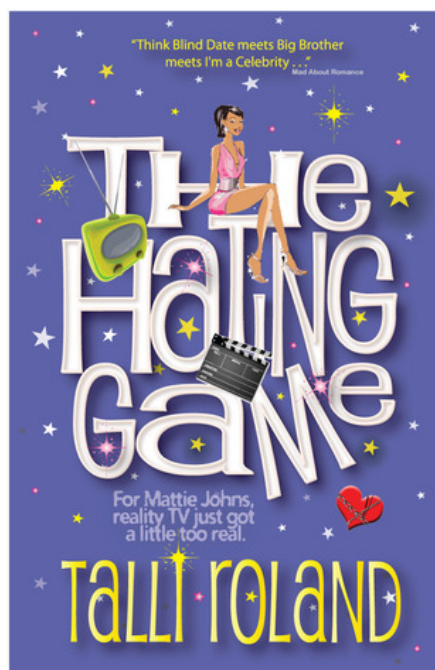




The Hating Game

Talli Roland

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When Mattie Johns agrees to star on a dating game show to save her ailing recruitment business, she's confident she'll sail through to the end without letting down the perma-guard she's perfected from years of her love 'em and leave 'em dating strategy.

After all, what can go wrong with dating a few losers and hanging out long enough to pick up a juicy £200,000 prize? Plenty, Mattie discovers, when it's revealed that the contestants are four of her very unhappy exes.

Can Mattie confront her past to get the prize money she so desperately needs, or will her exes finally wreak their long-awaited revenge? And what about the ambitious TV producer whose career depends on stopping her from making it to the end?

The Hating Game Details

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From Reader Review The Hating Game for online ebook

Jennifer Daiker says

Mattie Johns is crumbling to pieces, a man-eater by nature she has sworn of guy after guy before it gets to serious, burned by her last ex she finds not only her heart falling to the ground but her business.

A solution walks into her office, a proposition that Mattie will not refuse. Go on a dating show and win the prize money to save her company. Nothing is as simple as it seems, she soon finds out she's not dating just anyone, she's dating her exes.

Talli Roland left nothing to chance, her writing keeps you on your toes, surprise after surprise lunged one right after the other, and just when you think you've got it all figured out she turns Mattie's world upside down once more.

This novel was light, fun and perfect for any girl who has ever guarded their heart until they've found the one. Break up, make up, whatever stage you're at in the dating world you're sure to love this tale!

Theresa Milstein says

"`IF I GET PNEUMONIA, HE'S GOING to pay,' Mattie Johns muttered as she gripped the chains of the dunk- tank swing and looked down into the murky water."

The first scene already had me laughing so I was hooked. The story unfolds seamlessly. When I began the book, it was a busy time for me but I made time to read. I finished it in four days.

At first I found Mattie unlikeable. But even in the beginning, I could detect her vulnerability within her uncompromising exterior. This is a woman who wants to be in control, so it's interesting to see how she grows as her life becomes more and more out of her control.

Every character has depth in this story, which is a feat because there are quite a few important characters. Too many books have a friend who is little more than a sidekick, only existing to provide humor. I liked the best friend and learned much about the main character through her. The ex/love interest isn't too domineering or too wimpy. I found myself rooting for him early on, even when Mattie seemed to have good reasons to stay away.

The premise is clever. Reality TV with all the behind the scenes backstabbing exists in spades. I had a hard time putting the book down, wondering what would happen next. No predictability here.

This book is appealing to read and would make a great film. I could see the movie version clearly - probably because much of the time the reality television show is filming. And if this becomes a movie, I will definitely see it.

Glynis Smy says

Jane Green and Sophie Kinsella move over, Talli Roland is in the house!

I do not read many Chick Lit books, but when I have picked up a Green or Kinsella book I have enjoyed them. Having read so many rave reviews about the ebook, The Hating Game by Talli Roland, I decided to buy a copy. I downloaded Kindle for the PC and bought myself a copy of the ebook straight away. (The paperback is out in a couple of months).

The cover is vibrant and begs to be read.

Mattie Johns is a career minded high flying, completely broke owner of her own business. She is bitter and convinced her business is on its knees because of a romantic indiscretion by her ex.partner and boyfriend Kyle.

An opportunity knocks for financial replenishment of her bank balance in the form of a reality show. It is Queen bitch versus ex boyfriends/lovers. Mattie has to endure dating ex boyfriends again. Silver Hatchett the TV show producer is as sharp as her surname. She is viewer numbers driven and will stop at nothing to get high ratings. She latched onto the idea for the show after Nate, a nobody in her company took his chance and shared his idea. His dream of becoming an executive producer runs through the storyline, adding to the depth and plot. At first I thought he was going to be one type of character, but the author snuck in a little twist and caught me out.

Talli Roland rolls out the red carpet for the whole story. Her humour is wonderful, her writing is slick and trendy. I could visualise each scene so well and thoroughly enjoyed the antics of her characters. I do not like to give spoilers in my reviews, so you will have to buy a copy to find out what happens as Mattie swings through the trees, kayaks, makes pizza with a hotel manager she had a love affair with, on a 'getting over my lover' holiday, and works her way through a game show just to win a large cash prize. Breatheless? I was. I laughed and felt sorry for all characters in the book. Their personalities are great fun and I could picture certain stars in their places, so yes I can see this as a movie. I was 100% entertained. Talking of %, I love the little percentage comparisons about love and life under each title.

I loved this light-hearted, fun novel. It was great value for money. A Brilliant début novel.

Ahlynn Aberas says

Unfortunately, I'm not a chick lit fan. It's not the book it's me. To those who love chick lit, don't mind the stars. Please read the book and you might find yourself enjoying it. Xoxoxo, Alyn

Alexandra Shostak says

Originally posted at: <http://alexandrashostak.blogspot.com/...>

Watch out, Shopaholic, you have some serious competition.

Mattie Johns is in a serious financial bind. After being cheated on by her ex-boyfriend Kyle, the bastard stole most of her small business' clients, leaving her near to bankruptcy. So when a new reality dating show approaches her about appearing on TV, she jumps at the chance to win the 200,000 pound prize money. But what the show doesn't tell Mattie is that rather than dating four unknown guys, she'll be dating four of her ex boyfriends, one of whom is Kyle.

My phone did not leave my hand for two days while I was reading this (I downloaded the Kindle app, and

then purchased the e-book during Talli's Take on Amazon Splash). I was reading two other books (fantasy, my favorite thing, I ought to mention) at the time I downloaded this one, but as soon as I started reading, they both went on hold until I was done. I don't read a lot of chicklit, but I don't have to know that this is one of the best ones out there. Talli has an easy writing style, simple but biting, and the ability to convey a lot of information in only a few words. Every chapter, every p.o.v. switch, ends on a cliff hanger, leaving you dying to turn the page and find out what happens next. The action never lags as Mattie is put through torturous date after torturous date. And on the sidelines, we get points of view from one of the exes, the producer of the show, and Mattie's best friend, giving a well-rounded view of everything happening pertaining to the tv show, and giving the reader some very useful insight into the minds of the other characters, even characters who don't have their own point of view represented.

One of the best parts about THE HATING GAME is that all of the characters are well-rounded individuals. In character-driven romantic comedies, it's easy to make the two main characters into well-developed individuals, and let the supporting cast fall into cardboard cutout land. But Talli doesn't do that. The other characters were fleshed out as well, dealing with their own struggles and their own moral codes as Mattie battled with her heart to figure out if Kyle really was a liar, or if he was worthy of another chance. The other amazing thing about this was usually in a book like this, I skim through the other characters and their points of view to get back to the main character, but here I was interested in Jess, Nate, and Adam as well--each of them had their own sub-plot story that wove into the bigger picture seamlessly, and made the story of Mattie and Kyle that much richer.

I liked that Mattie was a strong, independent woman, and that she wasn't willing to give up her career for a man. She never wondered if she needed Kyle because she wanted someone to take care of her--it was about her happiness, not her ability to stand on her own two feet. I loved that Talli made it possible for there to be love between two strong, business-minded people, and that one of them didn't have to take the submissive role for it to happen.

Then there's the reality show itself. The whole time I was reading, my mind was screaming "this would make a GREAT movie!" It's a hilarious concept for a tv show (which I actually think would work pretty well as a tv show) but all the torture that Mattie goes through with these exes would make a great romcom movie. Every time you think it can't get bad enough, the producers make it worse, and all the while Mattie is having her own inner battles while still having to appear with dignity on tv to impress potential future clients who might see her there.

I think this is a hilarious and romantic book that would appeal to all kinds of people, not just fans of romcoms or chicklit. It offers deep insight into the horrors of reality television as well as a satisfying romance. A 5-star read for sure.

Len says

A captivating, unputdownable book! Mattie Johns is an enthralling character that may appear to be tough and vicious outside, a man-eater, and unhappy human being...but I think every woman needs a little bit of that toughness, of her confidence and poise, a vision of strength and inner power even if the reality is she is crumbling inside. Even when she's losing an argument, she makes sure she says something smart in the end, even if it's only a one-word 'Whatever!' You'll both love and hate her, such an amazing character that Talli had created in this wonderful book! This is not the usual rom-com novel where the protagonist is a sweet, softie woman who wears her heart on her sleeve...that's what I love about it!

I love reading this book! A side-splitting, witty, clever book! Hats off to Talli! Five stars!

Joanna St. James says

Mattie takes the word Man- Eater to a different level, in my mind she is now being referred to as the nutcracker. She is like the best of us, hard in the face of unwelcome surprises and betrayal.

Flung into a world of exes and reality TV you can only imagine how hard she will fight back when her back is against the wall, the true test of her strength is revealed when she has to face up to her own flaws and stop whipping others into shape.

Talli Roland has captured the essence of her characters and brought them to life in her book, she is witty and a times comical in her writing. This was a very fast read for me and i enjoyed it immensely.

Not reading this would be like missing out on the party.

Stephen Tremp says

we begin with self-published author extraordinaire Talli Roland and her debut novel *The Hating Game*, which is also the first Chic Lit book I've ever read. Coming into this, I did not know what to expect. Honestly, I was hooked from the beginning. There was never a dull moment. This was a character driven comedy that could easily be made into a two-hour movie for the Hallmark Channel.

The characters were about as diverse as one could imagine. They reached out of the pages and engaged the reader. I enjoyed the path of character arc for the main character Mattie. Without giving any spoiler alerts, she deserved to win in the end. The supporting cast ranges from loyal to sordid and everything in between. Using a television network with sleazy corporate executives that would stop at nothing to make money at the contestants expense only added to the conflict.

What I liked was with the high number of characters, I did not at all feel there was character clutter, and Roland did an excellent job of staying within her POV without excessive head hopping. The story unfolded into an ending that was as exciting as most adventure novels I've read lately. Nicely done. I couldn't find anything wrong with *The Hating Game*. I give the book five stars.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Chick Lit, it's nothing personal, but we have to break up.

As much as I would love to be able to read and enjoy *every single genre* in existence, it's obviously not possible. I'm finding that I'm just not a chick lit kind of girl. I gave it my best shot. There is something about this particular style of story-telling which fails to grab my interest.

I mean, I honestly can't explain why I wouldn't enjoy a story where a woman is conned into participating on a dating game show in which her ex-boyfriends come back for revenge or redemption. This sounds like a fun idea. It's too bad that by the 30% mark in the book, the show was just starting and the first date looked like it was going to be boring.

I'm sure I stopped just short of the point where the laughs were going to start.

I really don't doubt this. Heck, I pretty much hated the first half of *Can You Keep a Secret?*, but the second half won me over after the flighty nonsense turned into something funny. However, it makes me want to ask this question : *Should I have to wade through a sizable portion of a book before it starts to get interesting?*

I'm just honestly not in the mood to find out the answer to that question.

If you do happen to be a fan of the genre, disregard my non-review (really, it's just comments about why I pulled a DNF anyway). It appears that most of the entire page of reviews for this book are on the high end, so if you enjoy a CL romp every so often, this might very well be a book you'd want to check out.

Gabriela Lessa says

Talli Roland's "The Hating Game" is all you could expect from a good romantic comedy: fun, light, sweet and highly entertaining. Her story-telling is great (kudos for the stats on the beginning of each chapter, which are hilarious), her characters are lovable and her wit and quick pace turn this book into a real page-turner. It's a must-read for anyone who loves authors like Sophie Kinsella, Helen Fielding and Marian Keyes.

Jude says

Think Blind Date meets Big Brother meets I'm a Celebrity and you've pretty much got the idea of the sort of game show hell Mattie Johns finds herself in.

She's asked to do some embarrassing things during the course of the game show. You expect her to refuse, but she's so determined to save her business she just takes a deep breath and gets on with it. Albeit, with some fabulous putdowns to anyone who annoys her.

I thought I knew how the story was going to unfold but I was wrong-footed by something that happens towards the middle of the book. Several twists and turns follow, which kept me guessing to the end.

Mattie isn't the usual ditzy, chick lit heroine. She is feisty with a capital F. She's also rude and abrasive. At the beginning of the story I found it hard to warm to her, but it soon becomes apparent the 'ball-breaker' image is an act to protect herself from getting hurt again and it wasn't long before I was firmly on her side. It's very hard to make a reader care about an (initially) unsympathetic heroine but Ms Roland pulls it off brilliantly, revealing layer after layer of Mattie's personality.

This is a delightful rom-com, full of wit and with some great, laugh out loud one-liners. If you like Marian Keyes then you're going to love Talli Roland. Remember the name, as I predict we'll be seeing a lot more from this talented new writer.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and give it 5 out of 5. However, I'll never be able to look at a cocktail sausage the same way again!

Jessica Bell says

Talli Roland = Nick Hornby with boobs. 'The Hating Game' knocked my socks right off, and replaced them with a comfy warm foot bath. Reading this book was just as good as a Friday night with pizza, chick flick, and full body massage all at once.

And it wasn't only entertaining. It was different than other chick lit books I've read. It was different because the main character, Mattie, wasn't someone a reader would easily warm to or root for. I didn't get all teary-eyed, or hate what was being done to her. And a little part of me wanted her to get what she deserved: a lonely life. But she was fascinating, and it made me curse at her out loud for being such a selfish try-hard dominatrix, when really, all she needed was to tear down the wall and let herself 'feel'. I loved that this book focused on a person one would not generally like, because that means this genre is finally steering away from the stereotypical chick lit scenario of glamorous woman fighting obstacles to make life even more glamorous (I know that's quite a generalisation, but you get my drift). So, bravo to Talli!

One thing I think it could have done with, though, is a little more background on Mattie. I would have liked to know more about her childhood and what made her so emotionally inept. But I suppose that's because I like to delve deeper into people's psychological make-up. A personal preference. And one that is not commonly taken advantage of in this genre anyway. So, I totally understand why it wasn't there.

Awesome debut, Talli! And here's to a wonderful and successful career in writing! *raises coffee mug with a kiss*.

Teresa says

What a totally refreshing read! A different approach to romance, with the back drop of a reality TV show as the plot.

I really enjoyed this book. It had great pacing, sharp, witty writing and by the end I didn't want to put it down. The author has a great way with words. This story had me giggling, and cringing at the poor things Mattie had to endure.

Mattie is one tough cookie with a chip on her shoulder (if you ask me) but I still found myself empathising with her, realising her mum's brainwashing is the reason Mattie is the way she is.

My only tiny niggle would be I didn't get enough of Kyle. I would have liked more of him 'on stage' rather than Mattie reminiscing. But that could be because when he was on stage, I loved reading him.

D.J. says

I was offered the opportunity to read a pre-release copy and found it to be a fabulous indulgence in a The Devil Wears Prada meets The Dating Game sort of way. If you are the sort of person who loves reading while wearing your comfiest clothes, as you sip champagne and work your way through a box of chocolates, then you will love The Hating Game. Treat yourself to a copy of The Hating Game because you're worth it.

Leah says

When man-eater Mattie Johns agrees to star on a dating game show to save her ailing recruitment business, she's confident she'll sail through to the end without letting down the perma-guard she's perfected from years of her love 'em and leave 'em dating strategy. After all, what can go wrong with dating a few losers and hanging out long enough to pick up a juicy £50,000 prize? Plenty, Mattie discovers, when it's revealed that the contestants are four of her very unhappy exes. Can Mattie confront her past to get the prize money she so desperately needs, or will her exes finally wreak their long-awaited revenge? And what about the ambitious TV producer whose career depends on stopping her from making it to the end?

When I first heard about Talli Roland's debut novel I was intrigued. A book set around a game show where a character gets to meet up with some of her exes. It sounded fantastic. And then when I saw the cover, I got even more excited. I wasn't totally sure I liked it, but it grew on me more and more until I found that, actually, I loved it. So when the lovely Talli offered me a very early copy of her novel to review, I immediately said yes because I was dying to read this unique-sounding book! On my first day off of the week, I decided to start this one and I wasn't disappointed with the book at all.

The Hating Game, as I have said, is one of the most unique books I have ever come across. It's basically Blind Date, with exes, in book form. It is nothing I have ever read before, and I'm very intrigued as to how Talli came up with the idea for the book. We're thrown into Mattie's world immediately and we find out that not only is her business struggling but thanks to her ex, Kyle, she's barely got any clients left. Wannabe executive producer Nate goes to see Mattie hoping to find himself a better job than the one he already has, but is suddenly struck with a fantastic idea for a show: take one woman – Mattie, throw in four of her ex-boyfriends, and give them a second chance at romance. He pitches it to his boss, Silver, who agrees before having to convince Mattie. Mattie, with a ton of money worries agrees immediately, thinking that a week of dating losers is an easy way to make some quick cash. But what Mattie isn't told, is that it's her ex-boyfriends she'll be dating. And suddenly, things aren't as simple as they first seemed.

See? Isn't that the most genius plot you've ever heard? I was sucked in immediately, into Maddie's world, into the world of what it takes to make a TV show, and I found it rather unputdownable. With such a complex plot, there is a lot of twists and turns as the book progresses, there are some dark moments, a lot of light moments, and it was basically like being on a very enjoyable rollercoaster. And I don't even like rollercoasters. I truly had no idea what the madcap producers of the show Baz and Nate were going to do next, nor did I particularly know if Mattie would stick the entire thing out. Surely there's only so much a girl can take? The dark side of the book was very more-ish and it built and built as the book progressed and it suddenly seemed to be a matter of time before it all exploded everywhere, harming everyone, but Mattie more than all. The suspense was well built and despite the fact I knew where it was all undoubtedly heading, I was still surprised at what happened.

I absolutely loved Mattie. She's fierce, she has a right attitude to her and she doesn't let anyone get in the way of the life she's built for herself. She's also learned that being Mrs Nice Girl isn't all it's cracked up to be as far as romance is concerned so she's got her love-em-and-leave-em routine down to an art form! She's the kind of girl everyone aspires to be, and she doesn't hold back or mince her words and she was just awesome. Honestly, there aren't enough words in the world to describe just how lovely Mattie is despite her chilly exterior. Of all of her four exes, Charlie, Giovanni, Adam and Kyle, the only one I took to was Kyle. He seemed really really lovely, despite the accusations against his name, and after a few false starts, I began to really like him. Charlie and Giovanni were fairly forgettable to be honest, and I just found Adam strange. I really liked Jess, Mattie's best friend, she seemed so lovely, if a bit naive. As for the producers of The Hating Game, the only one I could stomach was Nate, the rest were just hungry for money and ratings.

I thought The Hating Game was incredibly well written. It's told in third-person, switching from Mattie, to

Jess, to Adam, to Nate, to Baz and it helped to create a full and proper story, as it managed to convey every single aspect of Mattie's experience from every angle, giving us some exclusive looks at what was coming for Mattie before Mattie knew it herself. I've really found myself blown away with Talli's debut novel. She's a fantastic story-teller and I could barely stomach to put the book down to take my dogs for a walk. I just wanted to continue Mattie's story and find out how it all ended. I wasn't disappointed with the book at all, I had no niggles, no qualms, I thought the ending was great, and I really can't wait to see what's next from Talli, she could become a huge Chick Lit star, there's no denying it.
