



How to Find Your (First) Husband

Rosie Blake

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It's a beautiful day in 1994 and the turn-out in the school playground is fantastic. Isobel is eight years old and marrying Andrew Parker, the boy of her dreams. Life is perfect. Then the ceremony is over, and a week later so is the marriage. Twenty years on and Isobel is dressed as a prawn handing out promotional fliers outside an L.A. fish market. Her career is going nowhere and her love life leaves a lot to be desired. Nothing Isobel hoped for has gone to plan. Then, she catches sight of Andrew, her first husband, in the background of a TV news item and wonders: if she can track down Andrew, will she recapture the happiness that she felt all those years ago? Isobel travels the globe to find her first husband, via Cornwall, Devon and a remote Malaysian island, but is he really what she is looking for?

How to Find Your (First) Husband Details

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From Reader Review How to Find Your (First) Husband for online ebook

Linda Hill says

From <https://lindasbookbag.com/>

Oh my goodness, I adored this book. Just occasionally there's a novel that is a perfect embodiment of its genre and How To Find Your (First) Husband by Rosie Blake is just that – perfect. I'm always sceptical about books that are said to be 'hilarious' or 'funny' as I seldom find them so, but I really did laugh aloud at this romantic comedy. I think it was because the humour felt so natural and not at all self-conscious or contrived. Isobel's asides to herself and the reader created an intimacy so that it felt like sharing an in-joke with a close friend. For me, Isobel's mother was a great source of amusement.

With apologies to all Geography teachers everywhere, I loved the range of characters. This is a perfect example of show, don't tell, to create the individuals, that all writers could benefit from reading. Characters are gradually uncovered so that we get to know them at the same time as Isobel. I think the fact that there are only half a dozen characters focused on helps this too. I felt sorry for Liz and Andrew in many ways and sympathised with Mel's fears and insecurities. Iz seemed completely natural – a real person, not a fictional character and I was desperate for her to be happy.

The plot is fast paced and thoroughly entertaining whilst retaining a realism that makes the story all the more attractive. I simply did not want the book to end because I enjoyed reading it so much. I thought the premise that Isobel is looking for her childhood sweetheart worked exceptionally well and certainly rekindled a few memories of my own early immature loves.

Underlying what is essentially a light hearted beach read are some deeper themes – the protection of wildlife, knowing what we really want from life, not letting the past adversely affect our present and future – all of which enhance the reading experience. This isn't to say that the novel veers from a deftly written escapist text, but that it has layers that reward further thought.

Having read the story I'm desperate to be on the beach. Rosie Blake conjures up setting so well, invoking all the senses so that I really was transported to an island paradise in Tioman. There is a clear distinction between LA, Cornwall and Malasia so that a real sense of place comes through.

If you're looking for the perfect romantic comedy to take on holiday, look no further. How To Find Your (First) Husband is a simply wonderful summer read. When is the next Rosie Blake book due as I don't think I can wait long to read it?

Kaisha (The Writing Garnet) says

I would like to start off by saying a massive thank you to Corvus and of course Rosie Blake, for giving me the opportunity to review the book before it is released!

As soon as the book came through my letterbox, I squealed and danced, much to the amusement of my two year old. To be fair, look at the cover, how can you not squeal and dance at it? Now add the title to the equation and it's highly intriguing!

Have you ever had to dress up for work? No, I don't mean by wearing something a different colour, or tartan or even dress down day. I mean dress up to look completely different. Yes? What did you dress up as? I

dressed up as Betty from the Flintstones for work once, in a busy supermarket, on a Saturday....I still cringe now. Although, ha, after reading that Isobel had to dress up a prawn for her job in LA, my embarrassment soon faded!

Isobel moved to LA to land a career in Television, after all it was LA, what could wrong? Instead of living the high life as she had dreamt about, she was handing out fliers dressed as a prawn and a tomato. Not at the same time of course. But in the back of Isobel's mind, she has always thought about her the guy that just disappeared from her life. The guy she has had a soft spot for, for many years. I mean, he shared his lunch with her at school, how could you not love a guy for that? Isobel is determined to pick up where they left off, if only she knew where he was....

Ah young love with the tales of the playground. Kiss chase, 'marriages', arguments because you didn't wait for someone at lunch time; remember those days? Isobel does! I read the prologue, frowned in confusion, thought 'what the' once or twice, and then laughed like a hyena. That was my response after reading two pages. I had high hopes for the rest of the book and I was looking forward to delving into it with that sort of humour. The book didn't disappoint at all. The flashbacks that happen frequently within the book are a work of art, pure genius on Rosie Blake's part. Not only do you have the grown up Isobel trying to find her way in life, you read about the younger side to her in the flashbacks and it is brilliant. The lengths that Isobel goes to find the answer to her 'what if' is absolutely bonkers, but it wouldn't surprise me in the slightest if many women (or men) had done that! Do you take the chance, or not? Despite it being bonkers (in a good way I must add), the obstacles that Isobel is faced with, alongside the sticky situations that she puts herself in makes hilarious reading. Don't get me wrong, I did feel a bit sorry for Isobel on multiple occasions, especially when the sticky situations turned into incredibly cringy situations. Rosie Blake has managed to turn embarrassing situations into 'brush it off' situations. Imagine that you had a bad first date, and then turned it into a positive thing and ended up laughing and happier than before. Done? That's how Rosie Blake has written this.

Each situation is completely realistic, every character is unique with realistic tendencies as well. Instead of a book having the 'typical' 'handsome and rugged' man aka Mr Darcy, it has a man who isn't out of anyone's reach because you'll see someone like that walking down the street.

Isobel's mum is absolutely crackers and she is one of my favourite characters in the story because she doesn't give a rat's tail about anything, and she comes across as 'being at one' with herself. But the other side of her shows that she does and says what she wants and couldn't care less what anyone thinks of it, including her husband! I found that every character in the book had their own story to tell, and Rosie Blake had them tell it in their own special way.

'How to find you (first) husband' is such a fun, hilarious and wonderful read. I did not want to put it down at all. I just wanted to stay with Isobel and see what else she could get up to as she is fascinatingly bonkers. This was the very first book of Rosie's that I have read, and it definitely won't be the last. Everything is on point with this book, the storyline, characters, humour; just everything. The only downside to this book, in my opinion, was that it had to end. I cannot recommend this book enough and it is definitely one of my favourite books that I have read so far this year (& I have read over 30)!

Rosie Blake, you are a genius.

Agi says

Oh guys, "How to Find Your (First) Husband" is Rosie Blake at her best! I couldn't put the book down, literally. It is the author's third book, and I had a pleasure to read all of them, and I think the fact that I rated all of them with five stars is speaking for itself!

I find the idea of the plot hilarious and brilliant at the same time, starting with a childhood wedding in a school playground (brilliant, just brilliant!), and then fast - forwarding and taking us first to LA for some

belly - laughing scenes, then back to England and then to Malaysia, with some of the best views and embarrassing and awkward situations. I think I haven't read anything like this before and I adored how Rosie Blake plotted the book and how she delivered a fantastic, original story.

Our main character, Isobel, might have come a little "stalkerish" at time, but in a funny, funny way. What actually happened that she wanted to find her "first husband"? Well, her life didn't take the turn she was hoping for and instead of working in television, she was dishing out leaflets dressed as a potato for example, and her being "dumped" by her agent was the last straw. This, and seeing Andrew on TV! She couldn't forget the fact that Andrew dumped her only few weeks after their "wedding" in the playground, and then he moved out of the town, and Isobel didn't know why he dumped her. And there was no divorce! So, was she married now or not? And well, Andrew's last words were like a curse, right? That she'll never have another husband. So after seeing him she decides on the spot to find him and make him fall in love with her again.

The story is told from Isobel's point of view mostly, and most of the chapters ended with the entries from her old diary that she's written at school, and you know what, she was really smitten with in Andrew :) I warmed to her immediately, she just felt like my kind of girl, and I kept my fingers crossed for her in her quest to find her first love. She was so determined, and when I know that I'd give up, she just continued, and even though she was not sure at the beginning, she decided to pursue Andrew on the other side of the world, leaving her old life behind. Of course, the support she had from parents here was really important, and I loved her mum. Isobel has pictured Andrew as a kind of hero, the most perfect man in the world and she was imagining her life with him already. But - is Andrew like this at all? Is he going to remember Isobel at all after all those years? And - will she find him at all? I've never, for a single moment, thought that Isobel shouldn't search for Andrew, that she's lost her plot or something, no way, I was rooting for her as I personally was incredibly curious if her idea of Andrew reflects Andrew now. She would only stop obsessing about him when she found him and she wasn't afraid of going to really any lengths, and I thought, go girl! It's your time! I mean, to leave everything behind to pursue a man of your dreams? You need to have guts for this, me thinks.

We can't forget other characters here, and especially Isobel's friend Mel. The girls were working together in LA and they both, dressed as lobsters, were a great team, trying to make the best of what's going on in their lives, but when Mel is relatively resigned to it, Isobel is not, hence the search for Andrew. Also, where Mel is in a happy relationship with Dex, Isobel's pilot "boyfriend" turns out not to be the best catch in the end. Though the scene of their phone conversation was brilliant :) But also the people that Isobel meets in Tioman were one of the most colourful, funny group of characters, especially the narcissistic sex God with not six - , but ten - pack, and his one - liners.

Rosie Blake's writing style is fabulous. It's light, incredibly funny, and one of the best bits in the story were the moments when Isobel was talking to herself in her head - really, her reflections were the best! Rosie made me laugh our loud but also cringe with embarrassment at Isobel's antics and some of the situations she finds herself in.

The idyllic island Tioman was the perfect setting for this wonderful story. it's just like your dream island, and the way Rosie presented the laid - back life there made me want to spend my own holidays there. She brought the setting to life, no problems there, with its beaches, forest islands and waterfalls. I loved the descriptions of this small island, with beach huts, beach bars, crystal clear water and nature. And add to this a bunch of brilliant, colourful, different characters, some lady's rivalry, cleaning the turtle tanks and setting kitchen on fire and you have the ultimate, perfect read!

Oh my word, guys, I've so kept my fingers crossed for Isobel! I so wanted her to find her perfect Andrew and I so wanted Andrew to be this perfect. I adored to accompany her on every step that took her closer to her dream man. In my opinion Isobel found herself on the island in the right moment, it didn't take too long, it didn't take too short, just in the perfect moment, and in a perfect place. It didn't felt too rushed, it didn't felt too slow, the pace was just ideal. And the best bit is that after landing on the island the story really unwound,

and there were some twists and turns that added so much fun and spice to the whole plot. The will they/won't they and adding some other male characters made the way to the happy end really curvy and thrilling and heart - stopping and I loved every single word of this story. You couldn't really be sure how the story was going to end. "How to Find Your (First) Husband" is a truly heart - warming, hilarious story that I literally devoured and incredibly enjoyed, this kind of book that you'd love to read again for the first time. Highly, highly recommended!

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for a review.

~?clockwork says

So this is my second Rosie Blake book and I got through it in a day which goes to show how much I enjoyed it!! The book centers around Iz who dreams of being a presenter has moved out to LA in hope of finding the dream job but so far hasn't amounted to much except dressing up as a prawn and handing out leaflets. Feeling her life is at a complete stand still she decides to head back to England in the hope of finding her school sweetheart Andrew who she's never quite gotten over. However as you guessed it's not all that simple and she soon finds herself on a Malaysian island which is when her adventure really begins!!! I loved this book it had just the right amount of romance and plenty of humour (my kind of book) I found myself completely swept up in the story and the characters and I just could not put it down. Cannot wait to read her other books luckily I have them.

Blodeuedd Finland says

Isobel Isobel. She is stuck in a crappy job, her dream of working on tv has gone nowhere. She has a boyfriend that she is rather meh about. She needs something, just something.

What she does next is, well rather crazy. She sees the boy she married when she was 8, the boy who then moved away, and she decides to track him down. A man she now knows nothing about, but she feels they could be perfect for each other.

The question is, when she does find him, will she want him?

I did like her spirit, she might not have gotten it, but she needed change. And this chase was something to do.

Andrew then, oh he was a bore. I was all give it up Isobel! He is boring! You can do better.

LA to England to Malaysia. She finds her way, and she also finds love.

Rachel Gilbey says

I loved this book, so much that I read it in a very short amount of time. It is full of amusing sections, incredibly sweet reminiscences of a childhood "romance" and a borderline stalkerish hunt for Isobel's first

love.

For when Isobel was still in school, she and Andrew Parker had a wedding in the playground, however she was then dumped a few weeks later, and then Andrew left the school, and Isobel has been without closure since. Unlike some of her childhood friends she never did the playground divorce thing with Andrew, and still considers them married, even after he cursed her to never have another husband.

Fast forward to adulthood and Isobel is living in LA, doesn't exactly have the life of her dreams, and finds herself continually daydreaming about what could have been with her and Andrew. So when she spots him in the background of a newsclip, she decides the only thing to do is to find him, and persuade him to fall in love with her.

What follows is a fabulous story as Isobel travels to England and then onto Malaysia in order to find him.

As much as I loved all the lead up and the initial search for Andrew, it was once Isobel was on the various flights to get to Tioman Island, Malaysia, that I felt the story really kicked up a gear, as Isobel starts to rediscover who she really is.

Anyone that has seen some of my reviews previously, may by now realise that I love books with exotic locations, and this one was fantastic, although I didn't get a feel for Malaysia itself, there was definitely a wild small island feel to the story, with beach huts, local wildlife and a new group of friends all determined to have a fantastic summer.

Rosie Blake's storytelling skills are as amusing as they are enchanting in this delightful story about re-discovering your first love and friendship.

Thank you so much to Alison Davies at Corvus for this review copy. This was my honest opinion.

charlottebibliophile says

"I do secretly believe that if I hope enough somewhere Hogwarts does exist and one day I WILL receive my letter telling me I am a witch."

When Isobel Graves finds herself stuck in a dead end job and in an unhappy relationship, she decides to take matters into her own hands: locate her first husband, the boy she married on the school playground as a child. Travelling from Los Angeles to the UK, she learns that Andrew, the object of her desire, is currently volunteering on a remote Malaysian island, but distance is no barrier to true love.

In theory this plot sounds great, but the execution was lacklustre to say the least. I didn't care for Isobel or Andrew; in fact, the only two characters I had any love for were Isobel's crazy best friend, Mel, and Zeb, a photographer she meets on her flight to Asia. The story was slow and repetitive, and it felt like a chore to read.

Michelle says

brilliant book!!

Alba says

Originally posted on: <http://www.albainbookland.com/2016/06...>

I've read and love Rosie Blake's previous books so when I picked her latest one, I knew I was in for a treat and I was not wrong at all. I found the premise for this story fantastic. I mean, who didn't have a crush in school with the golden boy of the class? And who hasn't wondered how life would be with him? Well Rosie Blake takes it one step further: Isobel, the star of the story, needs a change in her life so when she spots Andrew, her first crush and husband (there was a ceremony in the playground) on TV, she decides to go for it and chase him to the other end of the world.

As you can imagine, this story is completely bonkers and I couldn't have loved it more. Isobel is such a great character, she had me in stitches more than once and her ideas to seduce Andrew were just hilarious. I had such great fun following her around the world and I fell a bit in love with Tioman Island, in Malaysia, where great part of the story took place. Rosie Blake described it so well and the attention to detail was amazing. If I closed my eyes, I could easily picture myself there, spying Isobel's shenanigans with a cocktail on my hand.

Apart from Isobel and Andrew, there were a few more characters key to the story, like Isobel's best friend or a photographer we meet in Malaysia. I was a big fan of all of them, they were really supportive of Isobel and her crazy ideas and made the story even more interesting with their own little stories.

How To Find Your (First) Husband is everything a summer read should be and more. With an amazing setting, lovable character, an hilarious plot and turtles thrown into the mix, this is the book you cannot miss this summer. Laughs and good vibes guaranteed!

(review copy)

Suze Lavender says

Isobel moved to LA to become a presenter. Instead she's now dressing up as shellfish or vegetables on a daily basis. She is unhappy with her job and her boyfriend who isn't offering any excitement at all. She dreams about Andrew, the boy she loved and married when she was a little girl. When she sees him at the background of a news item she decides to look for him. Isobel travels back to England to find her childhood sweetheart.

It's nice to be with her parents again, but it soon becomes clear that Isobel won't be able to find Andrew in England. He's on Tioman Island, a small Malaysian island where he works during the summer. It's a beautiful tropical place and Isobel has the chance to completely be free. Will this enchanting setting bring her what she wants, will Isobel find true love now that she's traveled so far to get it?

How to Find Your (First) Husband is a fun and romantic book. I immediately loved Isobel. She's a bit chaotic and messes things up on a regular basis, which is quite endearing. She has a heart of gold and she's absolutely wonderful. I loved this book straight away because of who she is. I really wanted Isobel to find true love. The idea of the long journey to find the person she's supposed to be with for the rest of her life is fantastic. It's such a sweet theme for a book and I loved Rosie Blake's charming execution.

Rosie Blake has a great sense of humor and I often laughed out loud while reading *How to Find Your (First) Husband*. I also loved the location and Rosie Blake's gorgeous descriptions make the island come to life really well. It's the perfect setting for a dreamy story with a nostalgic element. I couldn't wait to find out if Andrew would be the one for Isobel. The ending is adorable, a great and fitting finale of a perfect love story. I liked this book a lot and highly recommend it.

Smelleykins says

I just adore Rosie, her books and writing are just so happy and make you smile and take you to all these fun places. The latest instalment is when Iz goes on a quest to find her first husband, Andrew. Whom she married in school and has dreamt of ever since. He's the one. Or least that has Iz see's it and no-one else will ever come close. Forget they've not seen each other for years!

After a freak chance of catching a glimpse of Andrew on TV, Iz ups and leaves LA to go back to England to find true love. But he's not there and its another trip to Malaysia... Does Iz find the love of her life?

Rosie captures everything fantastically. The descriptions of the remote Island sound beautiful and you wonder if such things exist ever. There are a few interesting characters along the way, we have Iz's best friend Mel, who is the ultimate best friend. They're amazing together, we meet the gorgeous photographer Zeb and Andrew.

It's a fun book where you'll giggle and cringe at some of the things Iz is doing. You do sometimes (least i did) want to try knock some sense into her but you know she's forgiven. I really can't wait to see what is next for Rosie!

Laura says

YUSSSS ROSIE!

I have to hold my hands up and say I haven't *loved* Rosie's two previous novels but I am always eager to read her latest offerings. And I am SO glad I read this one. I freakin' loved it.

It was funny, fresh, full of wonderful characters and fantastic scenery. It had the perfect time frame, the perfect pace and I had a hard time putting it down; I wanted to keep reading and imagine being on an island with sand and sea and TURTLES.

I read this in just two sittings and did a big 'nooooooooooooo' when it ended. I WANT MORE.

Only niggle I had were a *few* overused phrases but whatever, it was still a great story.

I can't wait to see what comes next from Rosie! I am well excited.

Nuria says

First, let me say that I am Rosie Blake's number 1 fan. I LOVE her newest book "*The Hygge Holiday*". So naturally, I had to check out all her other books. Because that's what you do when you are in love with an author.

And my strong obsession with Rosie Blake is probably why I find writing this review a bit hard. Because I was disappointed by How to Find Your (First) Husband. The main reason being that I just couldn't identify with the main character Isobel. Her quest to find her childhood husband (she was eight!) because she feels like he will make her happy, just felt so ridiculous. Who does something like that? And then she goes and stalks him literally ALL over the world...

I don't know. I just couldn't warm to her. The only good thing was Seb. He made the whole story "bearable". I don't want to give away the ending. But...

Compared to "The Hygge Holiday" this one just isn't up there. Sorry Rosie Blake. Doesn't mean tough, that I'm not still completely in love with you :) I'm sure that the book is enjoyable if you can manage to identify with Isobel. Otherwise it's a bit pointless.

Dutchy says

I love a good chicklit / romance but this book wasnot for me!

Kate says

*** 4.5 out of 5 stars ***

How To Find Your (First) Husband is the first of Rosie Blake's books that I've read, but it certainly won't be the last. The flowing style of writing is delightful, and her sense of humour appeals so much to me.

This book centres around Isobel Graves, who at the tender age of eight married her childhood sweetheart in the school playground. But unfortunately wedded bliss was short lived and he dumped her two weeks later. Fast forward a good few years and Isobel is now living in LA and dreaming of being a presenter. But instead of the glamorous life she had hoped for, she's regularly dressing up as a shellfish or vegetable to hand out fliers. Seeing Andrew Parker in the background of a section on the news is a sign/fate/kismet which leads her to make the decision to track him down by flying to England and subsequently to the remote Malaysian island Tioman Island to convince him to fall in love with her.

Right from the very beginning Isobel comes across as a very realistic character, chaotic yet lovable. The characters that surround her are equally as brilliant, each with their own quirks - her best friend Mel is a hoot!

The descriptions of the settings are awe inspiring, especially the detail in Tioman Island - that's one place I would love to visit (yes I did google it to see if it lived up to Blake's descriptions....and wow!!)

The pacing of the novel is good, brisk and exciting. It's the sort of book you can pick up one afternoon and easily while away a few hours whilst wrapped up in this heart warming tale about friendship and rediscovering your first love

Blake weaves an enchanting and delightful tale, her sense of humour comes through her writing so impeccably making the novel a pleasure to read.
