

Lovereadng Reader reviews of The Two of Us by Andy Jones

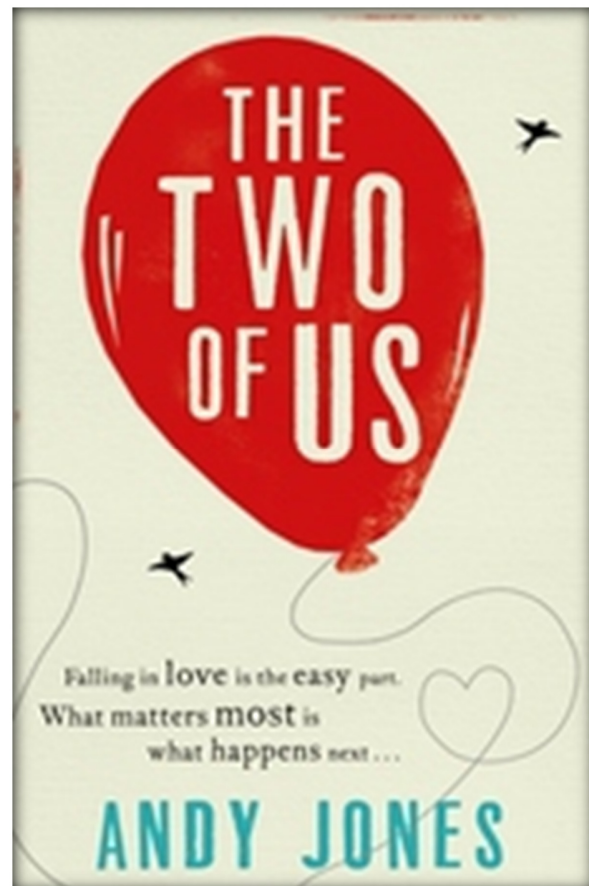
Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereadng members.

Phyllippa Smithson

In reading the last page, I am not only feeling a sense of loss after closing a fantastic book but also the loss of a best friend such was the personal involvement I felt in the lead character.

This is a book about early 30s Fisher and his relationships. These relationships have been formed as a result of family ties (Dad and Sister), best friend (El) and best married friends – and neighbours (Evelyn and Nico). But these relationships are so very much more than family and friends as they have become dominant in Fisher's world as a result of life experiences. The loss of his Mum as an 11 year old child brings him even closer to his Dad and sister. His best friend has been there since childhood and is now losing the fight against a debilitating illness. And his 60 year old trusted neighbours have looked to him as he makes the mistakes in finding his way in his adult life.

However, the relationship which is so glaringly missing from Fisher's life is a partner. Sure he has had girl-friends, played the field but he has not found 'The One'. Then he meets Ivy. Ivy is 'The One'. He knows this despite just days having passed in the relationships. But as the story unfolds so we observe the waves of emotion as he hits the highs of believing she feels the same way and that this is for good. And the lows of believing Ivy is not so committed.



As a female, I was particularly taken with a style of writing that saw the words unfolding in the first person, Fisher. Interesting to learn that men as much as women suffer crisis of confidence at the start of a relationship.

I am sure I will survive my bereavement but I do believe the days ahead are going to be tough with Fisher no longer a part of my life.

Suzanne Marsh

If you loved 'One Day' and 'The Rosie Project', you will fall head-over-heels for 'The Two Of Us' by Andy Jones. *I have read 'The Rosie Project', and I can relate to the same kind humour in 'The Two Of Us'. This funny warm story takes us through Fisher and Ivy who have been an item for a whole nineteen days. People ask them questions like how long have you two been together? and how did you two lovebirds meet? Whatever the reason, when Fisher met Ivy there was something about Ivy that immediately made him not want to sleep with Ivy. With Ivy working in film production. What matters most is that they both met. But what matters the most is what happens next. And what happens next I cannot reveal. 'The Two Of Us' is a story about life, love and the importance of not taking neither one for granted.*

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

Ann Peet

Engaging and moving love story.

This love story narrated by Fisher starts shortly after he has fallen in love with Ivy and they are on their way to meet his family. It is written in an easy engaging style and quickly draws you into the story.

It is not particularly original, indeed it feels at times as though the author has taken themes from some of the most popular recent bestsellers and mixed them up, but perhaps none the worse for that as the writing is warm and gently humorous. The development of the relationship between Fisher and Ivy is well portrayed and the ending is very emotional and moving. I did feel the middle section could have done with some cutting as I found parts of the sub plots rather tedious. Fisher comes over as an endearing character - perhaps a bit too perfect - and I felt the author didn't really get under the skin of Ivy but I suppose that is intended as it is written in the first person by Fisher so the story is seen just from his point of view.

An enjoyable and moving read.

Anne Cater

Fisher and Ivy have been together for nineteen days. This is Fisher's story really, narrated by him, seen through his eyes. Those nineteen days have been great; with lots of sex. Fisher was very content, until Ivy seemed to change. The change is huge, and 'The Two Of Us' is the tale of how these two people deal with the consequences.

Fisher is a lad, and has been beautifully portrayed by the author. Sometimes he is annoying, sometimes he says or does something that really made me cross - but he's a guy, written by a guy, and he's pretty realistic. Ivy is a doll, I like her. I didn't always think she made the right decisions and sometimes she made me want to shout. Together, they make an interesting couple.

'The Two of Us' is a book that both male and female readers will enjoy, probably for different reasons, and I'd really enjoy talking to a male reader about the story, it would be great to get a male perspective, to see if they get anything different from the story than I did.

Warm, funny, characters that are real, including being annoying sometimes. An enjoyable, easy read that is light hearted around the outside, with a strong plot at the centre. I enjoyed this far more than either 'One Day', or 'The Rosie Project'.

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

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Joy Bosworth

Different-quirky-really good.

I needed a break after an intense autobiography and starting a Tudor novel and this book was perfect as a palate cleanser.

Usually this depth of character in day to day scenes is found in chick-lit that I like. I found it surprising to have this sort of thinking from a male author. Very male as the stag visit to a strip club proves!

It's a really lovely book, with no heroes or villains, just flawed human beings messing up and trying to minimise the damage. From frustration to bereavement via Dignitas - it's surprisingly light hearted.

I'll certainly look out for the next Andy Jones novel.

Rachel Hall

*I began 'The Two of Us' expecting a very different book to the one I was rewarded with, the cover précis pointing to a story of a made for each other couple overcoming the challenges of the early years of a relationship and the shared bonding experiences along the way. Instead I was given **an ultimately very powerful and poignant story told with real thought and insight and some beautiful and high quality writing.***

However, the book was very much a game of two halves for me. I was expecting a couple akin to that of 'The Rosie Project' with all the indications that they should be together. I found none of this and was initially disappointed and found it a real slow burner of a read. There was no indication of the eventual depth of the story to come and this, in my opinion, undersells the book. I wasn't particularly drawn to either Fisher or Ivy and felt no particular emotional pull absorbing me into their story. The secondary characters all seemed to have more to offer to the storyline and I was largely indifferent as to their fate as a romantic coupling. When unforeseen events occur just weeks into their relationship, it appears largely a case of being 'stuck with each other' and it is therefore fortunate that the reader is provided with such an entertaining and distinctive secondary cast who all played their part and contributed to the book.

Whilst the first half of the novel was rather slow paced and I seemed to find myself at the half way point of the book before anything significant happened, the humour a little contrived and the dialogue unrealistic, this was in complete contrast to the later stages. As the story gathers pace my interest and enjoyment in the book changed completely. The emotional intensity, quality of writing and insight seemed to move into a different spectrum and I was captivated. This is a book which I urge every struggling reader to persevere with. For me the second half picked up momentum and it thoroughly involved me. The text and humour seemed to flow more naturally and the humour became more original. To hint at what is to come for the pair would be to spoil the story, but stick with it and await the reward!

Angela Rhodes

I love this book!!

Ivy and Fisher are a couple who know they are meant to be together, or so they

think. Having been together for nineteen days they find out over the next twelve months how little they know and understand about each other.

Ivy is well a little older than Fraser, in her forties, though she looks a lot younger and is a little broken, and Fraser is not a bad looking guy.

The story has that lovely light feel and in places you are walking over egg shells with the two characters.

Their families are hilarious and Fraser's dad was for me, the best dad ever in fiction! You will laugh and cry with El, Fraser's really ill friend and will hold your breath as the unthinkable happens.

Andy Jones, has really tapped into the relationships of people and he gets it! *The whole women changing their minds, men are so wary of saying the wrong thing, the way we women sometimes think that men will understand us when we say one thing and meaning another, then sulking, because their men, got it wrong.*

It is a great book, and I love it!

Joanne Nuttie

I loved this book it was right up my street, boy meets girl and falls in love. It was quick paced and easy to read, so got through a lot of pages every night! Which makes a book enjoyable for me, just take myself away and quickly become engrossed.

I enjoyed Ivy immensely and it was lovely to have a main character who wasn't conventionally pretty... The story kept me on my toes.

Fisher at times needed a kick as he shown weakness... But his heart was in the right place, and in the end he turned out to be a great devoting partner.

Slightly disappointed with the ending... I did feel the last 80 pages had been rushed. A very sensitive topic and could he have spent longer writing about it.

This aside it was a great read and it will be recommended to lots of my female book reading friends.

Tunde Toth

This book is relationship drama. It's about fighting for your love in hard times and in doubts. And also about letting it go.

I've read the first chapter as soon as the postman pushed it through the letter box. It's a heart-warming novel about finding your love and fighting for it during hard times and doubts.

The story is simple but grips you and keeps you turning the pages.

Fisher is an honest character. Made me chuckle a few times. Found it difficult to be sympathetic towards Ivy in the beginning but so was Fisher.

The sad, painful scenes written particularly well. Although it didn't make me cry but felt real.

I liked the second story line as well about El. Probably because I'm a care assistant and it reminded me of 'Me Before You' by Jojo Moyes.

I highly recommend it.

Sarah Harper

A non-traditional love story and a breath of fresh air. This is a real gem of a book which will not disappoint.

A non-traditional love story and a breath of fresh air. I loved 'The Two of Us' and could write about it at length however it would completely spoil the story for future readers and therefore this review is going to be very brief. The story tells Fisher's point of view on his new relationship with Ivy. We are present when they first meet and we follow them as their romance develops over the subsequent year. Their lives take a number of unexpected turns and it is testament to the quality of the writing that I genuinely cared so much about the characters and the obstacles they faced. It is a realistic and raw account which is completely true to life. It doesn't shy away from emotive issues and handles them with a great deal of respect whilst remaining uplifting and positive. This is a real gem of a book which will not disappoint.

Julie Bickerdyke

This is one of those books that is a pleasure to read and doesn't tax you with complicated plot lines but does keep you intrigued and wanting to just keep on reading.

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You desperately want to know what is going to happen next and how it will all turn out.

So much can happen and change over the course of a year. The narrator is Fisher and the book introduces us to the people in his life and you explore his relationships with family, friends and especially Ivy. Fisher and Ivy fall in love instantly and start a life together that is wonderful yet full of obstacles.

His relationship with his friend El who has Huntington's disease is particularly poignant and thought provoking.

The book is shocking and heart-breaking at times, thoroughly enjoyable and well worth a read.

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Celeste Mc Creesh

"Falling in love is the easy part. What matters most is what happens next..."

The story opens where we meet Fisher & Ivy who are in a relationship, Fisher is a director & Ivy's a make-up artist. Although, they are only together 19 days, they know that they are just meant to be together or are they? The fact that they know little else about each other is a minor detail. We will follow their journey over the next 12 months, their lives will change forever but will it be for better or for worse?

*'The Two of Us' has been compared to both 'The Rosie Project' & 'US'. However, I hadn't read either of these books so I went in with an open mind and I loved it. This was a very bittersweet & heart-warming read, the story flows well throughout the book. Parts of the story even reduced me to tears, it's heart-breaking and charming. I really enjoyed Andy's book which I read in a couple of days, it kept me turning the pages until the very end. This story had it all, a little bit of humour, love, family, learning to not take each other for granted, to more sensitive issues - **I found I had a little tear in my eye at the end along with shedding a few along the way**, so grab this book, curl up on the couch and prepare to have a few lump in your throat moments too. **It definitely didn't disappoint.***

Edel Waugh

This is the truly engrossing story about a couple who have only recently started dating. Ivy and Fisher are only together a few weeks when their relationship is

really put to the test. This is a story about relationships, the good, the bad, and the downright ugly told by the male narrator Fisher. Fisher is a comical guy, loyal, a bit goofy but lovable and just taking life one day at a time, Ivy is a good few years older and knows what she wants from life, they sound like an unlikely match but somehow it works really well. We get to spend about a year looking at their lives and how their relationship changes, it is **heartbreaking, funny and honest. I recommend this to anyone who wants to start a book and not leave it until they have it finished. It's too good to put down once you start!!**

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

Jan Kirkcaldy

When I first saw this book, I felt it was going to be similar to a number previously read but that was my first misconception. It definitely wasn't. It's a **fascinating story of life, love, emotions and behaviour encountered in life and most interesting of all, told in the first person from a male perspective.** There's a great interchange of conversations between the two main characters – Fisher and Ivy. Even everyday discussions are compelling as we learn about them and they learn about each other after their whirlwind get-together. Hard to call it a romance as such.

Families are involved, friends and work colleagues play their part, in particular a terminally ill friend and his partner. Sad in part yet realistic, and positives come from what could be depressing scenarios. The story covers a lot of varied ground but once started it's hard to put down and it's not often I can say this. Certain happenings which cannot be detailed here and would spoil the story, appear to have been very well researched and present an accurate picture to the reader which is great.

I don't know if any other books are forthcoming from Andy Jones but I do hope so. This one is well **worth reading and I would thoroughly recommend it.**

Maggie Crane

Whilst this book was engaging, in places amusing, descriptive as regards the lack of communication individuals engage in and the lack of thought which some may hold as regards the repercussions of their actions, **personally I felt the author was trying to cover numerous ills in life within one book.**

He is very brave to tackle such matters but they really require addressing individually. Whilst I am sure many will enjoy this book personally it was not one I would ever read again or recommend.

Rachel Bridgeman

A superb debut, I cannot recommend this book highly enough. It's the type of book you will be pushing on to your friends and urging them to read.

I'll admit that this was a book I put myself forward for to 'expand my reading horizons', romantic fiction written by a man? It'll never work! Squared my shoulders and dug in and it was amazing! Totally unlike lots of other books that lead up to '...happily ever after', this looks at what happens next. Total infatuation: is it enough to build a relationship upon? How much do you compromise of yourself when you are in love, how far to you push? Not ashamed to admit I actually found myself crying near the end, partly story but partly I did not want this to end. Thank you so so much Lovereading, this book I just adored and I want to read more.

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