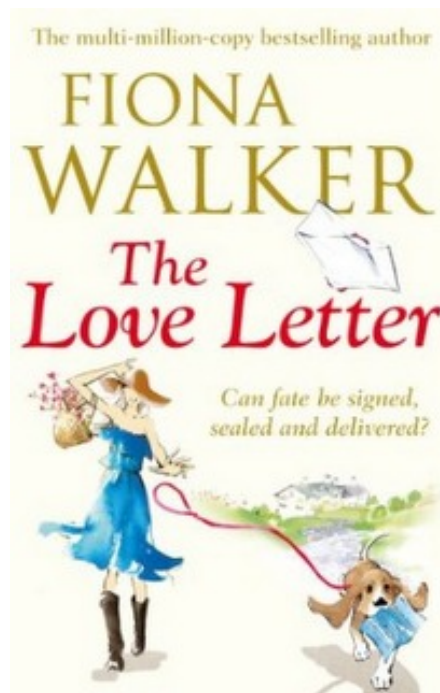




The Love Letter

Fiona Walker

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The Love Letter Fiona Walker

Can fate be signed, sealed and delivered?

When **Allegra North** parted from first love **Francis** after a decade together, she poured all her regret into a letter. He didn't reply. A year later, her job brings her back to the beautiful Devon coast where romance first blossomed and she hopes that they can start a new chapter.

As summer storms circle, the exes juggle rebellious parents, vengeful family members and a very reluctant celebrity author who holds the key to everybody's future . . .

The Love Letter is a wonderfully warm comedy of mistaken identities, new loves and old flames.

The Love Letter Details

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From Reader Review The Love Letter for online ebook

Sarah says

Picking this up and expecting a typical “chick flick” novel, Fiona Walker totally surprised me. True, I haven’t read Fiona Walker before, but 'The Love Letter' offered more depth in its plot than anticipated. Over 600 pages long, it wasn’t a quick read and coupled with the longish chapters, I often found it difficult to come to an appropriate stopping point. I guess what I’m trying to say is that you need to pace yourself with this novel and not be surprised if it takes longer to read than you initially think.

The plot has so many twists and turns that I find it difficult to classify it under a single genre. There’s the obvious romance element with Legs, Hector and Kitty (not all in the same relationship!), a bit of mystery as family ties begin to be revealed, and I thought some slight suggestion of thriller, particularly with all the unexpected developments that the plot takes. However, as all “comes good” at the closing of the novel, then I guess 'The Love Letter' is a typical example of women’s fiction that has different genres thrown into the plot for added variety.

Legs’ relationship with Francis was a tricky one. The novel begins a year on from when Legs ended her engagement to Francis by letter (hence the title). Work duties means she is forced to return to Francis’ “world” and there follows frustrating expectations from everyone Legs encounters, that she is going to rekindle her relationship with him. However, I found that I just couldn’t trust Francis. He “comes on” to Legs far too strongly after a year apart and seems to think things will conveniently go back to normal between them. When Francis is looking after Legs whilst she is ill, I couldn’t help but create a conspiracy theory that he was deliberately keeping her ill so that he could care for her! Distrust evolving into dislike, I felt that Legs was definitely better off without him.

Byrne, on the other hand, is the chivalrous knight in shining armour and I enjoyed the mystery and intrigue that Walker created around his character. He has so many surprising facades to his backstory that I really enjoyed discovering more about him with Legs. Totally the opposite to Francis; even more the opposite to Conrad and Hector.

On a small note, whilst this novel is another set by the coast, it doesn’t really feature too much in this story. Rather, this is more about country estates and family ownership; idyllic nonetheless, the seaside takes more of a backseat here. Maybe this is why I felt a little disillusioned with the story as it developed.

This novel doesn’t just follow Legs and her relationship, but also focuses on unravelling many strands to a complicated family. This is what made me feel the novel read a bit like a mystery and I think it made the plot more interesting to read. I felt I could only reward it four stars however, because sometimes the plot did lose momentum and therefore my interest. Upon finishing it, I did have a smile on my face and it did make this slog worthwhile. Sometimes I think that a shorter novel is better for pace, rather than a lengthy one like this.

Sheli says

I was nicely surprised by this book as although I was expecting chick lit, what I got was much more than that!

This story follows Allegra (Legs) when she meets her ex-fiance for the first time since they split to try and get one of the literary agency she works for's clients on the bill at the Arts Festival held on the land of his

family pile, Farcombe.

I found the book quite slow to start, but most enjoyed the story about Legs' relationship with her client, the anonymous author Gordon Lapis, and the build up to the unveiling of his identity at the Farcombe festival. The book had intricate family linkages and some real laugh out loud moments. I particularly laughed at some of Legs' mishaps as she was rather accident prone.

The downsides to this book were that I found that in some parts it was a bit overwritten and had a tendency to repeat some rather pretentious phrases throughout the book. I also found that some of the romance in the book was quite gratuitous and unrealistic and felt like it had been added in just to make it chick lit. I understand that a certain amount of romance was integral to the story, but I think that some of the scenes could have been left out without affecting the feel of the story.

All in all a good read with an interesting slant on the literary world. I would recommend as a fun holiday read.

BestChickLit.com says

This book starts with one hell of an opener, successfully, and cleverly, getting you hooked almost immediately. The characters are entirely believable, with Abbott giving you enough information on each so you either sympathize or feel full of disdain. Narrating parts of the book through a series of letters is a real attention holder – you'll find yourself becoming increasingly eager for the contents of next one to be divulged.

The plot has more twists and turns than a roller coaster but is never predictable. Some of the secrets revealed are show stoppers, with the tension mounting slowly but surely towards the climax. As far as psychological thrillers go, this one's pretty special and will leave you mulling over whether the innocent should indeed be protected, or punished. Let us know your thoughts.

Rea Cobb says

When Allegra North parted from first love Francis after a decade together, she poured all her regret into a letter. He didn't reply. A year later her job brings her back to beautiful Devon coast where romance first blossomed and she hopes they can start a new chapter.

A family crisis fans the old flames from the start, and sparks fly when a chance encounter makes Allegra question whether Francis was ever really on the same page. As summer storms circle, the exes juggle rebellious parents, vengeful family members, and a very reluctant celebrity author who holds the key to everyone's future. Just when Allegra thinks she can't blot her copy book any further, she finds herself held to ransom by her own love letter. Should she read between the lines, or is the writing on the wall?

This is the first book I have read by Fiona Walker and I have to say when it was arrived I was shocked at the size of the book. Sealed With a Kiss is a prequel e-book to The Love Letter which is set 12 months before this book. I didn't read the prequel which introduces you to the characters and involves the same letter that The Love Letter is about. For those of you who do not have an e-reader please do not be put off reading The Love Letter if you cannot read Sealed With a Kiss as I still found that the author develops each of the characters beautifully in this book so you can follow who everyone is without feeling like you are missing out on something. There is such a vast amount of characters in this book some that I loved and some I found I had my guard up around.

I did struggle with the first quarter of the book I found it was a very slow start and I found myself picking the book up and putting it back down it just didn't seem to grip my attention. I am glad to say after the slow start to the book things began to pick up and I found myself flicking through the pages as the pace of the book increased and the air of mystery finally caught my attention.

There seemed to be so many things going on in this book it really is action packed. I did find that from early on in the book I had my suspicions as to who the writer Gordon Lapis really was and my suspicions were right but it was great to watch the truth unfold. Although I predicted this part of the book there were still many twists and turns coming to light throughout the book. I did enjoy this book but I do feel that it didn't need to be as long as it was.

I would definitely read another book by Fiona Walker again as she does have a lovely style of writing but I just hope that the next book doesn't feel so drawn out, sometimes less really is more.

Jennifer Joyce says

When Allegra North parted from first love Francis after a decade together, she poured all her regret into a letter. He didn't reply. A year later, her job brings her back to the beautiful Devon coast where romance first blossomed and she hopes that they can start a new chapter.

As summer storms circle, the exes juggle rebellious parents, vengeful family members and a very reluctant celebrity author who holds the key to everybody's future . . .

I have to admit it took me quite a while to get into the book and I found myself struggling. There were a lot of characters and their histories to absorb all at once and, if I'm honest, I didn't think I would make it to the end.

But I persevered and then, quite suddenly, I became hooked. It was at approximately 150 pages in, but as the book is quite a hefty one at over 600 pages, I still had plenty of book left to enjoy. I was drawn into Farcombe and the many twists, turns and mysteries surrounding the Protheroe family.

I found Allegra (aka Legs) to be a fun, flirty character and I loved both the budding friendship with author Gordon Lapis and the tension between her and Byrne.

I'd already read Sealed With a Kiss, the short story prequel to The Love Letter but both are stand alone stories in their own right so it isn't essential to read both, although it did add further insight into both the letter and Legs' relationships with Francis and her boss, Conrad.

Chloe says

It's been a good few years since I have managed to pick up a Fiona Walker novel, having devoured several of them when I first began reading chick lit a good few years ago now. When I was sent a copy of Fiona's latest book The Love Letter for reviewing as part of her new blog tour, I was curious to once again try another of Fiona's books and see how good it was. I was surprised by how big a book it was, at over 650 pages it isn't a short read, and with a fairly small type as well, it did take me quite a while to read it. Even though I did enjoy parts of it, I felt it was far too long, there were too many characters and too much going on all at the same time, and I found myself having to force myself to pick up the book to read it sometimes, as it felt I

was plodding along all too slowly and I was waiting for something a bit exciting to happen! Luckily it picked up towards the end but was it a case of too little, too late?

Allegra North was madly in love with her childhood sweetheart Francis, but after a few bad decisions, the pair parted under bad circumstances and Allegra wrote him a letter, a love letter if you will. When her job at a London literary agency brings her back to Devon and into the Farcombe household once more, how will she find it being submerged back into Francis' life once more? And exactly what effect is the mysterious successful author Gordon Lapis going to have on Allegra and her relationship with Francis and his family? Is she going to be able to pull off trying to recreate a friendship with Francis as well as fulfilling her work commitments to reveal author Lapis at the Farcombe's literary festival?

Straight away, I had a feeling I would struggle to get along with this book, although I can't really put my finger on why. Quite a few characters are all introduced together, and I found it a little bit confusing to keep up with who was who until it was all solidified in my head a little bit. There's Allegra's family, her friends, her boss Conrad at the agency, and Francis and co who live at Farcombe, as well as author Gordon Lapis and his PA. That's quite a big cast list, and for a while, the Farcombe's especially started to blend into each other and I had to keep real tabs on who was who, who was with who and what exactly was going on. The only people I didn't confuse were Allegra, Gordon, Jago and Francis! Once they were in my mind, it was okay but it took quite a bit of the book for me to get to that state.

The characters were well written enough, but I have to confess to not warming to Allegra, or Legs as she is annoyingly referred to throughout the book. I found her to be a bit too annoying for me, always flying about doing something or other and not able to tell people, Francis in particular, her true feelings. I wanted to shout at her to grow up a bit and just be happy and do what she had to do to get there, regardless of who it may hurt in the process. I also really disliked Francis, he seemed like such a slimy character, some in it to only get what he could out of a situation and not a genuine person at all. My favourite by far was Jago Byrne, a character who appears halfway through and throws the whole scenario up in the air, but he was a breath of fresh air, and I loved him. I wish more of them had been like Jago to tell the truth!

As I mentioned, the book is over 650 pages long, and if I am honest, it really did feel like it. It dragged in places, and it seemed like some of the narrative was just there to bulk it up a bit and I felt myself skim reading these parts, waiting for it to get back to the action as it were. I found the final 1/3 of the book to really good, it picked up pace and got exciting, and I found myself really getting into it, but I just wish it had come sooner because this part really was good. Overall, I felt *The Love Letter* was a good read, but it suffered with being too long, with narrative that went on way too much and could have done with losing at least 100 pages from it, and getting to the last part far quicker! Yes, Walker's writing is good and she creates a large cast of characters with ease, some of them better than others, but for me the good bits were lost too much in the fact I struggled to motivate myself to read it every time I picked it up, and the confusion over the many characters in the book. It's a good read, but you have to have time and patience to follow it through to the end!

Nathalie says

I was lucky enough to win this in a blog competition, and I was so excited about reading it. I absolutely loved this book!! Don't let the size of the book put you off, it really is an absorbing read. I loved the characters, some of the characters are so eccentric they are funny and I did laugh out loud several times in the book :)

I was so sad when the book ended, I found I didn't want to leave them - I am still now thinking about them,

and wondering what they are up to.

I really wish that there could be some sort of after story, so that we can catch up with the characters.

I would highly recommend this book :)

Plum-crazy says

I don't like giving up on books but at page 106, this just isn't appealing to me enough to tackle a further 559 pages of convoluted & uninteresting relationships, nevermind put up with the stupid name Legs.

CuteBadger says

This is a long book and it took me ages to read, but it really wasn't worth it. I don't like to be defeated by a book so carried on, but should have given up.

It rambles all over the place, there are too many characters milling around and plot threads are dropped and picked up at random (when they're picked up at all). It has a heroine who is of the "silly girl" class of character all too often found in chicklit i.e. she's clumsy, gets herself in scrapes and accidents and relies on men to save her.

I'd never read any of Fiona Walker's books before, and on this example, I won't be reading any of them in future.

Roberta says

So im sitting in at Changi Airport in Singapore for a few hours and i am bored out of my mind so i go on the hunt to find something to read. I quickly discover the book store at the airport does not have a wide range but after 20 minutes of searching i came across the love letter and thought this will keep me entertained for my 4 hour flight. And it did. I enjoyed the love interests / complication between conrad, legs, jago, gordon, francis and on it goes and i enjoyed the whole weathy english with freaky complicated family life and etc. I did NOT enjoyed how long legs let things go before she would act. She wasn't happy with conrad for chapters but didn't do anything...She didn't tell francis how she felt even though she wasn't happy with him or the situations for like half the book and she didn't say anything to francis and his family when they were all making decisions for her....she is a grown woman...thought she would have had a brain and made her own decisions. But by the end of the book she finially wakes up and makes all the right choices...in my opinion anyway. I gave this book three stars as i thought it was much to long for the story line. Seemed like we were repeating the same thing in the middle and i admit ti scimming through some sections as it was just boring the hell out of me. The main characters of legs and jago were good. I admit to liking jago a lot more, for obvious reason.

Overall an good read. Three stars

Roshio says

I found it quite long winded and a bit of a time waster. Ploughed through it in the end but with great difficulty. I'm starting to feel like Fiona walker and I must part ways in the not too distant future.

Lucinda says

Chick-lit at its very best. Fiona Walker understands the workings of the heart perfectly, in this captivating read.

I am a huge fan of Fiona Walker as an avid reader of this genre and an equestrian enthusiast, with her other books such as Kiss and Tell and Love Hunt being very much favorites of mine. Her warm, witty style and loveable characters make her stories come to life, as you loose yourself within their world for a moment in time. This beautiful book is a real treat, with its stunning cover and lush interior making it something quite special that which stands-out on any bookshelf. I love how the Sun newspaper sums Fiona's book up in just two words; deliciously naughty (which I feel is exactly right!).

Allegra North splits up with her longstanding first love Francis with much regret, recording her feelings onto paper in the form of a letter. With no reply he is forgotten and Allegra continues with her life, until a year later she returns to where it all began in picturesque Devon by the sea. This was where their romance blossomed and now where she hopes to start a fresh and begin a new chapter of her life. A family crisis fans the old flames from the start, and sparks fly when a chance encounter makes Allegra question whether Francis was ever really on the same page. However as summer storms come and go, her parents become difficult and rebellious along with vengeful family members it is all not as straightforward as she thought. Then there appears a celebrity author who seems to hold the key to everyone's future including Allegra's. This wonderful comedy of mistaken identities, new love and old flames is a delight to behold and something that I can grantee you will find hard to put down. It is deliciously naughty in the sense of that it could be comparable to a Jilly Cooper or other great chick-lit writers such as Sophie Kinsella, Lauren Weisberger or Cecelia Ahern. It is a magnificent tale set within the country that is full of rivalry (family and romantic), sex and deep jealousy. Truly gripping and full of intense drama, you will find the Love Letter emotionally stirring and captivating from beginning to end. This is just a great read that truly blew me away, raising the standard high for this genre and surpassing all expectations that I had prior to reading it. I continue to love Fiona Walker's work and her effortless style that captures the hearts and minds of so many readers, who enjoy a book that you can really loose yourself within. It is written in a conversational (even colloquial style, but not slang rather more informal) style at times that helps the reader to connect with the characters, as if they are real people in our world that is totally relevant to the modern-age. A contemporary look at love and the dysfunctional family, that is believable and honest and which I personally feel Fiona Walker has captured precisely in a nutshell. If you are a aficionado of this genre then I urge you to read and discover Fiona Walker's work that I truly believe to be of the highest caliber upon the chick-lit shelf, and add it to your collection of books to take with you on holiday or the beach. A perfect winter's evening would be sitting by a fire huddled under a warm blanket reading Fiona Walker's The Love Letter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carol (aka Dizzy C) for having Fiona's book on one of her book blog giveaways, which I concider myself extremely lucky and fortunate to have won. This book is a real gem and just a spectacular read.

Saxonjus says

Plodded on through book felt a lifetime. Kept leaving it to read others

Melissa Fordyce says

This book was perfect for a long weekend. A rollicking romp, the best kind of brit-chick-lit - a crazy family, a gorgeous if slightly batty heroine, a mysterious irishman and a big house in the country. It's not great literature but it's perfect to snuggle up with. I didn't even care that I'd guessed the major plot turn within the first few chapters. Fiona Walker's books are always entertaining - although fairly formulaic and the girl has borrowed more than a few pointers from Jilly Cooper. An easy, slightly silly read.

Kate's Book Spot says

I was lucky enough to win this book from a giveaway on Sarah's Book Reviews.

It begins with various emails being sent back and forth, I love books that have emails and texts etc in them because it always makes me feel like I'm getting a more personal view of a character.

I liked the sound of the synopsis but honestly I feel like it doesn't actually do the book justice, I quickly realised that it wasn't at all what I expected and it was in fact miles better! Occasionally I found that I was a little bit unsure about what was going on but once I figured it out I discovered a very funny and totally unputdownable book. I was surprised to find myself thinking about the characters when I was trying to do every day things – I practically ran home from taking the kids to school so I could read more.

Allegra was a brilliant main character, she was funny, flirty and outspoken, all of which made her a great character to read about. The banter between her and the other characters was one of my favourite parts of this story. In particular, her chats (usually via email) with the intriguing and mysterious Gordon were something I really enjoyed.

Things became very complicated for Allegra when she went back to Farcombe, a shocking discovery at her family's holiday home and a bizarre request from her ex are just a couple of the disasters she faces on her arrival. Throw in a confusing encounter with a mysterious Irish man known only as Mr Byrne and things really spiral from there.

I found all of the characters interesting, especially the eccentric ones, during the many unexpected twists and turns there were times when everyone actually seemed slightly crazy and I absolutely loved that, it really made me laugh!

I couldn't wait for the day of the festival to arrive but before it did there were so many exciting, funny and surprising moments that had me turning page after page. I didn't want the book to finish but when it did I felt that it ended in a good way with no questions left unanswered.

A fun and intriguing book that captured my interest from start to finish.

