

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Woman Who Stole My Life by Marian Keyes

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Edel Waugh -

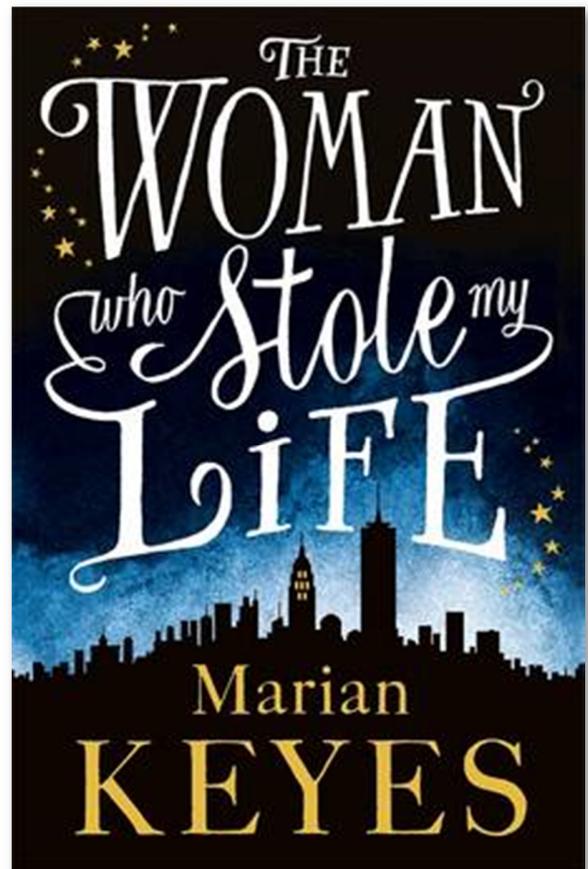
<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

This is the story of Stella. Stella is an ordinary wife and mother then one day her entire life changed for the worst when out of the blue she got a very rare disease. One of the main symptoms is that the patient cannot communicate at all so she is stuck in her own body unable to move or speak.

Having no way to communicate with the outside world we see a good bit of the book through Stella's thoughts, what she was thinking and how she was coping internally. The outside world is somewhere she dreams of being again but not everyone out there is whom they seem to be.

One of the shining lights in this dark time of her life was her doctor, through him she manages to communicate enough to feel less alone and this is where her healing begins, she is very inspirational but someone might like to steal her new life.

*This was a thought provoking read that really made me appreciate the small everyday things we can do , and take for granted. Stella is a very strong character who is trying to juggle many things at once and it is not always possible to keep everything balanced in her life but she has some awesome people in her life supporting her. **If you enjoy a story about new beginnings, witty laugh out loud moments and characters you will care about, then definitely pick this up you will not regret it.***



P.s I loved Stella's father, he was a very funny and a likeable character even if his reading tastes were a little off the wall.

Rachel Hall

I had no preconceived ideas of what to expect from this new novel by the immensely popular Marian Keyes, but I was certainly hoping for all her standout Irish charm, wit and warmth and it never failed to disappoint! Of the popular Irish romance authors, it is Keyes sense of humour and sarcastic undertone which I relish the most, and it was certainly evident in this latest page turner, especially throughout the low times in the narrators life.

The story charts the course of two very dramatic years in the Stella Sweeney's world. At the beginning of the book, we find her in a rut having returned home to Ireland following a year in the States. It is not clear why she has suddenly fled home but it is this gradual revelation which kept me hooked and Stella is a superb narrator. Although this novel flashes back and forth between differing time frames in her life, it is never hard to follow or confusing.

The tumultuous changes in Stella's life are triggered by the onset of a very serious medical condition, which force her to reevaluate her whole life. The connections she makes during her time in hospital and her thoughts during this period are crucial. On recovering Stella ends up publishing her own self-help book and one of the joys of this novel was reading Stella's insights during this time; the extracts from her memoir were so emotional, I adored them. The tempo of this book really speeds up and this contributes to the impression of how the year in the States has flashed by. I really got a sense of it, and it was this change in pace which I particularly enjoyed as the ride for Stella rushes by in contrast to her lengthy and depressing spell in hospital.

This is really Stella's story but all the key protagonists are well drawn - Stella's father and sister and the ex-wife of Mannix being perfect examples. I was literally on tenterhooks during the final thirty or so pages, as the outcome was never obvious and it had plenty of unexpected twists and turns.

A real page turner, genuine charm, covering both a life threatening condition and the world of publishing in the US, with all the hallmarks of classic Marian Keyes humour. A fantastic read and come Christmas time many will find themselves engrossed in Stella Sweeney's life!

Suzanne Marsh - www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

The international bestselling author Marian Keyes is back with her new novel 'The Woman Who Stole My Life'. It is full of wit and charm.

What I connected to the most is just like real life. Stella Sweeney is put through a series of disasters one after the other. We all know that some days we have bad days and sometimes we even have bad weeks which makes readers relate to Stella fateful times.

Stella works in her sister's beauty salon, Stella phones her sister to say she cannot make it into work as she has the flu. But Stella's terrifyingly ambitious sister Karen does not believe Stella. Consequently Stella is taken by ambulance to A & E suffering from Muscular weakness and her speech had degenerated with being put into an intensive care ward.

The story follows the outline Stella Sweeney: Height average. Recent life events: dramatic.

This story is about losing the life you had and finding a better one.

Sarah Jones

Marian Keyes is back and this is her best yet.

I am a huge Marian Keyes fan so was extremely excited to read her latest book. I'm delighted to say that I wasn't disappointed. In fact, I think this is my favourite so far!

Stella is forty one and this is her story. From her hospitalisation due to Guillain-Barre Syndrome to life as a beautician, men to children, good karma to bad karma, I was utterly captivated and compelled to continue reading. Stella is one of the most likeable characters I've ever engaged with. Funny, witty, but nowhere near perfect, Stella is someone I'd love to sit down for a chat with. She is also incredibly strong, determined and persistent, someone to admire.

Marian Keyes has written a clever novel that jumps through time, leaving the reader itching to be able to dig further and discover more. Whilst this is 'chick-lit' at its best, Marian is able to make it something more by writing about serious issues and getting her readers to think.

I can't praise this enough. Fans of Marian will love it, anyone looking for an interesting, thought provoking, funny read will love it too. Yay, Marian is back!

Glenda Worth

A car accident, paralysis and a handsome consultant meets ex-husband, kids and parents - an explosive mix and a real page turner.

Story of Stella who works for her sister as a beautician having a half share in the business. The novel moves effortlessly between Stella's world now, and the progression of a mystery illness which leaves her paralysed for months. Stella has a car accident and inadvertently meets a very important person.

*The interaction between her and her ex-husband who is suffering a meltdown, plus the new love in her life and the children caught in the middle makes for a great book and I would highly recommend it to anyone wanting a **good read**.*

Alison Burns

This is the story of Stella, who gets sick, gets lucky, loses it all, and then finds what she really wants in life. That's giving nothing of the story away!

It's chick lit, but Marian Keyes always manages to make it interesting with enough twists and turns to keep you interested. It's entertaining and enjoyable, an easy read for a holiday or chill out.

Farah Alam

*This book wasn't as great as I perhaps expected it to be. The story line wasn't as interesting, and the characters not as engaging as I would have liked, including Stella herself. However, there were moments where I found myself wanting to read on, especially the relationship that develops between Stella and Mannix. **Overall, this book was ok but, not as good as I would have liked it to be.***

Marjorie Lacy

This book appealed to me, eighteen months ago I had a life changing operation, with complications following a long spell in intensive care. When I came out of hospital, I was not the same person who went in. O.k., my experience was not as dramatic as Stella's. My life changed, so I understood a lot of what Stella experienced, She made a fantastic effort to get over her illness, her life became so different, moving from the 'old life' in Dublin, to a jet set lifestyle in New York. Exchanging the 'old husband' for exciting 'new man'. What could go

wrong?

*Of course things went wrong, badly wrong! Again, **Stella proved if you surmount your problems, life can and will get better.***

If you want to know what happened and what she did about it - you will have to READ THE BOOK!

Emily Wright

This novel, about an extra-ordinary life, is both down to earth and escapist. Full of humour and wry observations, this upbeat story is about taking what life throws at you and juggling the elements to embrace unexpected opportunities.

Stella Sweeney is a mother, author and accidental guru. The narrative is told in the first person from Stella's viewpoint, in the form of both current diary entries and recollections of events leading up to where the novel begins: Stella desperately fighting a burgeoning belly and writer's block.

The first retrospective sections chronicle Stella's time in hospital, paralysed and able to communicate only through blinking. Stella realises with shock that she has met her neurologist (Mannix) fleetingly before. A flicker of the intense connection the pair experienced upon first meeting is reignited and they become each other's confidants. Mannix 'listens' patiently to Stella's blinks; but little does either of them know that Stella's words of wisdom will change their lives forever...

As readers we are privileged to know Stella's innermost thoughts; this meant I felt I knew her and her family quickly and intimately. Due to this, I really rooted for Stella; through her battles with Guillain- Barré, beautiful blondes, domineering publishers and her own insecurities.

Marian Keyes depicts her characters, along with the humour and sadness in the narrative, vividly. 'The Woman Who Stole My Life', with a dash of romance, sprinkling of family life and a soupçon of adventure, reminded me of the importance of saying 'I Love You'.

Clare Turner

This is the story of Stella Sweeney, an "ordinary" Dublin woman (of 41 & 1/4!), who gets an extraordinary disease, and of what happens to her as a result of that.

In a nutshell, Stella, wife to the selfish Ryan and mother to two rather unbelievably if amusingly dire teenagers, contracts Guillain-Barre syndrome and is left completely paralysed. She spends months in hospital where the only redeeming feature is her neurologist. He has been noting her “thoughts” (conveyed via a blinking system he devised), and having fallen desperately in love with her, has them published. This initiates a spiral of events, culminating in their all leaving Dublin for to New York City, and theoretically a whole new life. And needless to say, things do not turn out as planned.

I started reading with very high hopes, as I have always delighted in Marian Keyes’s books. And indeed she grabs you at the very start, with Stella’s trenchant take on Karma. The first part of the book is pretty typical Keyes and works well – the family are depicted in her inimitable style (and are the highlight of the book) and there are some very funny moments. But then, with the commencement of the love affair, the steamy and rather adolescent sex scenes and the move to New York, it all becomes a little tedious and certainly too far-fetched to be really entertaining.

That said, given Keyes’ engaging style and her ability to maintain the reader’s interest, it is still a page turner and will appeal to a wide readership. But sadly not one of her best.

Joan Sidwell

Having read most of Marian Keyes’ books I feel this is a departure from her previous style. Although all her books have been different this is on another level and in fact is completely unlike anything I have ever read before.

Stella Sweeney lives an ordinary life as a beautician in Dublin until a random incident and a meeting with a stranger starts a chain of events and, without wanting to give anything away, takes the reader into an unfamiliar setting. This is only part of the story but is the catalyst for a new life for Stella and her family. The book moves between Dublin and New York as Stella’s ultimate newfound success catapults her into a glamorous and exciting world travelling around America.

Early in the book there are three different scenarios from various times in this period of Stella’s life. Eventually the book moves to a more straightforward sequence, although still between two time lines.

Essentially this is a love story and as the plot unfolds there is a threat to Stella’s newfound happiness. As the story progresses all becomes very clear and the

whole story comes together. This is a very important part of the book and I believe it is important for the reader's enjoyment not to know too many "plot spoilers" beforehand, read the book, you will not be disappointed.

*The characters are warm and humorous and there is a lovely cast of family and friends who add to the warmth and poignancy of the story. Marian's research is extensive which is particularly relevant early on and as always there is **a rattling good story, a page turner but also one to savour and think about afterwards.***

Genevieve McAllister – Twitter @genmcallister

'The Woman Who Stole My Life' will strike a chord with many women over 40. Stella Sweeney's been married for 20 years and is reassuringly normal - until she's struck by an unforeseen disaster.

*I can't tell you how excited I was to be picked to review Marian Keyes' latest novel, and after the Advance Reading Copy (check me and my publishing-speak) landed on my doormat I was pretty much out of circulation for all of...a day. **To say it's a page-turner is an understatement. This is 531 pages of reading heaven.***

I've enjoyed all of Marian Keyes' books so far, but 'The Woman Who Stole My Life' will strike a chord with many women over 40 (here, Stella Sweeney is 41 and a quarter and has two teenage children). She's been married for 20 years and suffers from the same worries as other women of her age. She's reassuringly normal – until she's struck by an unforeseen disaster. However, Marian Keyes maintains the humour even when she's exploring Stella's illness and as in all her books, she manages to create a sort of everywoman – experiencing the mundane and the magical at the same time.

The supporting cast are great; all entertaining and easy to keep track of. That's good, because the plot of this novel is a little convoluted, especially at the beginning. The novel progresses speedily though and soon I was deeply involved with what was going on. Amusingly, it also takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the big business of marketing books and the downside of fame.

This book is more mature than some of Marian Keyes' other works. It may be because Stella is slightly older – she's been there, done it and got the t-shirt – but while it's got a lovely dash of escapism, it's got a healthy dose of realism thrown in as well.

Helen Lowry

Characters, story, disasters, life changing illness, a car accident and lots more. All helping to change Stella's life forever. Losing one life and finding one a whole lot better - eventually!

This book is full of characters, it's that simple! I enjoyed this book enormously, in particular the interaction between them all. The main character, Stella, finds herself with a very rare disease, not knowing what will happen. Amazingly, she recovers and finds her life has changed beyond all her wildest dreams, with the help of a dashing Dr Taylor, more of him later!

The book has everything, despair, hope, a selfish soon to be ex-husband, a sexy new man (Dr Taylor), an almost bestselling book, two teenage children, an ambitious sister and loving parents.

The book changes rapidly at the beginning, flashing between different parts of Stella's life. Once or twice I did get slightly lost – but not for long.

Stella has a terrible illness, recovers, loses everything then gains a lot more.

This would make a great holiday read, being both enjoyable and entertaining at the same time. Highly recommended.

Janet Monks

Another wonderfully funny and touching book from writer Marian Keyes, featuring karma, love and life itself.

The protagonist in Marian Keyes latest novel, 'The Woman Who Stole My Life', is anything but ordinary. So Stella Sweeney might seem to be leading a 'typical' life with her family in Dublin, but even before karma has its magic way her wit and outlook on life sets her apart. Even if she does try to tell us she is 'normal'.

Having read all of Keyes previous novels, I knew there was a good chance I'd enjoy this book. Throw in a bit of karma, a little bit of the craziness of New York, the world of publishing and that enjoyment turned to love. Marian Keyes characters are always wonderful, and not just the main characters either. Stella is surrounded by funny, real people - from her 'artistic husband', to her book reading father, her over-achieving sister and a mother that could be my own. Her son Jeffrey could have a book written about him alone!

Within the first few pages karma gets involved, with Stella running into a Range Rover driving man. He asks for her number, she laughs at the creep and says 'Anyway, I'm married!' When really he wants it for the insurance.

This man will turn up later, when Stella is lying unmovable in bed with a rare auto immune disorder. At this point as a reader you get to know a lot about what is going on in Stella's head, and it really is funny. And meaningful.

At the end I really didn't want to leave Stella behind, so I turned the book over and started again.

Suzanne

A tale of fate, family and love - exactly the type of story you'd expect from Marian Keyes and she doesn't disappoint!

If you are a fan of Marian Keyes then you won't be disappointed. 'The Woman Who Stole My Life' follows her winning formula. That doesn't detract from it being a really good read - and you won't feel like you've read it before!

The story follows the life of Stella Sweeney and you take a very unexpected journey with her and her family. I really enjoyed the way the book was written, and how there were so many viewpoints. Marian Keyes is the master at character building and you feel like you've known all the characters forever.

The strong theme throughout the book is how karma and fate affect our lives. Whilst some parts are far-fetched, the way they are woven into the story makes them just a little more believable.

At over 540 pages, 'The Woman Who Stole My Life' is a big book, so it is not ideal for reading whilst commuting but I simply didn't want it to end and I would of happily carried it in my bag for much longer!

Rosemary Williams

I was sadly disappointed in this book and found it a struggle to keep myself reading it, there were some amusing places but not a good storyline for me.

Stella is having a bad run of luck, sadly I didn't feel anything for her character and the plot was such that I found I struggled to keep going through the book. When she was ill in hospital there were a few times when I managed a smile, or even a chuckle when her dad was reading aloud to her, but otherwise the story was quite slow and hard work.

I haven't read any of Marian's other books (always meant to) so I don't know if

this style is typical, but I found it quite hard to follow and felt it was quite disjointed at the beginning. Sadly I felt nothing for any of the characters really, mild irritation at the teenage son but I didn't feel I cared what was going to happen to anyone at all, not even Stella.

Thank you for the chance to read this book and review it, I will try another Marian Keyes book but wouldn't really recommend this one.

Nicola Kingswell

How the extraordinary can happen to the ordinary and spin the world around.

Stella Sweeney is an ordinary woman; job as a beautician, two kids, a husband and a house in Dublin. One day, she performs a good deed that ends up in an accident. Nothing too serious, nothing to worry about. Then several weeks later she is floored with a rare and debilitating illness and watches helplessly as her family falls apart around her. Eventually Stella recovers but the damage has been done. The doctor who helped her recover sets her life on another trajectory, sending Stella to New York as a self-help book writer. There she meets the, initially lovely, Gilda, who helps Stella organise her busy schedule, while using Stella to get herself published.

*This is an interesting look at karma and fate and how people can or cannot cope with unexpected changes. I liked how Stella was able to keep calm in all the crises (with a little help from a Jaffa Cake or two). I didn't find this as laugh out loud funny as some of Marian's previous novels, but am still chuckling about the kleptomaniac nun. I was a little confused about the timelines at the start as nothing seemed to flow well, but once it got going it was easy to follow. **I really enjoyed this heart-warming, hug of a book.***

Joy Bosworth

Typical Marian Keyes, warm but not at all sticky or sweet.

As usual this book is more of the same - whilst being completely fresh and totally different

Stella Sweeney is someone we can all relate to (if the choice is between a fitness session and a packet of Jaffa Cakes she makes the understandable call!).

From being happily married to being paralysed and unable to speak on to international stardom - sort of - it all seems such a believable trajectory.

With writer's block only Jaffa Cakes make life bearable, add to this a sulky teen son, smug daughter and fruitcake of a husband - and then there's the problem of Mannix.

I really enjoyed this, it has some thumping great shocks in it but even more laughs and seems to manage both at the same time.

Christine Phillips – Twitter@ Chrisph48

Stella Sweeney was involved in a car crash while pondering if Karma exists.

The next chapter tells us that Stella is a writer of a book called; 'One Blink at a Time', has returned from New York, is now living in Ireland with her teenage son, and is looking for inspiration for her second book.

We find out Stella Sweeney was a beautician, wife with husband Ryan, and mother of two, who suffered a terrible illness and spends months in hospital immobile.

Family and friends visit her but life goes on for them, while Stella lies in bed thinking to herself every day. Mannix Taylor, the neurologist, helps her communicate by blinking and, over the months, a friendship builds between them, and all her thoughts are recorded in a notepad by him. Stella starts to get better, Mannix leaves unexpectedly, and Stella returns home to her family.

This is just the beginning of changes for Stella as she faces a divorce, new relationship, career, friends, home and much more.

This book was intriguing, sad and happy, and gives you food for thought. Some brilliant characters share Stella's journey, her dad, sister and son are my favourites. ***Well worth a read.***

Denise Gold

*Usual well written stuff; **astute, observant, witty and laugh out loud at times.** Not keen on the alternating style of storytelling; rather superficial treatment of the disease but OK overall .*

Having had difficulty getting into and in fact not completing a previous Marian Keyes novel (yes I'm probably in the minority here!) I was pleased to finish this and not just because I wanted to review it but because I did enjoy it overall. It is cleverly written of course as I'd expect it to be, good narrative and interesting

characters on the whole. Felt it was an attempt to get a few really good messages across about self-healing and mindfulness etc. without the author resorting to writing a complete self-help manual herself - so well done for that.

Astute; observant, insightful, witty and laugh out loud at times though not so keen on the weaving in and out of the two time frames. Mannix is something of a romantic hero type and I can just see Piers Brosnan in a film version of it but.. hey ho no harm in a bit of far-fetched romantic hero stuff. Rather superficial treatment of the disease, felt it was a little point-less as a whole story but some good messages and escapism so OK overall.

Nicola Lowes – Twitter @NJLowes

Another satisfying read from Marian Keyes. She's very good at easy-going comfort stories with a frequent smattering of humour and this book does not disappoint.

The meaning of the title did not become apparent until very near the end of the story which helped me to keep wanting to read till the end. The story has an interesting interplay of time periods which I found fitted well.

The main character, Stella, was likeable: quirky without being irritating, although it was a fine line. She goes through many life changes and I was left wondering if she was going to muck everything up. She did for a while but then had a happy ending, which is what we readers all want.

The characters have stayed with me after finishing the book so they were believable (well, most of them. A couple were obvious caricatures). I would recommend this to all fans of chick lit and/or modern women's novels.

Nicola Briggs

Marian Keyes has been one of my favourite authors for a long time, especially when I need a "comfort read". I love her flawed but strong female characters and how she seems bright and fluffy but actually tackles some difficult and dark subjects. I have read every single book she had written. I have loved some, liked a lot and disliked two. Although her early books are still my favourites, **this book is up there with the best.**

'The Woman Who Stole My Life' has a charm that hooked me straight away. I was laughing out loud by page two at her description of Karma (I love how she sneaks in an Irish take on things!).

I had expected something quite different from the title but I was really pleasantly surprised by the twists and turns in the plot. I really enjoyed the way she structures her narrative from diary to present day.

All in all, a very good read and highly recommended.

Kim Haines

I was really excited to receive this book as I have read a majority of Marian's books before and this one did not disappoint!

Cleverly written, great characters and a taboo subject well handled, she's always a pleasure to read and I will continue my support for her originally and witty writing.

Bev Farningham

This is different from the norm from this author. Stella is your normal woman living in Ireland with her husband and two kids. Her son who hates her - and the whole world in general - and a daughter who just wants to be happy and is wise beyond her years. Then she suffers from a crippling muscle disease that lays her motionless for many weeks and the only form of communicating is by blinking.

She strikes up a love/hate friendship with her neurologist - who she had met previously in a car accident. Then when she recovers she has a box of 50 books delivered which contain the sayings that she has given during her recovery. But who was responsible?

Enter an agent and her life changes dramatically, not before she starts divorce proceedings though.

A roller coaster of a life then starts in New York with the relevant ups and downs.

To be honest this is not one that really worked for me - I think because I was unable to connect with Stella.

Jan Kirkcaldy

Though slightly confusing at first this rather large tome was not

exactly the holiday reading I expected when I took it away with me.

Still not being easily defeated, I pressed on gamely with chapters from the past to those with the “heroine” Stella Sweeney in hospital where she was suffering from what I now know is a genuine condition, Guillaine-Barre Syndrome. This had rendered her both immobile and speechless. Nevertheless this apparently ordinary woman and her family’s story became fascinating, detailing as it did, relationships over many years, and how fluctuating fortunes and love life affected all around her. The publication of a book about her condition set off a whole new chain of events involving a move to New York. So many characters are involved - husband, neurologist, ambitious sister, teenage children, literary agents, fitness trainers – the list goes on but once I got a grip on them all, I ultimately enjoyed the book. It is not one for everyone though but I would recommend it to those with time to get stuck in.

Ailsa Hindhaugh

Before reading, I googled who writes like Marian Keyes and from the information I got, I thought that this story would be on par with some of the other authors which I have enjoyed in the past (such as Cathy Kelly, Jane Green and Adele Parks).

‘The Woman Who Stole My Life’ did start with promise, but then unfortunately it took a nose dive.

The characters were much of the same. They started off interesting and ‘quirky’ such as the yoga loving son who enjoyed making Stella’s life a little difficult (like most teenagers do) and the husband who is an artist, who feels like Stella got the fame, the fortune and the lifestyle that he deserved. As the story went on, I ended up finding the characters rather annoying.

As I was unhappy with this book as a whole, I only rate it a 3. Some people out there may enjoy it, but I personally did not. However, this has not put me off trying another book written by the author Marian Keyes.

Victoria Emerson

Disappointing.

I was really excited to start reading this book but it wasn't long before I didn't want to pick it up anymore.

The characters were unengaging and the zig zagging timeline just didn't work

for me. The plot was weak and the book was about 200 pages too long.

I struggled to get to the end of it!

Catherine Price

Stella's life is transformed through a medical crisis, which turns into a rollercoaster of glamour, followed rapidly by seeming despair. Her story is one of romantic karma – told with warmth and wit.

Stella is an ordinary woman thrown into extraordinary circumstances, beginning with a chance meeting following a minor car accident.

But romantic karma dictates that they she meets her hero again. A few months later Stella is struck down with a debilitating condition, and finds herself under the care of her car-crash nemesis - Mannix, a neurologist. In this strange and rare situation, Stella learns to communicate with him by blinking, and a connection grows between doctor and patient.

It is this bond that powers the action, as the plot moves backwards and forwards between Stella's life now, and her experiences after her illness. Her marriage founders, and her relationship with Mannix moves up a gear. With his help she writes a book, which - again in fairly bizarre circumstances – is given a celebrity endorsement, and she is swept off to America.

Marian Keyes' style is warm and self-deprecating and the various plots and characters within the multiple timeframes are skilfully handled. *There is humour in her description of the beauty parlour run by Stella's sister, and clever descriptions of the ruthlessness of the publishing industry – something that must come from Keyes' own experience. In particular, you will never look at a bestselling author on a TV chat show in quite the same way again.*

Alison Greenacre

Usually a reliable author in this genre, but this book is disappointing.

In the past I have enjoyed a Marian Keyes novel, yes they are lighthearted and fluffy but usually they have a likeable characters, a good story line and a great twist. This novel however does not! Primarily the story line is dull AND slow, not a good combination. The characters are pretty shallow, and I really missed the point of the ex husband in the story completely. And the twist?... you can see

it coming a mile off!

Hopefully her next book will be back to form.

Sarah Mustafa

Available from Lovereading co.uk Marian Keyes latest novel features Stella Sweeney at its centre and tells her story after she is struck down with a rare disease.

Available from Lovereading co.uk Marian Keyes latest novel features Stella Sweeney at its centre who after being struck by a rare disease (Guillain-Barré syndrome) has her world turned upside down when she is admitted to hospital with her only means of communicating to the outside world by blinking. As she recovers, her world shifts and the stars align to project her into a world of glamour and excitement.

This book showed initial promise but soon after starting it I was left feeling really disappointed. This was mainly because the plot and sub plots seemed confused and rushed. In the end I was struggling to believe the plausibility of the story and its ending.

I was sent this book to review prior to its publication and sadly do not feel able to recommend it.

Kathryn Whitfield

I am a massive fan of Marian Keyes and she doesn't disappoint with this book. Great story and once again Marian manages to mix serious storylines, drama and humour together brilliantly.

The only negative about the book was some of the characters behaviour I couldn't understand or relate to especially the husband who I found silly and unrealistic.

I look forward to reading more from Marian in the future.

