

## LoveReading Reader reviews of The Thirty List by Eva Woods

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

### Clair Chaytors

#### ***Absolutely delicious!***

*This is such a perfect read I simply had to devour it in one weekend! If it's an uplifting book with a light-hearted but enjoyable storyline that you are looking for then look no further as 'The Thirty List' has it all.*

*Rachel is thrown into the almost alien world of divorce and at the age of thirty, a time when it's assumed we've got it all together, she finds herself starting at the bottom of life's ladder again and it's her toughest challenge yet. However, as a list maker extraordinaire, she decides, along with the help of her friends to compile a list of things to do in order to combat the depression that a divorce inevitably brings on with hilarious consequences.*

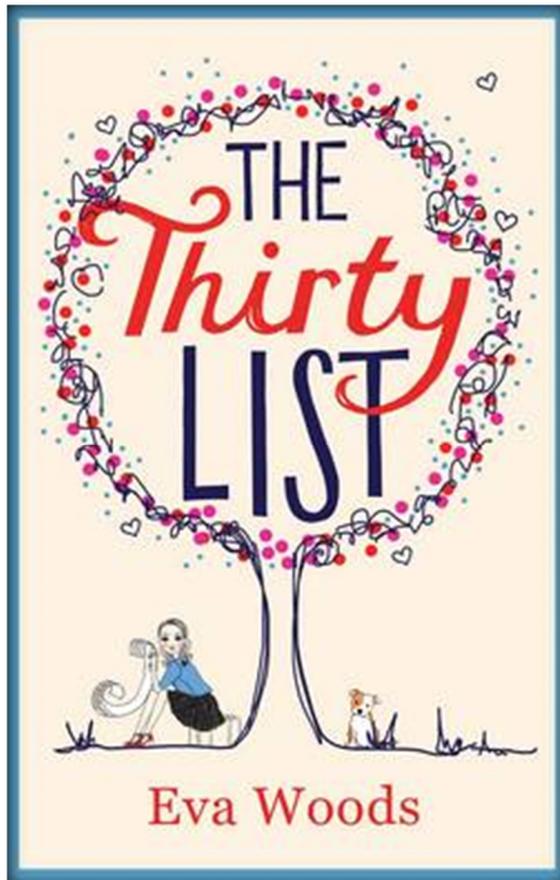
*Rachel is a wonderfully drawn character, warm, funny but most of all relatable and her friendship with Cynthia and Emma makes for some highly emotional reading.*

*I cannot fault this book and would love to see a follow up to it!*

You can follow Clair on Twitter: @clair\_louise80

### Edel Waugh

*Never has divorce been so funny and spot on, and I know I have been there!*



*Meet Rachel, thirty something, newly divorced, homeless, trying to find her way in life with the support of her friends, sad music and tea and biscuits...realising she never really knew her husband at all!*

*It's not long before the housing situation is sorted, insert another person going through a divorce, a dog, a kid, and you have yourselves a really fun, anything can happen read!*

*Rachel and her friends are witty and little rays of sunshine, reading about their scenes together is often hilarious as they often open their mouth without editing it first...insert plenty of comic banter here....*

*Rachel may think that divorce is the worst thing that could possibly happen to her but little does she know it could be leading her on all the right paths in life but not without a few large hurdles first.*

***If you have ever lost your way, been through a divorce/ breakup, needed a hand in life, then this is the book for you! This will lift your spirits and help you regain your faith in humanity.***

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

## **Joan Hill**

***When Rachel and Patrick compile lists of things that they each must do before they reach thirty the fun begins with challenges that are hair-raising and laugh-out-loud funny.***

*When Rachel's husband throws her out of their home after just two years of marriage she is both shattered and shocked. Their lives together had once seemed so perfect but suddenly she has nowhere to live and no job to see her through the lonely days. She answers an advert for a live-in helper, moves in with Patrick and his young son and settles down to do some drawing commissions in her eerie. Her friends jolly her along by suggesting she compiles a list of things she must do before she reaches thirty and she duly compiles a list and starts ticking off each task as she completes it, with Patrick also rising to the challenges of his own list, both supportive of each other.*

*This is a very amusing, light-hearted story of two lonely people who try to help each other through their troubles. Neither of them is ready for new relationships other than companionship and friendship and both of them are totally up for a challenge. As the story develops, with delicious metaphor after metaphor, maybe there could be a happy ending for both of them waiting on life's horizon, if they can learn to trust again.*

*I enjoyed this easy to read and warm novel and would like to thank Lovereading and Mills and Boon for my copy in return for an honest review.*

You can follow Twitter: @JoanHillo7

### **Alex Hetherington**

***Eva Woods debut novel “The Thirty List” is a hilarious novel filled with charm and innocence.*** Rachel, aged 30 finds herself divorced and in a bit of a rut. She soon finds solace in an unusual situation finding herself flung into the lives of an older man Patrick and his son. Rachel and Patrick soon embark on a to-do list, and it is within this when the novel unwinds.

*Within the list are things such as: Foreign adventures, sky diving and trying stand-up comedy and it is these moments which allow our characters to develop and provide the funniest moments. Sometimes the lists were a little too convenient, the novel stagnated at times, and whilst it was indeed very funny, it was funny standing still, no one was really going anywhere until there was a sudden dramatic twist, which seemed to find itself plopped right in the middle, with random emotional outbursts strung in and around the adventures which could have been delved into a little more. It was fun and perky one moment and then without any real sense of momentum or logic, it seemed to collide somewhere else and whilst life can be chaotic it didn't quite flow at times.*

*It cannot be denied though how much fun this novel is and that is the overriding sense of emotions towards the end of this novel. As a 24 aged male I am far from the target market but I was won over by the writing and emotional connection and am excited to see more from this new talented author.*

<http://boylestalkaboutbooks281.blogspot.co.uk>

### **Judith Waring**

***I loved, loved, loved this book and devoured it within days. It is a real page turner and the best way to describe it is 'totally enchanting'.*** You are quickly reeled into Rachel's life, her little quirk of composing lists to help get her through, her whimsical asides and pithy comments on the situation she finds herself in.

*Eva Wood is a very gifted writer and has a lovely way with words and turn of phrase. You genuinely care for her characters and find yourself completely lost in the depths of this book - and I will defy anyone not to want to have their own*

*Patrick and Alex in their life by the time they get to the final page!*

*This is a gloriously warm and uplifting novel to read and I will definitely be looking out for more books in the future by this new author.*

*However I also think this particular novel will remain very special to me and which I know I will re-visit again and again.*

### **Alison Bisping**

#### ***A good holiday read!***

*So many of us love and live by our lists whether it is a to-do list or a shopping list and in this novel, Rachel is no exception. Her life hasn't turned out as she expected - she married, moved out of London, expected to have children and hoped to live happily ever after. But it wasn't to be.*

*Just before her thirtieth birthday, she is back to being single, surrounded by her best friends from her University days, who seem to have perfect lives (but are they?) The friends suggest making a list of things to do - of challenges - before Rachel is thirty to stop her dwelling on her failed marriage. This is the basis of the story. Rachel finds a room to 'rent' and persuades her new landlord, also recently separated, he needs a list of things to do as well.*

*I really enjoyed the book, although for me it was quite predictable. It had a few surprises to keep me interested. It's a great read for a holiday.*

### **Sarah Hamid**

***An enjoyable read for anyone who loves a list - as I do! This romantic comedy is a perfect light holiday or bedtime read. Good for making you feel happy with your own life without being too weighty.***

*This is an entertaining modern read in the "chick lit" genre, with sympathetic characters and an engaging plot-line. Initially, I found the writer's quirky, colloquial style hard to get on with, but I soon relaxed into it. The lists that Rachel and her "love-interest landlord", Patrick, set themselves to work through (in order for Rachel to recover from the breakdown of her marriage), give the book a pleasing structure. I found myself eagerly anticipating the next task and trying to guess whether it would be a success or not. I particularly liked the characters of Alex and the little dog, Max. It was slightly predictable, though at times.*

*I could imagine this book being made into an enjoyable and look forward to Eva Woods' next offering. I recommend it to fans of Mhairi McFarlane, Maeve Haran and JoJo Moyes.*

### **Sarah Harper**

***Funny, quirky and bittersweet. This is a heart-warming tale of love, loss, friendship and new beginnings which I will happily recommend.***

*Set around the lists which Rachel loves so much, we follow her as she tries to build a new life in the aftermath of her marriage. She falls into a friendship with the slightly posh Patrick, his gorgeous young son, who has a penchant for stuffing food in his wellies whilst wearing them, and their scruffy little dog Max. They all need and rely on each other but things are never as straightforward as you hope. Holding your breath, waiting for Rachel and Patrick to finally see the light and fall into each other's arms is all well and good but as usual there are obstacles to overcome and their relationship is stronger because of this. The theme of the lists works really well, I loved the way in which they were used to tie the story together at the end and I really, really enjoyed reading it. A lovely, heart-warming debut which I will happily recommend. Eva Woods is one to watch.*

### **Sharon Matthews**

***A life to be lived ... A list to follow ... Will doing all the things you think you should do before you're thirty bring you happiness and a sense of achievement?***

*So, age wise I'm a bit older than who I think this book is aimed at (i.e. 25-30 year olds) but learning to live, and love, without a checklist is something we should all learn, despite our age. Personally I thought the book was fairly predictable and the ending was exactly as expected. This is probably a good read if you are on the beach somewhere (or in the local park) especially if you are likely to be easily distracted and don't want to do anything mentally challenging. There are plenty of current pop culture references within the book but I think if you read this in 5 years' time, they wouldn't necessarily mean anything to you. On a positive note, the characters were developed properly and it was easy to read, just not my favourite book of the year.*

### **Nickey Hawryszczuk**

***Absolutely loved this book. One of the best books I have read recently. Very light hearted, humourous, romantic, what more could you ask for? Divorced woman meets single dad!***

*A brilliant Romantic Comedy. I really felt like I got to know Rachel well in this story. Having been divorced myself, I could really relate to this and wish I had made a bucket list like Rachel does, and have the courage to carry the list out! Divorced woman meets grumpy single dad. Bucket list to complete together. Loved it!*

### **Joy Bosworth**

***A bit disjointed but so is Rachel's life.***

*This book is part chick-lit but not as funny and quite a bit more maudlin.*

*The "heroine" Rachel makes lists of everything and the post-divorce bucket list gets very wearing the number of times it is reprinted and alluded to. There is another of sinks she has drunkenly been sick in, too!*

*Although hostile to cats, Rachel is nice about dogs and Max is beautifully described - he's the star of the tale (but even he has a vomiting episode).*

### **Cathy Burman**

*Rachel is thirty and suddenly finds herself ditched by her husband, jobless and homeless. Her friends rally around her and knowing Rachel is a bit of a list addict one of them puts together a to-do list which she feels will help her through the big sudden changes in her life. The list consists of different challenges for Rachel to focus on and complete. As luck would have it untidy, frivolous Rachel manages to secure some accommodation with newly separated and house proud Patrick and his young son. She encourages Patrick to also draw up a list of challenges of things he has always wanted to do but has never got around to doing. They then go on to support each other through their different tasks. Unsurprisingly not everything goes to plan. They are both carrying baggage and there are many hurdles and complications to overcome. An excellent light and easy to read book. Especially recommended to put in the suitcase for an excellent holiday read, but a good book to read at any time. **It made me laugh, but it is also tinged with sadness in parts. An entertaining read you will find hard to put down.***

## **Suzanne Marsh**

*'The Thirty List' by Eva Woods is her first romantic comedy novel. Before Rachel gets married she wants to know these questions how do you know? How can be sure? About the person you marry. In a vintage-style dress, now Rachel will become someone's wife. Dan and Rachel move to a new house in Surrey. Now Rachel Kenny at the age of thirty she is imminently to be divorced, moving out of the home they spent years creating. List-maker Rachel has a plan with plenty of new sets of challenges to help her get over her divorce and out into the world again.*

***I loved the way Rachel liked to make lists. For Rachel making lists was ways of trying to put some order on the desperate mess of her life.***

[www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com](http://www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com)

## **Lynette McCann**

*A well thought out novel way to celebrate becoming thirty. Rachel has to move out of her husband's house when he wants a divorce, and moves into Patrick's (a single father to a 4 year old) box room. Rachel has spent her days making lists, and now she has made a list of things to do before she reaches thirty years old. Patrick also joins in the lists when Rachel explains them to him, and he makes his own lists. In the meantime Rachel makes a great relationship with Alex, Patrick's son and they become close. **A thoroughly enjoyable book with realistic characters, I had to read it in one sitting to find out the ending. Well done Eva Woods.***

## **Holly Kilminster**

***This is the most delightful tale of friendship, love, loss and all that's in between. The perfect romantic comedy and an ideal holiday read.***

*Thirty-something Rachel finds her life crashing down around her after she becomes divorced. Having always thought that by the time you reach your thirties you have life sorted, she uses her love of lists to help combat her disarray.*

*However, her life looks set to take a very different turn when circumstances introduce her to Patrick and his son...*

*This is a gorgeous gem of a story that will have you laughing out loud and nodding your head in recognition.*

*Rachel is a wonderfully drawn character, full of life, who you cannot help but warm to.*

*If you like your romantic comedies to be heartfelt, amusing and unputdownable then look no further than 'The Thirty List'. Pure escapism.*

<http://www.bookaholicconfessions.wordpress.com>

You can follow Holly on Twitter: @BookaholicHolly