

LoveReading Reader reviews of You, Me and Other People by Fionnuala Kearney

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Sarah Borley –

www.foreverbound15.blogspot.com

I was gripped from the very beginning, it is such a powerful book all about secrets, lies and trust. It shows that eventually even the deepest hidden secrets come out and tear families apart.

I totally loved this book. It is about secrets, lies, trust and learning to move on.

You think you can imagine the worst thing that could happen to your family, but there are some secrets that change everything.

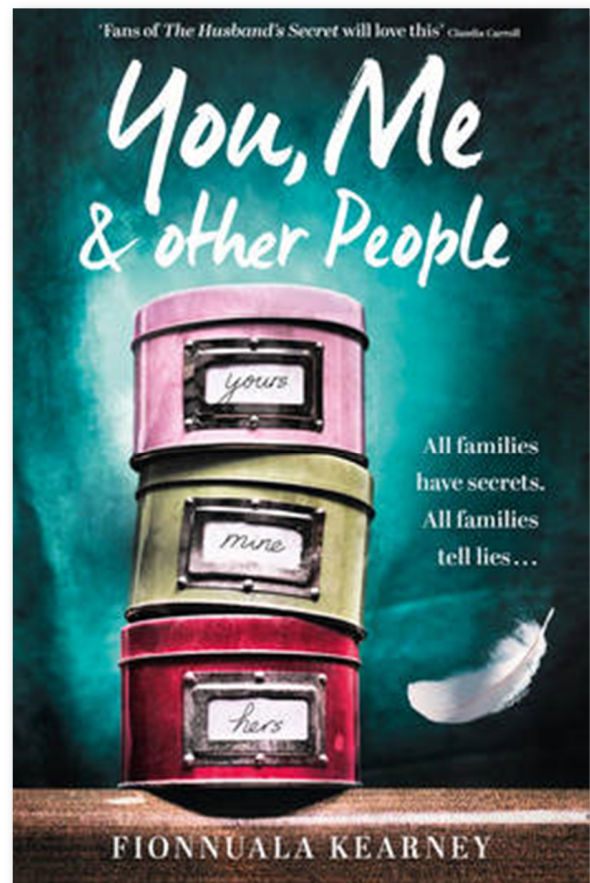
And then the question is, how can you piece together a future when your past is being rewritten?

I loved how Fionnuala writes this story and I was gripped from the very beginning, I loved how she portrayed Adam and Beth, it's amazing from the beginning to the very end and you are left wondering after each chapter what will happen next. Beth is a fragile woman at the beginning but the more you read you see her getting stronger.

As an overall I loved this book and can't wait to read more by Fionnuala!

Sarah Smith

A great book about two people who are looking at closing the door on their marriage.



This is the first book I've read by Fionnuala Kearney and it's a great read. The back of the book barely touches the surfaces on the twists in the story that make you want to keep turning the pages. Beth, Adam and Meg are all well written characters, that make you love them despite what they may have done.

Whilst this is a book about a family breaking part you are left with a good feeling by the time you get to the end of the book and it brings the different threads together.

Fionnuala deals with the different issues that come from a family splitting apart, sometimes the emotions are raw and she takes you through the rollercoaster of emotions.

I can't wait until her next book comes out as I will definitely be reading it.

Julie Wragg

Interesting story of family betrayal.

An interesting family drama about the fall-out after Beth finds her husband Adam has cheated on her for the second time.

Unable to forgive again, she throws him out, seeks therapy and eventually starts to rebuild her life. New challenges and opportunities appear for Beth and the future begins to look more positive.

Adam desperately wants to get Beth back. Thoughtless, shallow and selfish he is finding that as his brother Ben states, "she is the glue that holds him together." However, as the secrets come tumbling out and Adam can't avoid his past, did Beth ever truly know her husband and can she ever forgive him? Can Adam pull all the threads together again?

The story revolves around the many secrets that Adam has in his past, believing he kept them to save pain for the people he loves, he has only been saving himself from the consequences of telling the truth.

An absorbing read told from both viewpoints, it's full of emotion and some unexpected events.

Alison Burns

'You, Me & Other People' is the story of Beth, Adam and the disintegration of their perfect life as a result of Adam's infidelity.

Adam's infidelity is revealed at the outset, but this is only the first of the 'secrets' that spill out and destabilise all of the family. Although you can see some of the secrets coming, the book is well written with real characters I could relate to and a believable storyline. Beth initially struggles to come to terms with what has happened to her perfect life and relationship, but as the story progresses she learns how to deal with what has happened and her life takes some new and positive turns. In contrast, Adam follows a different path and I felt compassion for his character as he struggled to deal with the choices he had made and the reasons why.

Fionnuala Kearney's writing style made this an easy read and a page turner, and I found myself still reading long after I should have gone to sleep. This would be a great read on the beach, or on a flight, or at any time really!

'You, Me & Other People' is the first novel from Fionnuala Kearney and I hope her next will be along soon.

Sarah Harper

A multi-layered story with brilliant characters, this is an absolutely fantastic debut novel.

Essentially the story of a woman finding her feet after the breakdown of her marriage, I thoroughly enjoyed this, finding it had far more depth than I expected. When Beth discovers that her husband, Adam, has been playing away, again, she summons up the courage to move on with her life. It's scary, she's tempted to take him back but she's a strong woman, her songwriting career is going well and she takes a new job at a local estate agents to pay the bills. Meanwhile, the novelty of Adam's new relationship with a younger woman starts to wear off and he begins to question his decisions. It's interesting though that he continues to lie to those he loves, even when he has the ability to come clean, it's part of his nature which he just doesn't seem able to change. Beth hits the nail on the head when she wonders if her husband is 'selfish or stupid or both?' It's his earlier indiscretion though, which has the biggest impact on everyone. It introduces Noah into the equation. He is dying and needs to find a matching stem cell donor, the most likely source of which is a family member. Noah's existence will tear lives apart and yet he forms the core of the whole story, holding it all together. Adam's life continues to disintegrate as Beth goes from strength to strength but even more secrets come to light which could explain the past whilst also changing the shape of the future.

A multi-layered story, brilliant characters with great depth and totally believable interactions. My only niggle is the realism of Beth's LA encounter which I think should have involved a more run-of-the-mill character. However, that was my only concern in an otherwise absolutely fantastic debut.

Nicola Kingswell

Secrets are the truth that can destroy a marriage.

Beth and Adam have been married for twenty years and have one grown up daughter, a lovely home, and good careers. Adam embarks on an affair with a younger woman and Beth throws him out of the family home. The novel opens with Beth trying to pick up the pieces of her life from the detritus of her relationship; to discover who Beth Hall really is.

I really enjoyed this novel and its exploration of the tangled web of lives. It was interesting how, as Beth's life seemed to improve from rock bottom, Adam's seemed to plummet from a supposed high. Revelations throughout the story showed that Adam and Beth's relationship was built upon a history of secrets and lies, all of Adam's doing. Just when you thought you knew the whole story, another twist appeared out of nowhere.

The novel also explored the impact of the breakup on the couple's nearest and dearest. I thought the supporting cast of characters were really well written. I sympathised with Beth and was really rooting for her on her journey of self-discovery. I disliked Adam and felt like he got his just desserts (though I might have been a bit harder on him than Beth!).

Overall, a great story with great characters, well constructed and thorough. It would make an excellent movie and I look forward to reading more by Fionnuala.

Claire Holden

*'You, Me & Other People' is a **thoroughly enjoyable, romantic read. It is not your usual brand of 'chick literature', dealing with life and its many ups and downs in a realistic and honest fashion.***

Nikki Clark

A refreshingly realistic story of the consequences of betrayal in a marriage.

*Fionnuala Kearney cleverly tells the story of Adam cheating on Beth for a second time, one time too many. The fallout is painful and life changing for so many people as details of past lives and present feelings are released. Adam's history is gradually revealed and goes some way to explain why he cheated and why his past had remained hidden; whilst it appears Beth is not at fault, I also developed sympathy and understanding for Adam. This is not a clear cut tale of a husband's infidelity, it is a realistic view of decisions made and the consequences that follow. It proves that sometimes it's not about the cards we are dealt or the choices made, it's about the next stage - what we do about it, in this case what Adam and Beth did to move forward with their lives. This may sound a little depressing but I found this a very positive book, in places sad yes but also funny and moving and uplifting. **It's just about life - things don't always go your way but you deal with it the best way you can. A great, honest read in my opinion.***

Russ Pasquill

Adam has cheated on his wife, Beth. Twice. For Beth the first time was bad enough but she forgave him. The second time she showed him the door. She's now in therapy trying to move forward and convince herself she's done the right thing for herself and her 19 year old daughter.

Adam is staying at his brother's flat hoping Beth will eventually take him back. His daughter hates him. But when he thinks things couldn't get any worse his first extramarital mistake contacts him out of the blue with life changing news. Suddenly Adam is forced to reveal hidden secrets from his past...

This novel examines a broken marriage and the relationships between all those concerned.

Told from Beth and Adam's perspectives, the story tells you how each is handling the separation.

The first third of the story involves much of Beth's therapy sessions. After that the plot thickens and makes for quite an anticipating read.

Beth is the strong woman scorned, but still has conflicting emotions about progressing on with life alone.

Though Adam is the antagonist, he really is the most complex character and there are many layers to him and you see how a person's past shapes who they become.

The author's style of writing is very easy to read. Short chapters.

No lengthy prose.

I'd recommend this to anyone who enjoys a story involving human relationships and if forgive and forget is best, or should you say, enough is enough?

Phyllippa Smithson

A well-written story based on the time honoured questions of how much trust we can ever put into the hands of our partners, and how much we actually really know about them.

Switching between the world of the adulterer, Adam and his rejected wife, Beth, on the face of it this is a story of a middle aged man falling for younger, attractive and sexually stimulating woman who is willing to sacrifice the love, stability and respect of those around him in pursuit of what he perceives to be what he wants at any cost.

Beth is hurt by the rejection but then it has happened before and so she determine that this time there is no turning back. The marriage is over and she will find a way to move forward – with the help of her therapist. She will also not allow he own personal opinion of her husband stain the relationship her 19 year old daughter, Meg, has with Adam.

But the 'other woman' is just one secret Adam has been keeping from his wife, daughter, beloved younger brother, best friend and business partner and everyone and anyone else in his life. As the pages are turned we learn that his secrecy goes beyond adultery.

Keaney has a very readable writing style, creating images of real people, living real lives and the tragedies that some seem obliged to inflict on others, and in particular those loved ones. It was just a little too familiar a story line to be different.

Nickey Hawryszczuk

A really heartfelt story about a marriage break up where it starts with just the one lie and then the secrets start to emerge and we discover more and more. Excellent read!

I didn't realise this was a debut novel and I have to say I am VERY impressed and can't wait for her next novel if it is anything like this. I was hooked from the very first chapter and read it over 3 days. Adam and Beth have marital

problems due to Adam having an affair. They have a daughter called Meg who is a great character and very true to life. The whole story was believable and I did genuinely grow to like Adam (who I didn't like at the start). The way each chapter was written from Beth's and Adam's perspective was great storytelling. I had to read the next chapter each time to get onto the following chapter for both characters! Gradually throughout the story, more unfolds about secrets from the past which could change everyone's lives. I cannot recommend this enough. EXCELLENT! Well done for a first novel.

Christine Phillips

Secrets, families, love and real life characters - it's a must read

Beth and Adam have been married for 20 years, he cheats, he leaves. Beth is devastated at his betrayal and seeks counselling. Beth is a songwriter and has a chance at writing a song for a Hollywood movie, this is her big chance. Meg is their daughter and is at university, she is hurt by her father's actions.

Adam has a brother Ben, Beth has a best friend Karen, Beth's mum Sybil, and Meg are about to find that this first revelation is not the last.

I loved this book, the characters, the secrets, the tears, the laughter. I look forward to Fionnuala's next book.

Suzanne Marsh

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

New author Fionnuala Kearney has entered the publishing world by an explosive story of betrayal within a marriage. I have been waiting for a story like this to hit the book shop shelves that has lots of shocking family drama and this is a story not to be missed.

All families have secrets. All families tell lies.

Adam and Beth seem happy together and live in a beautiful semi-detached Edwardian home.

Adam thinks that his wife, Beth is just gorgeous, and proud she is extremely loyal and determined to succeed as a talented song writer.

Adam the forty-three year old husband is a crap liar he is being immature and selfish who chooses to cheat on his gorgeous wife and have an affair with a blonde totty waitress.

Unfaithful Adam has been keeping secrets from the past away from Beth and his daughter, but Adam is in for a shock as his dark secret from his past comes back to haunt him leaving his wife and his daughter even more upset.

You just can't help feeling totally sad for Beth with her pool of tears as her marriage is breaking down with one upset after the other. But will she forgive her husband?

I loved 'You, Me & Other People' right from page one to last page. I want to read more books by Fionnuala Kearney. I looked up about Fionnuala and I am very excited as I have found out that she has a three book deal. I am really looking forward to them being published. I hope that all family drama fans enjoy reading You, Me & Other People as much as what I have.

Joanne Nuttie

Wow!!! I loved this book, even the front cover caught my eye as I love feathers and find them lucky.

This book was light and easy to read, I enjoyed the way the chapters were written one telling Adam's story and the next Beth's story. All the characters were very believable and it kept me intrigued all the way to the end.

The author captured relationship failures very well and had quite obviously done research on that subject and counselling, going into therapy etc.

I thought I had guessed the ending 3/4 of the way through the book, I was wrong and loved the way author had me guessing right up until the last few chapters.

This a definite recommendation and in fact lots of friends who've seen the book are forming a queue to read it!

Looking forward to some more books by Fionnuala Kearney.

Jo Turner

A compelling read & emotional rollercoaster. A tale of secrets & lies, love & loss, trust & betrayal, strength & hope. It had me hooked!

This is a very accomplished, well written novel. It's hard to believe that it comes from a debut author.

The tale centres on the breakdown of Adam & Beth's marriage caused by his infidelity and how its demise affects not just them but the rest of the family too,

in particular their daughter, Meg.

As the plot, along with their marriage, unravels, there are many more revelations and secrets uncovered and plenty of twists and turns along the way.

It is very easy to engage with the characters. After initially feeling anger towards the protagonist, Adam, the reader slowly begins to understand his character more and part of me was rooting for him throughout.

There are many difficult/uncomfortable issues raised in the novel but the author has crafted her words so well that you are compelled to read on and it's a hard book to put down. It's a bit of an emotional rollercoaster but there is some humour thrown in for good measure.

I really enjoyed reading this book and hope it's not long before the author delivers another!

Alison Bisping

I loved this book from beginning to end. The characters all felt so real and I could definitely empathise with them.

Adam and Beth have been married for many years and sounds as though it has been pretty perfect. Life has had its ups and downs as you would expect, but finally, Adam has done something which Beth can't forgive. This is their story of how their life unravels. What it means, what they find, what they feel, what they learn about themselves, what their strengths and their flaws are, how it affects other people.

They have a lovely daughter, Meg – how does she deal with what is happening to her parents?

On top of this, it turns out that Adam has kept a big secret from his family for many years, which of course, comes into the open. How do the family deal with this?

Fionnuala has described the intricacies of family and relationships so well. The story is heart-warming, but it is also heart-breaking. Does it turn out as you would expect? You will have to find out for yourself.

Evelyn Love- Gajardo

This book tells the story of the breakdown of a marriage and the repercussions of a husband's infidelity and the secrets he has kept from his wife. It's very sad

in parts and there are times when you wonder if anything good will happen to lift the sadness, but then things start to get better for both the main characters and the book ends on a happier note.

*The book is told from the point of view of Beth, the wife and Adam, her husband, in alternate chapters, so you get the story from both sides. **I enjoyed the book, although maybe not one to read if you need cheering up!***