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Michele Gorman

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What would you change the second time around?

There've been a few changes in Bea's life lately, starting with accidentally ending her decade-long relationship over a Friday night takeaway. Next goes her flat and then her job. Single, unemployed and living in a rented room, Bea is flying without a safety net for the first time in thirty-eight years.

So what is she supposed to do now that she's rewound her life to start again?

She has no idea how to date anymore. It's all gone online and with so much competition at the click of a button, her aging bosom might not be up to the job. People are waxing in places she can't even reach and posting red carpet-worthy selfies every ten seconds.

She used to dream of a musical career but is only getting gigs as background music for drunks in pubs. And her ex is being a hundred times more charming in trying to win her back than he bothered to be when he had her.

Maybe grasping life with both hands won't be so easy after all...

Can she really become who she wants to be?

Life Change Details

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From Reader Review Life Change for online ebook

Jennifer Joyce says

Bella Summer Takes a Chance follows B as she tries to make sense of her life. She feels there should be more to a relationship than a cosy friendship, that there should be a spark and passion, something she has never had with boyfriend Mattias. She makes the brave decision to end the relationship and begins to date again but the dates don't always turn out quite as successfully as B would have liked.

As well as following B's progress in love, we discover her love of music and her aspirations to become a singer and we get to know her friends. Kat is a stay at home mum of two who is happily married to James. But her marriage isn't quite as perfect as it appears and Kat is forced to make some major decisions of her own.

Faith, an investigative journalist, is a serial dater, finding the tiniest fault in the men she dates and using them as a reason to stop seeing them. And then there is Clare, caught in a casual fling with a man she once wanted a lot more from but now she isn't so sure she wants him at all anymore.

One of my favourite characters in Bella Summer Takes a Chance was Marjorie, a lady B volunteers to visit in a nursing home. Marjorie has suffered more than her fair share of tragedy during her life but she doesn't let that alter her positive outlook on life.

Bella Summer Takes a Chance is a light, often humorous, tale of finding love and reaching for your dreams.

Isabella says

Bella's story had me intrigued right from the beginning. From the moment she breaks up with her boyfriend of a very long time, I wanted to see where life would take her, personally and professionally. I loved the strong bond that "B" has with her friends. While I sometimes felt that their lives took over, sometimes way too much, I understood it by the time the book was over and think that it helped complete her story — that there are many, many ways to "love" someone.

My only concerns were that instead of calling "B" her real name, "Bella," that it might not make the reader as invested in the main character as much. Also, I wanted to see Bella become someone, because while she seems to be going somewhere, I didn't feel complete with her character. I would've also like to have a huge event in her personal life happen, , not just in her professionally.

"Bella Summer Takes a Chance" was a fun read and I truly enjoyed it. I even laughed out loud quite a few times. Michele Gorman is a talented author and I definitely plan on reading more of her books.

I give "Bella Summer Takes a Chance" 4 out of 5 stars!

Suzanne Critelli says

I have read Michele Gorman's books: Single in the City, Misfortune Cookie, and The Twelve Days to Christmas. I have enjoyed all three of those stories. I had the opportunity to read Bella Summer Takes a Chance.

Bella is trying to figure out her life. She is in her late thirties. She just realized she is not in love with the man she has been with for ten years. She is also trying to find her big break as a singer while working a day job.

She has several friends that vary in age and play a big role in her life. Her friends like to give their opinions on her personal life. As the story goes on, she starts to discover more about what she wants and her friends do as well.

I enjoyed reading Bella Summer Takes a Chance. There are humorous moments and chance taking that Bella and some of her friends do take. If you have enjoyed Michele Gorman's other books, then you will enjoy this as well!

(The book was provided by the publisher and author for review.)

Charlotte Lynn says

Bella Summer takes a chance is a book about love. Falling in love, realizing loving someone but not being in love, and the love of friends. Many times I read part of the story and stopped and thought Yup, so true or Wow, never thought about love like that. Michele Gorman kept me turning page after page needing to know more.

I really liked Clare. Pregnant, from her late night "Shag," she is single and unsure of what she wants. The Shag being a man Clare wanted a relationship with and he wasn't willing and is now the man looking for a relationship and Clare is not all that willing. My favorite part was the labor and delivery. The fact that Clare included all her best friends and The Shag showed exactly how close they truly are. I also loved that Clare was the type of woman that everyone hopes they won't be during labor. I totally laughed out loud.

Bella's, or B, musical career was kind of a background story. Following her almost non-happening career to being a much more active career was so entertaining. The fact that B's job was suppose to just hold her over until her career took off and that when she lost that job her career made turns in the right direction was something I saw coming, but still truly enjoyed reading about.

Having read Michele Gorman's books before I know what I was hoping for and was not disappointed. The quirky characters, easy reading, and flowing storyline were all exactly what I was hoping for. I would recommend any of her books, this one included.

Tracy Rose says

it was a little slow starting for me, but about a quarter of the way through it does capture you into the story

Leah says

When Michele Gorman's debut novel *Single in the City* was released by Penguin in 2009/2010 I was dying to read it as I love books about expats. However, sadly, the book didn't work for me at all and I didn't bother to read the novel's sequel *Misfortune Cookie* last year. However when Michele got in touch about her new book *Bella Summer Takes A Chance*, I thought it sounded like a really good read and I happily accepted a copy to review. I'm really pleased I did because I really enjoyed *Bella Summer Takes A Chance*, it seems a world away from her debut novel, and I was really surprised by how quickly I devoured it.

Bella Summer Takes A Chance is fairly self-explanatory when you read the title. Bella Summer, known to all as B., has found her life has stagnated – her life with boyfriend Mattias isn't what she expected it to be and her dreams of being a musician has fallen to the wayside so when B. finds herself asking Mattias if they're really in love one night while watching a movie, it sees a massive change in Bella's life as for the first time in a decade she sees herself trying to make more of her life. She's sees herself taking a chance, with a group of fabulous friends – Kat, Clare, Faith and Fred – behind her every step of the way.

I found myself very involved in *Bella Summer Takes a Chance*, right from the first page. Yes, the setup for B's big life change is perhaps not the best lead in – asking if the man beside you is in love with you just because a rom-com character has done it, but that's easily ignored as B's life is indeed in need of a shakeup and whilst its not as earth-shattering a shakeup as Hannah in *Single in the City* who moved all the way from the USA to England (as did B, actually), B's own shakeup sees her striving to make herself a better life and become a serious musician and I loved B's journey. I really enjoyed seeing her grab the bull by the horns and make music her number one priority, backed all the way by the best friends a girl could ever ask for. I thought the characters were excellent, B really made an impression on me – I admire anyone who takes their life and turns it upside down just to try and make it better.

The writing was also excellent, normally when you do read a self-published novel (and to be fair it ain't just self-pubbed novels) you expect typos, grammatical errors etc but *Bella Summer Takes A Chance* has been very well edited. The only disappointment I had was the romance part of the novel, or lack thereof. There's a great debate in the novel as to whether friendship-turned-to-love can ever compare to pure love-at-first-sight love but while B went on many dates the romance and happy ending side of things was severely lacking. I had my eye on who I wanted her with and I was massively disappointed she gave him the whole like-him-as-a-friend spiel. I personally thought they'd have been perfect together. But overall I really liked the novel, and I must give a massive shout out to Marjorie, a lady B visits in a home who has such stories to tell! I loved her to bits. I can't wait for Gorman's next offering, I definitely recommend *Bella Summer Takes A Chance*.

Monica says

I give it 4.5 stars. The copy I read was the English version (UK). I really enjoyed the story of B. I could related to a lot of what happened relationship wise as B in the story. I to was married to my best friend but wasn't in love with him and the romance was not there. I also like B decided not to get back together with my husband and still remain friends with him. The story was funny and heartfelt at the same time. The reason I only give it 4.5 stars is because of the use of words, example mum was used instead of mom. I do know this is UK edition but B is an America and she wouldn't be changing the way she talks because she is in England, she would still call her mom, mom and not mum or would call ass, ass not arse. Other then that I love the book and I loved the ending a GREAT chick lit book. Book provided by the publisher for review.

Gail says

<http://www.chicklitcentral.com/2013/0...>

Mrs Mommy Booknerd <http://mrsmommybooknerd.blogspot.com> says

I enjoy a book that makes me think and laugh at the same time. Gorman did just that in *Bella Summer Takes a Chance*. Bella is a young woman who realizes that she is no longer in love and makes a tough decision of leaving the relationship. Bella and her cast of characters negotiate what it means to be in love, to be a friend and to follow your dreams no matter the cost. With witty dialogue, interesting characters and a fun story, you will be swept away with Bella and taken on an adventure in love and destiny! 4 stars.

Samantha March says

I received a copy of *Bella Summer Takes a Chance* by Michele Gorman in exchange for an honest review. Gorman is one of my favorite chick lit writers and I enjoy her books. This one was no different, and it was a quick read that I laughed throughout. Bella, or B., is the main character, who breaks up with her long-time boyfriend after realizing she loves him but isn't in love with him, and starts taking more chances in her life. She tries to revive her singer career and find her Mr. Right, all while juggling her social life and hilarious cast of friends.

Bella Summer Takes a Chance is a well-written novel that is highly entertaining from page one and throughout. I loved Bella as a heroine because she finally realizes that she needs to take chances in life and won't let anyone or anything bring her down. Her story is empowering and I absolutely love that in my reads. This book is also big on comedy. I had a hoot with Bella's ex, her pregnant friend, and especially the adorable Marjorie. Filled with quirky characters and a lovely wrap up at the end, this is one for chick lit fans to read!

Patty says

Bella Summer Takes A Chance
by
Michele Gorman

My "in a nut shell" summary...and I lean more toward 3 1/2 stars...

Bella decides that since she and her BF of ten years are not in love...it's time for a change.

My thoughts after reading this book...

Fun! Sometimes a bit silly! Even sometimes a bit confusing! Bella is sort of an odd, unique, cool and quirky

character and is trying to do her best to become a musician and find the man of her dreams. Bella is also kind of a complex character, has quite a few unusual friendships and is yearning to really be in love!

And then there is Mattias...Mattias of her ten year relationship...on paper it's all good...but is it enough for Bella...and is her relationship with Mattias really over? Even when it's over there is still some texting, dining and dating. Oh me oh my...

Ok...this book had lots of characters and lots of situations and lots of people in and out of love...I didn't have mad love for any one in this book but Bella was entertaining.

The book is sort of a wild ride that Bella takes after she ends things with Mattias, works on her career and figures out the rest of her life.

What I loved about this book...

I found this book to be entertaining. I loved the whirlwind relationships.

What I did not love about this book...

Ok...if I am being honest...it was confusing at times...there were too many whirlwind relationships. I didn't really like anyone...I think I expected more of a Sophie Kinsella kind of book...so that would be my fault for having that kind of expectation.

Final thoughts...

This book is a look into the lives of a group of friends who are in and out of love. There was character growth and interesting situations but the effect on me was a bit flat.

BestChickLit.com says

Bella, or B to her friends, is happy enough. She's 38, has a job she...well doesn't hate exactly, and singing ambitions that, ah, that have run aground. But at least she has comfort in her decade-long relationship with Matthias. Hang on, comfort? But they've never been in love!

B's life is about to face massive changes. She leaves Matthias in the search for true love and instead finds the Dad, the Musician, the Actor and the Grandson, to name a few, in a long flow of unsuitable men. Maybe she was wrong to leave Matthias after all? Maybe friendship is enough and real love isn't sustainable in a relationship. Maybe she should forget her singing career too; she is nearly forty after all.

But with the help of her three best friends Kat, Clare and Faith, B begins to discover that some things in life are worth fighting for.

Michele Gorman has produced a big, cosy hug of a book to encourage you to never give up on your dreams. The highlight of her writing is the hilarious relationship between the four women, all of whom are dysfunctional but loveable, as they struggle with issues of their own. Gorman explores the world of dating with real aplomb – this isn't a world where all men are rotters and all women saints; every character has real, unexaggerated flaws. The moral is don't settle for fine when you can have amazing.

Reviewed by Nikki Mason on behalf of BestChickLit.com.

Lori says

Great author! Funny & interesting. Modern & clever.

Andrea says

What a lovely story!

Basically this book is about a woman named B, short for Bella, and her adventures through a particular stage of her life.

At the start of the book she had a decent job, a good partner and she had a couple of gigs (she was a singer) but that wasn't enough. One day she realized that everything in her life, especially her relationship with her boyfriend of a decade, was kind of dull. She had just been walking through life not really following her dreams or her heart. So she decides to leave Mattias and go after true love. After a couple of adventures, couple of dates, new experiences and with the help of her friends she was able to reach her dreams and LIVE life.

This is truly an inspiring story! It talks about following your heart and being true to yourself. Life is not easy, it has lots of ups and downs but when you put yourself first and follow your dreams you will truly find happiness and true love.

Amazing book!

Lisa says

An inspiring and good read that most girls can relate to. The other characters alongside B are fab. I wanted to find out what happened along the way. There are some interesting twists and turns as the stories unfold.
