When I started to read this book I was immediately gripped, I enjoyed the pace of the story, the timeline was well set out, it didn't have you jumping around the plot too much, it neatly flowed from one bit to the next. The ultimate little twist was a nice touch, but once introduced you soon wanted the conclusion to come through, and I felt this took a little too long to get to it, and without much discussion either. I liked the idea of it, and it flowed, just not sure it fully knitted together for me, that said I would recommend this to all Mike Gayle fans, and fans of general fiction. A good summer beach read I think.

Megan Williams

A heart-warming novel that perfectly captures the challenges and rewards of parenting and being a faithful parent and partner.

Mike Gayle's novel 'Seeing Other People', is an honest and heart-warming portrayal of parenting in this modern day when remaining a faithful loyal partner is as much of a challenge as being a parent. Gayle explores fidelity in this novel through the character Joe who on one drunken night cheats on his wife of twenty years and finds his world turned upside down and consequently a much uglier and painful version than it once was. I think this novel makes the reader question what fidelity means to them, and what misdemeanours would we be willing to accept or not? And at what price? Gayle creates such a touching character in Joe that you can't fail to feel some form of sympathy towards this man that we should really dislike, being the cheating husband that he is.

However, I would be doing the novel a huge disservice if I failed to mention the twist that is also contained within the work, ensuring it's not just a run of the mill tragic-comic novel.

This is a tale to which everyone can relate on some level, if the reader is not part of a broken home themselves then sadly they'll undoubtedly have someone close to them that is. This book makes you stop and consider your actions and I'm convinced if every couple read this work there would be far fewer messy breakups and divorce.

This novel is funny, heart-warming, thought-provoking and at times tear-jerking; it's a lovely read.

Cathy Burman

We all have secrets, things we don't particularly want others to know about, for a host of different reasons, sometimes for their own good, but what about guilty secrets? They are such a dilemma! Do you keep them to yourself and continue to feel guilty and dishonest and live every day in the fear of them being uncovered? Do you confess your secret so that everything is out in the open and you are no longer living in fear of getting caught out, but in the process of doing so you potentially destroy something precious and change lives forever? You may well change your views after reading this book!

A witty, bittersweet story, a little far-fetched in parts (but hey this is fiction and escapism, so a little far-fetched is allowed!) *Thought provoking, well, what would you have done and who really are your friends when the chips are down? An excellent holiday read which will have you rooting for Joe practically the whole way through and when you have finished you can consider again, what would you have done, and did you change your mind?*

Maz Tucker – Twitter @maztucker

Great Book, thanks Mike.

The new book by Mike Gale, Seeing Other People, is a really good book that shows us all, that if we take the wrong route things go drastically wrong. *The twist in the book really shocked me, but I know you're going to enjoy this.*

The story is definitely something we can all relate to and is brilliantly written.

If you like a good family drama with lots of twists and turns this book is

definitely for you.

Lisa Faulkner

Mike Gayles 'Seeing Other People' was eagerly anticipated! However, the book did not lead up to expectations. The central characters were never fully developed and the plot e.g. the ghost of the ex-girlfriend popping up throughout the story was weak. Further, the ending was too predictable and slightly contrived! Overall a disappointing read.

Jennie Thrift

A novel with family at its heart...you will see yours in a new light after reading this book.

As someone on the brink of both parenthood and marriage I was curious to see what this book had to offer. Despite being written from a male perspective, I found it drew me in and Joe was an easy character to empathise with. The situation he finds himself in was, at times, difficult to read as his pain is so evident and as a reader you genuinely find yourself wishing all his troubles would just go away.

I'm rarely happy about reaching the end of a good book but, without giving too much away, I can safely say that in this case I was.

Before you think this book isn't for you, I urge you to stop and think again. For anyone in a similar situation or just anyone with a family it will truly make you appreciate them in a way I never expected this book to do.

Hat's off to you Mike Gayle – I thank you.

Judy Connolly

What happens when you are tempted and make the wrong choice?

Joe is feeling neglected and is drawn to another woman.

A heartstrings story

Joe and Penny have a happy marriage but Joe's beginning to feel neglected. When a new intern arrives at the office he finds himself attracted to her. After exchanging flirty texts he wakes up naked in bed with her with no idea how he got there.

Has he been unfaithful and what effect will this have on his marriage?

A funny heartening story, as we have come to expect from Mike Gayle.

Michelle Russ

Unfortunately this book really wasn't for me. I have read a couple of books by Mike a Gayle in the past and liked his easy writing style and the fact that chick lit style books were written by a man - I suppose you could call it man lit! This book is written in Gayle's familiar writing style, but unfortunately I couldn't connect with the storyline or characters. I detested the main character Joe (he actually made me really angry) and I just couldn't get past some parts of the storyline.

I'm sure that others will enjoy this book, but I think I will stick to chick lit as opposed to man lit in future!

Zarina

It's rare to come across a novel with a male protagonist that depicts a powerful group of friends, but it was refreshing to read such a different perspective on infidelity, family and loss.

It took me a little while to get into the story, because while Joe was a compelling main character I found it difficult to come to terms with the ghost of his ex-girlfriend floundering about, which for me detracted somewhat from the seriousness of the situation he found himself in as it didn't add anything of substance to the themes of infidelity, family and loss, which the novel focuses on.

The true strength of this novel for me lay with Joe's personal growth and the importance of the Divorced Dads' Club in his life. This is also the original title of the novel and one that is much more befitting this story, as the divorced dads have left a lasting impression on me as a reader. While in the beginning of the novel they were merrily some interviewees for one of Joe's stories, when his life falls apart all around him, they're the support group that get him through the worst of it. And each of the men in the club have their own stories too, which are equally heartbreaking; I found myself getting quite emotional reading about the hardships they had to face along the way.

It's rare to come across a novel with a male protagonist that depicts a powerful group of friends. It was not only refreshing to read such a different perspective

on infidelity and the crumbling down of a family, but the individual stories of each of the dads was very well-written and I found them incredibly inspiring people.

Katie Hoare – Twitter Katie@boggedoff

*'Seeing Other People' is told through the eyes of the journalist protagonist, Joe Clarke, who tells his story with such honesty, warmth, and clarity. It starts with his infidelity of his one night stand, and how he starts off keeping this secret from his wife, Penny, and then how he comes to telling her. The story starts to show how they try and keep this from their children, and then the breakdown of the marriage. At some points when he is feeling his most remorseful Joe is visited by a previous and dead girlfriend, who tries to advise him. During the story you are shown the trials and tribulations of emotions of a family break up, and especially when takes on a new partner. And, especially very well observed when it comes to representation of how it takes its toll on children. The reader is shown how Joe tries to make good of the situation and tries to make an amends, as well as being drawn into the story. **There is humour in this book and the reader is made to feel empathy for all the characters involved, and there are some very touching moments throughout.***

Katy Noyes

Shades of A Christmas Carol, It's a Wonderful Life and Vanilla Sky make a mixed bag of this story of a regretted affair and the ghost of a girlfriend. Enjoyable but not fully convincing.

3.5 stars.

I think of Mike Gayle as a rough equivalent to Sophie Kinsella. Both are good at narrating a young(ish), middle class wo/man, in a dilemma of a family/relationship story, with humour and warmth. Gayle brings the male perspective.

Journalist Joe Clarke is moderately successful, with a beautiful wife he adores and two wonderful children. Life is good. Yet one morning, after a confused mugging, he wakes up in bed with the office intern, with no idea what happened to get him there. Should he confess to his wife? Can he live with the guilt?

In the midst of his drama, Joe starts seeing the ghost of a recently-deceased former girlfriend, who swears he didn't have an affair. Is he going crazy?

The story itself, I enjoyed. I liked Joe, though the lovey-dovey scenes with gorgeous wife Penny actually made me want him taken down a peg or two! Some of his decisions seemed a bit unrealistic (would YOU confess to an affair you didn't even remember having?)

The relationship story, how it affects the kids, what happens when other new partners appear on the horizon, I liked.

It was the crazy ghost that didn't hit the spot. It didn't seem to fit the type of story this is. Why should she be there?

The minor characters were fab though - Joe's Divorced Dads feature brings a triumvirate of eccentric dads into Joe's life unwittingly, who chivvy him through his trials and lighten the tone, whilst bringing up issues of custody and parental rights.

*I would have liked to rate this higher. **It will make a good TV film/short series. It's going to be a good summer read but wasn't as satisfying as I was hoping for.***

Frida

Seeing other people is a very humorous and lovingly told story of how relationships work and how fragile even the most stable and secure of situations can be.

Joe wakes up expecting his head to hurt. The last thing he remembers is being attacked by thugs whilst texting on his way from the pub. But instead he is unhurt and as he looks around he realises he's not at home in his own bed but lying naked next to Bella, the new intern. He has no recollection of meeting up with Bella, getting to her flat or anything happening there. Could it really have happened? He panics. Has he really cheated on his wife? She and the children mean the world to him. Surely he would have some sort of memory of last night if he had? But then again how else would he have ended up here??

Mike Gayle manages to catch the 'humaness' of his characters. The dilemmas of everyday life, the vulnerability, the desires, good sides and bad.

Rebecca Whymark

Good book, a little predictable.

I really liked this book. It was easy to read and a nice story. The only problem was that I guessed the ending very quickly so felt that reading the rest of the

book was a little pointless. I carried on and lo and behold I was right! Although like I said the book was good I felt it lacked depth that others have due to it being so predictable. ***I'm glad I read it though and would try more from the author.***

Phyllippa Smithson

What a winner Mike Gayle has created as we near the imminent school summer holidays when a genuinely absorbing 'chick' read is in order.

'Seeing Other People' offers a very alternative take on a familiar fiction theme - love and loss and the role of family and friends in such times. It's different because driving the main event is a 'did-he/didn't he' (Joe) commit the mortal sin, infidelity in a marriage with two children involved? And the master (or rather mistress) of ceremonies who knows the truth, is a former, now dead, ex-girlfriend.

The 'ghost,' Fiona presents a totally contradictory perspective of what is the real life Joe is living. Is he the wrong doer that cripples his very being - love of Penny, his 20 year partner and Mum to his adored children, Rosie and Jack? or was he really the victim of a mugging? Should he be committed to a mental asylum or will he be strong enough to take matters into his own hands and survive the enormous challenge of getting to the truth?

Fell in love with every character in this story - with the exception of Fiona. Really wanted to believe Joe was not capable of destroying himself and those he loves.

Oh yes, if you want answers to the questions, read Seeing Other People.

Georgia Churchill

'Seeing Other People' is an extraordinary book like no other. It's not something I would usually go for, however this book has totally changed my mind.

When Joe Clarke, father of two, wakes up next to an extremely attractive intern from his work he is lost for words. How could he possibly have an affair when he is uncontrollably in love with his wife? Only problem is he can't remember anything, did it actually happen? Or is this a dream?

Joe is visited by a friend who is believed to be dead. However he is the only one

who can see her. While trying to sort his life out things get a lot more complicated, will he ever find out what's happening him?

This book is full of heart-stopping moments and shows the true meaning of family. I would definitely recommend this book to those who want something different and exciting to read.