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Wished For You is the eagerly awaited second novel from Amy Huberman whose debut, Hello, Heartbreak, was a massive No 1 bestseller in 2010. Since then Amy has gone on to star in Comedy Central's Threesome and her fan-base is growing all the time.

I Wished For You is the story of Grace who is at that age where there are six weddings a year and the question on everyone's lips is: who's next? She and her boyfriend Robbie seem the perfect fit, but when he unexpectedly goes down on bended knee, Grace freaks out. Cue the mother of all meltdowns.

On top of that, Grace's passion for fashion is not exactly fulfilled by her job - dressing well-to-do ladies with way more money than style. Cue - in her addled state after the bended knee fiasco - losing it in work, with disastrous consequences.

Into Grace's train-wreck of a life comes Verity - ex-Hollywood costume lady and vintage clothing queen. Verity is not called the Vintage Vixen for nothing: she has seen it all and done it all and her life makes Grace's look about as exciting as Songs of Praise. Verity tells Grace that the secret of happiness is to discover her 'heart wish'. If only Grace could work out what her heart's greatest wish really is ...

Amy Huberman is both a star and a trendsetter, but as a writer she is blessed with an earthy, off-beat and irreverent sense of humour which makes her a gifted and original story teller.

Praise for Hello, Heartbreak

'Will have you laughing out loud ... lovely' Cosmopolitan

'Witty, observant and very Bridget Jones-like, this brilliant read is thoroughly enjoyable' Closer Magazine

'Like Jane Austen on ecstasy' Sunday Independent

'A funny romantic comedy ... like Bridget Jones on Viagra' Irish Daily Mail

'Fun, bubbly, gutsy and lively' U Magazine

'Tender, romantic and laugh aloud funny' Irish Examiner

'Sharp and sassy' Irish Tatler

'She can really write ... a deserved No 1' Irish Independent

I Wished For You Details

Date : Published June 6th 2013 by Penguin Ireland (first published January 1st 2012)

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From Reader Review I Wished For You for online ebook

Kate's Book Spot says

Firstly I'd like to thank the publisher for sending me this book to read and give an honest review.

The witty writing style was something that really jumped out at me with this book and it happened pretty much straight away. The amusing situations Grace found herself in and her reactions to them were described in clear detail so that I could picture them easily – this really made me giggle!

I'm not even sure how to describe Grace, she was sort of crazy but in a very adorable way. I definitely liked her and found myself wanting the best for her so there were times that I felt frustrated by the choices she made. She was fed up with everyone expecting her and Robbie to get married so when she thought he was about to propose, she freaked out in a spectacular way!

The moment Grace met Verity was enchanting, this was something that I hadn't expected from the storyline and it brought a magical feeling to the book. Other favourite moments of mine included: reading about how Grace and Robbie first met, ice skating in New York, Christmas time, the Wish Factory and a movie-style proposal. I also loved how it ended with a beginning (this will make sense when you read it), it was different and left me smiling.

The only downside for me was that some of it felt a little bit forced, there were a few places where it almost felt like the author was trying too hard which was a shame because the storyline itself was really good.

This was an enjoyable read with lots of laughs, twists and turns to keep you on your toes.

Jennie May says

*Copy received for review.

I have really mixed feeling about this book, which may be why I've been sat here for a solid 10 minutes looking at an empty document completely baffled as to where to start. You see, I liked the story, I liked the premise because I think we've all had those days/weeks/months where we're not exactly sure what we want, where we're going and if we're heading in the right direction and I also liked Amy Huberman's writing, she has a very distinct style and there's something about it that's very captivating, relateable and genuinely laugh-out-loud funny. I just think that on occasion, there is perhaps one anecdote, one description too many and as a result this book, for me, is at least 75 pages too long. A few times I wondered when the story was going to move on, thumbing ahead a few pages to see when the next chapter started and I found myself almost losing interest.

For the first third or so of the book I really liked Grace, I really warmed to her, but as the story progressed, especially during the middle of the book, she started to frustrate me when she completely fails to see all the wonderful things she has going for her and amazing people she can genuinely rely on all of the time. Thankfully she meets Verity, one of my favourite characters (along with Ab-Norman), who helps to steer her in the right direction. The last hundred pages or so are lovely, despite feeling a little rushed, and I do think it ends at just the right point. I could quite happily have forgone large chunks of the middle, where the story seemed to trundle along to have a little more at the end, which seemed to fly by.

Overall, I think it's a fun, light read - one I would recommend for a long flight or chilled out holiday by the pool if you fancy a bit of a giggle.

Becki says

I WISHED FOR YOU is the second novel by Amy Huberman. It tells the story of Grace Harte an almost thirty year-old who is in a comfortable relationship with her boyfriend Robbie, the only problem she has (apart from her job) is that well-meaning friends and family keep asking her when she and Robbie are going to get married. Grace is happy with the status quo, and when it looks like Robbie might actually propose she freaks out.

I can relate to Grace as a character. There comes a time in life when well-meaning friends and family members want to know when you are going to 'settle down'. I'm pretty sure it's only a short jump from there to asking about marriage, and then kids. I genuinely love the way that Grace stands up for herself and the fact that she is happy with the way things are – even if she is almost thirty (don't ask me why certain people seem to think this age is significant) – and she's not ready for marriage yet. However, I did think Grace's reaction when she thought Robbie was proposing was a tad OTT to put it mildly. There is a reason behind this which is explained later in the book, but at the time whilst it seemed in character I couldn't help but feel it leant a tad towards the unrealistic.

For me, the most interesting part of the book begins after Grace's reaction to the assumed proposal because this is when things start to fall apart. It's also after this point that we meet the intriguing Verity. I found her a really interesting character as Huberman only reveals enough about her to make her seem real and believable, and even that is done slowly and grudgingly. In a lot of ways Verity acts as a Fairy Godmother to Grace, and remains just as mysterious. The secondary characters in I WISHED FOR YOU really helped to carry the plot, and Grace, to the end of the book. Huberman creates some really strong secondary characters, although there were a couple which felt a bit flat. I loved the relationship between Grace and her sister Tanya, and the relationship between Grace and Bette the cat – it was really quite fun, and amusing to read about.

I WISHED FOR YOU is a good second novel, there are some things which didn't work for me personally BUT Huberman creates an interesting and engaging story that most people can relate to on some level. There is a lot of drama, and a few twists and turns to keep the plot interesting but you know how it will almost certainly end up pretty early on. These aren't necessarily bad things, in fact they make the book a quick read. If you're looking for some chick-lit to indulge yourself with and you're around thirty – or perhaps older – then you should consider giving this book a try.

I got a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This review was originally published on The Flutterby Room.

Louise Grauer says

An easy read but a little too predictable.

Lyndsey says

I received this book as a GoodReads First Reads Giveaway for an honest review.

I used to love this books. The ones with the quirky, crazy, ADHD girl who is constanly on the go but this book did not have me loving it.

Truthfully Grace, who was addicted to everything romantic except marriage, made me want to stop reading the book. She was as one line in the book says "She rolled her eyes to indicate what a child I was being, which, let's be honest, I was." Grace was such a child throughout this entire book that if I would have rolled my eyes everytime she acted like one I would have never gotten the book read.

When something would be happening in the story, say they might be just going to a resturant. Grace would suddenly launch into a story about some funny happening, or what she deemed funny, that took place years ago. This happened so frequently that I had to go back and reread parts of the book to try and figure out where the here and now started and the story stoped. This was so frustrating to me. I would say at least 25% of the book is past stories that had to relavance as to what was going on right in the now.

The author tired way, way, way to hard to be funny in this book and really it just made it very trying to read.

I also found the talk of all the movies and actress and clothing a bit much. If have not watched the movies and know anything about the actresses then you will be lost...like I was. I feel like i was almost getting a history lesson of the movies and what the actresses wore.

Grace was a selfish character. I couldn't stand the way she treated her friends or her boyfriend. I didn't find anything about her enduring or likeable. Sadly, this book just wasn't what I remember cute love stories being about.

Grace says

This book is very witty, I laughed out loud so many times! Really recommend it for a little pick-me-up. At first I thought it was taking a bit of a long time to get the plot going, but once I got into it I really couldnt put it down!! Grace, the "heroine" of the novel is very funny and says the things that everyone wants to say out loud sometimes but has more sense not to, makes it all the more enjoyable. Recommend for any girls out there looking for a giggle!

Aoife says

This has to have been one of the best books I've ever read. I knew straightaway from Amy's Twitter account that I'd love the humour in this book, and dear God it didn't disappoint.

The story of Grace also seemed somehow very familiar (hello commitment phobe) and I fell in love with her from the first page.

There are, however, some touching and emotional parts, and the will really get to you, making you think about the value of life connected to the events at hand.

One tip: don't read this on the train. People WILL stare at you, and the person opposite will move to another seat.

Ilona says

First of all - I received this book as a giveaway from the publisher Penguin Ireland! Quite an experience for me actually as it is the first giveaway I've won. So I really was much excited about getting it.

Now about the book itself. A light but very witty piece of literature. I liked the characters, because they are well-drawn, memorable, bright. Not only Grace but all of them. I especially liked Verity - ninety-something year old woman in Hollywood dresses playing *Alice in Wonderland* is something you know :) (view spoiler).

The plot isn't very intriguing, though there are some unexpected moments. BUT the inner world of Grace is shown in a very clear and profound way, the reader can see the development of her character, her inner changes.

What I like most is the Golden Era of Hollywood air about this book. As Grace is quite keen on that period you will see the names of Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly, Molly Keats, Elizabeth Taylor in every chapter. and all those descriptions of the vintage clothes in Verity's shop! God, wish I could try at least one of them on! ;) This really creates a special mood which is very important for a good book. To tell the truth, I haven't watched old movies for ages, so as soon as I was finished with the novel I wrote down all the titles of old movies out of it and now I'm going to watch (or in most cases re-watch) all of them.

What I should say next is that book is really funny. Both the humour of the situation and the puns (play of words) are used brilliantly.

So as a conclusion I'll say they could make a great romcom out of this novel. If it is filmed, I'll buy a DVD.

I Wished for You is advisable for all chick-lit lovers and for people searching for something light to improve their mood.

Katy says

This was fun, and an easy read.

Angela says

Oh how I loved "I Wished For You"! It is a mixture of all my favorite things : chick-lit, vintage, comedy and romance. It's ridiculously funny and perfectly escapist too. A must read!

Amy says

Do you ever read a book and think to yourself, "This author is trying WAY too hard?" Perhaps there is too much - too much plot, too much sex (wait ... what?), too much cuteness, too much effort. There is a prevailing sense of desperation to make you laugh or think or cry or something.

Such is the case with this book.

The premise is solid: Grace is a bridesmaid in yet another wedding, and as she approaches thirty, what everyone wants to know is when she'll be the one in the fluffy white dress. She and solid boyfriend Robbie bought a house together, he keeps saying they will get married some day. But ... when she catches the bouquet, she sees Robbie's face fall. Doubts creep in, even if Grace is unaware of them. Does she want to marry Robbie after all? And so she heads to a kitschy place in Ireland where one makes wishes that will come true. Is Robbie who Grace wishes to have, or is there another man out there who will capture her heart?

See? Solid premise. The problem is that Huberman TRIES TOO HARD. The little stories that populate this book, whether from explaining how Grace nearly drowned in a fountain or how she and Robbie came to have a cat, get tedious. Just when you get into the rhythm of the story, here comes Huberman with another cutesy memory of Grace's, another "gosh, aren't we fun!" story, that serves no purpose other than to annoy us readers. Grace is lovely. Her friends are a bit cookie cutter-ish in that friends-with-quirks kind of way, but that's not so bad, actually. We can't get to know them, truly, because the pacing keeps getting interrupted. What clearly is meant to draw us closer to the story and characters instead pushes us away.

At times it almost reads like you're watching a stand up routine at Vinnie's Yuk Yuk Club, and I found myself wondering what this book would have been like without all of the blatant attempts at humorous shtick. Yes, parts of it are funny. Yes, parts are sweet and heartwarming. Yes, parts sort of break your heart. Yes, yes, yes. But wrapped around this book is an overwhelming sense of Try Hard.

And it doesn't work.

Thanks to NetGalley for the preview.
Published on cupcake's book cupboard
@VivaAmaRisata

Bookevin says

www.iheart-chicklit.blogspot.com

When Penguin Ireland offered me a review copy of *I Wished For You*, I knew I would want to read it because after reading the blurb, I was really excited to read what Amy Huberman had in store for readers.

I Wished For You follows the story of Grace, who is really pleased with her life, she's got a wonderful boyfriend, steady job (not-so-glamorous) and pretty content with where her life is going. But, all around her, her friends are getting hitched, one by one and the pressure is on. Things are good enough for her, her relationship with her long-term boyfriend is never better, but what if they can't handle married life?

Amy Huberman has created a really funny, down-to-earth heroine and she should be proud for doing so. I liked Grace, a lot. Armed with witty and snarky remarks, playful banter which sometimes could be a bit

annoying, but never failed to make me laugh! I liked Verity too, a headstrong and wise old woman, who would provide Grace with sound advice. She's sensible and rational - the complete opposite of Grace who is carefree and jovial.

Bursting with humour and hilarious incidents, I Wished For You is insanely funny. I couldn't stop myself from reading it quickly. I really warmed to the characters and Amy Huberman's writing, which is fresh, sharp and incredibly amusing. I found the references to old Hollywood films really intriguing and the vintage clothes, oh my! Sheer opulence, if you ask me!

I Wished For You is funny, no, hilarious, romantic and indulgent. After reading it, I wanted put on pretty vintage dresses and say "All right, Mr Demille. I'm ready for my close-up..". Don't laugh! But if you read I Wished For You, I can guarantee you that you will be cackling away. Buckets of charm and witty humour, an enjoyable read, all together! If you're looking for a feel-good novel which will guarantee you a laugh, then look no further!

Rating: 7/10

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

Grace is seeing everybody around her get married and begin to settle down, and everyone is wondering who might be next. Grace and boyfriend Robbie have been together for years, but when he goes down on one knee, Grace freaks out. In comes Verity, ex-Hollywood costume lady and vintage clothing queen who has seen and done it all. Verity tells Grace that she needs to discover her 'heart wish' to be happy...

I Wished For You is a novel that is so easy to get into, within the first pages I was swept up in Grace's story and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it! I absolutely loved the humour in the book. Amy Huberman had me laughing out loud so many times throughout the story! At one point I was snorting with laughter which was actually quite embarrassing but I couldn't help myself! Amy really knows how to make her readers laugh – so if you want a great story with some absolutely hilarious moments then look no further!

The characters were fantastic. I particularly liked Grace, I warmed to her straight away and I found myself laughing with her, sympathising with her and cheering her on to find her 'heart wish'. I REALLY liked Verity too – I wish I had someone like her in my life, she was brilliant as a character and I always looked forward to her scenes.

As well as the laughs there are also some serious scenes – the characters have a lot of depth to them and I liked reading about this side of them and seeing their emotions come out. I was quite touched by these scenes and I must say I'm really looking forward to reading more from Amy Huberman. I Wished For You is funny, full of emotion, romance, fashion and fun. I thoroughly enjoyed I Wished For You and it is a book I'd definitely recommend.

Naomie says

At times this book was endearing and charming, yet at others it was just too forced.

When I got my copy from the Goodreads First Reads thing I was so enthralled by the shiny (yes shiny!) cover. The first chapter was so promising in terms of humour - the encounter with that sausage woman

McNamara had me giggling like the maniac I am.

But when we hit New York and the aftermath it just felt so, so forced. The New Age stuff was odd and felt drawn up ad hoc just to pass the time - I wanted to get to the end but the struggle through that section of the book was not an easy one.

Verity is a nice enough lady and all but her secret (view spoiler)

Vivienne says

I do not usually give up on a book. I try to read it to the end even if I do not really like it at the beginning, hoping that it will improve on the way. However, I must sadly confess that I put down this book never to pick it up again after about a fifty or so pages. It might be only me, but I felt too forced the over-funny tone. It was as if I were listening to a stand-up comedian. And what might have been fun in a live performance it felt really awkward while being read. I am really sorry about it because I had high hopes about the story after reading the blurb. The plot sounded very promising. Alas, the book failed to fulfil my expectations. So I cannot recommend it to others, I am afraid.
