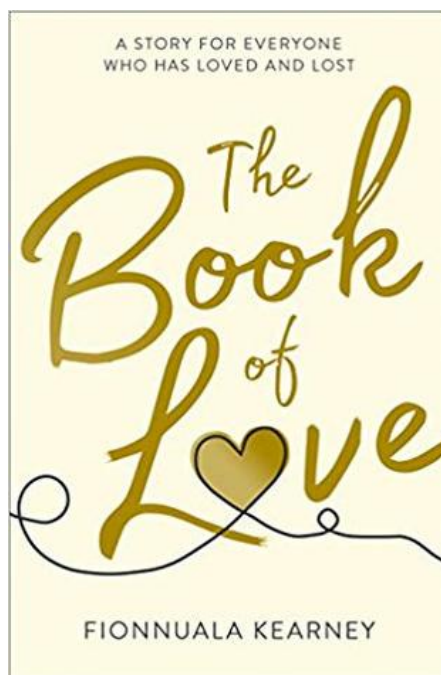




The Book of Love

Fionnuala Kearney

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Book of Love

Fionnuala Kearney

The Book of Love Fionnuala Kearney

‘Open this book only if you are prepared to forever leave a piece of your heart between its pages’ Anstey Harris, author of *The Truths and Triumphs of Grace Atherton*

‘My book of the year’ Claire Allan

‘You’ll cry. You’ll love. You’ll wonder. This is a book you will remember. I loved it mightily’ Anna McPartlin

One love. Two people. Twenty Years.

From the moment they met, Erin and Dom loved each other too much, too quickly. Everyone said it wouldn’t last. But they knew differently.

A wedding present, a notebook, brings them together through the good times and the bad. On the blank pages of their love story, they write down everything they can’t always say – the secrets, the heartbreak, the highs and lows. It’s where they see the best and worst of each other.

Falling in love is easy but staying in love is where the story begins...

This is the Book of Love

Praise for Fionnuala Kearney:

‘Incredibly moving’ Susan Lewis

‘An author who just keeps on getting better and better’ Claudia Carroll

‘The Book of Love is truly a book of joy. A book of grief. A book of great sensitivity. A beautifully written book. A book that I will not forget for a very long time. I adored it’ Louise Beech

The Book of Love Details

Date : Expected publication: February 7th 2019 by Harper Collins

ISBN : 9780007594016

Author : Fionnuala Kearney

Format : Paperback 416 pages

Genre :

 [Download The Book of Love ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Book of Love ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Book of Love Fionnuala Kearney

From Reader Review The Book of Love for online ebook

Linda Hill says

Erin and Dom use the book of love to record their thoughts.

I'm not sure I can write a review of The Book of Love because I simply do not have the vocabulary to describe what an impact this glorious celebration of love in all its forms has had on me. I feel simultaneously broken, uplifted and so emotional I can hardly see the screen to write through my tears.

I thought all the characters were wonderful but it was Dom who appealed to me most. The intensity of his relationship with Erin, his flawed and realistic nature and his unfailing love meant he infiltrated my thoughts even when I wasn't reading about him. I ended The Book of Love feeling I had known Dom and Erin personally, shared the ups and downs of their lives and I wanted to hold them in my embrace.

The Book of Love is brilliantly plotted by Fionnuala Kearney so that the surprises on the way left me emotionally stunned. There are mysteries that unfold through magnificent storytelling. I genuinely gasped aloud a couple of times and occasionally I so wanted things to be different that my heart shattered. To have such a huge impact on the reader takes consummate skill and Fionnuala Kearney has it at its most wonderful. I can't say too much about the plot because I would hate to spoil the read for others. However, I would say; be prepared to invest all your emotions without your consent because once you're absorbed into The Book of Love your life, your heart and your very soul will not be your own. It's fair to say that Fionnuala Kearney not only understands humanity in its very essence, she knows exactly how to convey that essence on the page in The Book of Love.

I'm not going to say more because I don't feel up to the task of articulating what a wonderful, wonderful book this is. The Book of Love is compassionate, beautiful and raw. It touched me. It broke me and ultimately it left me feeling that, whatever life throws at us, love can and does endure.

I completely and utterly adored The Book of Love – mightily!

Anne says

If you read with your heart, as I always do, this book's billing as "the emotional epic love story of 2018" might just already have caught your eye. Tag lines can sometimes disappoint – but most certainly not this one. I read this wonderful book in fits and starts to begin with, with all life's interruptions, struggling just a little with its timelines and relationships between characters – emphatically my fault. But then I had the luxury of a long train journey, and an uninterrupted stretch of time to read the book to its glorious conclusion – and once I'd dried my copious tears and recovered my equilibrium, I really just wanted to return to the beginning and read it all over again, to linger over the parts I'd most enjoyed, to see why the book's construction had worked so very perfectly.

The Book of Love begins in the 90s, the compelling story of the marriage of Erin and Dom, as life throws everything possible at them, testing both their powers of endurance and the strength of their love. The book of the title is a wedding present from Erin's father – a notebook where they can record their thoughts for the other to read, whenever talking becomes too difficult. The idea of it is wonderful – the insights into the thoughts and real feelings of its writers immensely emotional, the emotions behind each piece so perfectly expressed in the "voices" of its writers, and as a device within the story (oh, that makes it sound so cold!) it's

absolutely inspired.

One of the author's greatest strengths is in the creation of her characters – everyone within this book, however small their part in the story, was completely authentic in every detail, real people who behave and react in ways that real people do. The relationships – the marriage at its centre, the relationships with the children, the friendships, the lives of the extended family – were as real to me as my own experiences. Love can hurt, and there's plenty of aching loss and painful sadness within the book's pages – but there's also the sheer joy of being party to this exceptional love story, the moments of ecstasy and humour to be found among the twists and turns of their journey through life, and the whole is an overwhelmingly uplifting experience.

Just a word about that timeline. This isn't a story told in straight lines – it moves backwards and forwards in time, smoothly and with absolute ease. And I haven't mentioned the words "gripping" or "absorbing" yet – but it most certainly is. There are points in the present when you think you have a grip on the past, and know where Erin and Dom's story is going – but then another curve pushes you in an entirely different direction and you realise you've lost the path and have to think again. Its construction is incredibly clever, and confidently handled by an author at the height of her powers who holds your hand firmly and leads you every step of the way, and never allows you to stumble.

But that love – that mighty love – will clutch your heart, lift you up, break you, and leave you with a depth of emotion unlike anything else you'll read. Don't miss this one, whatever you do – its sheer power was stunning, and it was a totally unforgettable read.

Louise Beech says

A beautiful idea, beautifully written, with characters I won't ever forget. Though a relationship is at the core of the story, this isn't some sugary, light, romance novel - it's an epic tale, full of rich description, real people, true life difficulties, and tragedy. This one will top a lot of the favourite book of year lists, including mine. Highly recommended.

Paromjit says

Fionnuala Kearney writes a mightily superb and moving story of love and marriage that is hugely memorable and profound, a novel that I cannot imagine anyone not loving to bits. A pregnant Erin Fitzgerald and Dom Carter get married in 1996, with hardly anyone expecting this hasty marriage to last. Erin and Dom may be from different ends of the social spectrum, but Erin loves Dom, and Erin is Dom's beloved Tree Girl, they see no obstacles that their love cannot overcome. Erin's father gives them a leather bound book of love, for the two of them to write down what they cannot face telling the other, always reinforced with messages of love to help them address their issues and sustain their marriage. At first, neither sees the need for the book, feeling that there is nothing they cannot tell each other. However, the book is to become a pivotal source for essential communication throughout their marriage.

Erin is anxious as a personality, she is not a woman for surprises, she has religious faith and her friends, Lydia and Hannah, and family are everything. Dom is more assured and confident, more laid back but religion is not for him. Through the years they have to learn to handle tragedy and the kicks in the teeth that life throws at them whilst bringing up their beloved children. There are the almighty screw ups, the changing nature of relationships, such as that between Erin and Sophie, Dom's mother. There are the struggles to

forgive in the face of a heart that breaks, and finding the personal resources to endure when the world looks dark and bleak. The narrative begins in 2017 and goes back and forth through the years from 1996, and in those years the book of love is a record of their love, a treasure, charting the ups and downs of their marriage and family. It knits Dom and Erin ever closer in the face of calamitous events and issues, ensuring it is a vital avenue to get through to each other, a tangible record of how precious their marriage is, whilst highlighting how difficult communication can be, even when you have the book of love.

Kearney is a gifted storyteller, her writing has that effortless feel and quality, once you start reading, you will not be able to stop yourself from finishing the book as soon as possible. The characterisation of Erin and Dom is expertly done, they have their flaws, are so very human, and they and the supporting characters are drawn with subtlety and nuance. I emotionally invested in this brilliant and joyful roller coaster of a novel, and I could not help but feel tearful at the ending. Highly recommended and a must read. Many thanks to HarperCollins for an ARC.

Trish at Between My Lines says

I read this book slowly and really savoured it.

And I drowned in a sea of emotions reading it, but it made me laugh as much as it made me cry.

Full Review coming soon and possibly a cheesy limerick!

Shagufta says

First read of 2019! I thoroughly enjoyed this story of how love changes and evolves and endures and requires striving to choose one another over and over again. A great read to balance out your nonfiction (aka more serious) reading of the year, but full disclosure: no people of colour characters in this book.

Joanne says

I am writing this immediately after finishing this book and there are tears in my eyes. Really, Fionnuala Kearney's publishers should provide tissues because I think every one of her books has reduced me to a blubbering mess. At Last by Etta James has just come on the radio and when you have read the book you will know just what a strange coincidence that is too!

The Book of Love is the story of Erin and Dom's life from when they first get married right up until - well, you'll need to read it to see when it ends. One of their wedding gifts is a leather bound gift from Erin's father, a book they call The Book of Love. They write in this book to communicate with each other when they have things they find it hard to talk about and they always end each entry with a reason why they love each other. Like any marriage, Erin and Dom's has its ups and downs and they have perhaps more to deal with than many marriages. Through their letters in the book, we learn just what their life together has been, the highs and the lows. The author cleverly hints at something major which has happened causing a rift between Erin and her sister-in-law and I was stunned when all was finally revealed.

There were so many times when this book emotionally moved me as I imagined how Erin or Dom was

feeling. It was so easy to imagine their feelings as Fionnuala Kearney writes so deftly and with such insight into her characters' emotions. Erin and Dom were characters I took to my heart despite their flaws and they were certainly not perfect. The last line, was so beautiful and so perfect that I think it has broken me, yet simultaneously it was so uplifting.

The Book of Love is a book I devoured in a couple of sittings and I savoured every beautiful word. Yes, even the ones which made me emotional. This is one of my top reads this year and I honestly think it is Fionnuala Kearney's finest book yet. It is insightful, beautifully written and a heart-warming affirmation of love. As Dom would most certainly say, I loved this book mightily.

eileen fothergill says

Hard work !!!

I was very tempted to give up on this book after a few chapters as I found the now/ then , his perspective / her perspective very confusing. However I persevered and was surprised by the twist at the end .Story revolves around a couple who married young and the lives they've lead .a story of their hardships and major ups and downs family relationships and how the ' book ' fits into it all .A sad story though reactions shown throughout story were relatable .3 stars

Mairead Hearne (swirlandthread.com) says

‘A story for everyone who has loved and lost’

Fionnuala Kearney is a writer whose work I haven't read before, but I can now quite categorically state that I am a fan...a huge fan.

The Book of Love is a book that caught me by surprise. The story of Erin and Dom, Dom and Erin, is, indeed, a very special one.

It's the 1990s and Dom's sister, Lydia, has a new flat mate, Erin Fitzpatrick.

‘She was dancing, a hippy thing where her body just swayed, and she reminded me of a tree – tall with long, coppery hair, longer limbs, slender fingers. I called her “Tree-Girl”

From that initial moment Erin and Dom became a couple and, within a few months, Erin was pregnant. Very soon after, they were promising to love each other forever, as they tied the knot in the local registry office, followed by a small reception in the back room of The King's Arms. This was never the magical, white wedding that Erin had imagined but she loved Dom, she truly did, and their love would continue to take them on a very emotional journey, filled with the many ups and downs of life.

Erin's dad gave the couple a very unusual gift, a notebook. His wish was for them to use it's pages as a place to express their thoughts and feelings with each other, a place for honesty and a place for truth.

‘What am I?’

I am The Book of Love

The pages of truth with its light and shade

I am Love

And if real, I will never fade.'

Initially, Erin was quite skeptical of the premise behind the notebook but as the years pass it became a very important part of their marriage, a refuge for their feelings.

All couples strive to be truthful with each other, as with this truth comes strength and love, and hope that this love will endure through the difficult times. For some marriages it can be hard for one party to speak up, to be brave, for fear of what their other half may think, so writing down thoughts and feelings can be a cathartic experience. For Dom and Erin, it proves to be an extraordinary experience. And for the reader, it is a very emotional journey.

Fionnuala Kearney has written a powerfully, moving novel that quite literally left me breathless and shaken. The writing is exquisite and as I journeyed through life with Dom and Erin, I felt like I was walking beside them.

The Book of Love IS a book about love and the enduring power of true love. Every relationship has it's moments of hardship, those times when a relationship may stagger and falter, when the truest of love can be challenged. Fionnuala Kearney takes these moments and captures the essence of every thought and feeling with her captivating narrative and her incredible insight into the human psyche.

I'm not going to lie folks, I cried while reading this book. It brought all my own emotions to the surface and I just was unable to hold back the flow. I tweeted after finishing this novel that I was bereft and drained, and I was...I still am. Something about this book really touched me deeply.

The Book of Love is a testament to enduring love. It is both uplifting and gut-wrenchingly sad. The expression, a book-hangover, would be familiar to many of you – THAT is what I experienced on finishing this stunningly beautiful, poignant and enchanting work from Fionnuala Kearney.

The Book of Love will enthrall. If you believe in love, if you believe in the power of it being forever, if you perhaps hesitate over the existence of an enduring love, whatever your belief, trust me, you will not regret picking up a copy of this truly special book.

'I am Love.....And if real, I will never fade'

Mesmerising. Emotional. Eloquent.....Enduring

Kelly says

The Book of Love is a beautifully written story about a note book that is gifted to Erin and Dom as a wedding present by Erin's father. The idea behind the gift is so that Dom & Erin can write down anything that is difficult to talk about to ensure that they maintain a healthy relationship.

A truly beautiful story about love that lasts a life time, soul destroying loss and having the courage to overcome your demons. I sat and read this book in one sitting as once I had started reading I couldn't put it down. This story will break your heart and then put it back together only to break it all over again, make sure

you have tissues to hand as they will be required whilst reading this wonderful book.

The Book of Love is a haunting story that will stay with me, it was beautifully written and is a must read to anyone who enjoys an emotional read.

Jeanniehay64 says

This book tested all my emotions!! Two people in love but will life get in the way?

Erin and Dom fell in love at first sight and against all odds they strived to make their love last.

Erin's wedding present of a notebook which becomes their book of love is a safe place for her and Dom to write down their thoughts, things they find difficult to say to each other.

This amazing book is written with great sensitivity. Anyone in a long term relationship can relate to a lot of the obstacles Erin and Dom encountered. It had me laughing, crying and nodding my head in agreement at times. I loved this book mightily.

My first book by Fionnuala Kearney and one I will never forget .

Claire Allan says

I've had the great privilege of getting my hands on an early copy of Fionnuala Kearney's third novel, The Book of Love and what a book it is.

The characters of Dom and Erin will stay with me always, as will the story of their lives together.

The premise of this book is simple - it is the story of one couple's love for each other. On their wedding day Dom and Erin are gifted a notebook, one in which they must write to each other at times when they don't feel they can say out loud what needs to be said. A condition of the book is that they must end each letter on a note of love.

What follows is a book on the ups and downs of a real, honest, warts and all relationship - through good times and bad. It is the honest way in which relationships are looked at that make this book just so good. And by good, I mean that I cried absolute buckets on a number of occasions but ultimately left Dom and Erin's story feeling uplifted with a renewed belief in the enduring power of love.

The story is one thing that is remarkable about this book, but really it is Fionnuala Kearney's beautiful writing that stands out. There are few writers able to describe the complexities of the human condition as well as she can. Once again, as with her previous novels, she captures the emotions of her characters brilliantly.

In my opinion this is Fionnuala Kearney's best book to date and it deserves to make her a household name. If Richard & Judy are reading this - get this book on your list and get everyone talking about it. The world might just be a better place if we all loved a bit more "mightily" as Dom and Erin do.

This book and this story left me breathless. It is my top read of 2018 without a shadow of a doubt. I implore you all to let Dom and Erin into your hearts.

emmabooks says

A rollercoaster read of life and love

A heart warming, and at times sad, story of life and love, through the eyes of Dom and Erin. From when they met, got married and all the ups and downs (some of them dramatic) of everyday life.

This is a book of shocks and surprises as the reader discovers the lives of Dom and Erin, through their eyes, and divided into Then and Now. Dom and Erin are completely believable characters and as their relationship changes over time and with life's events, there is plenty of suspense as to what will happen next. The impact of mistakes they make, secrets they keep and the power of love are fully explored.

The time frame changes were mostly clear and easy to follow. There are some great ideas here about love and communication, and some very hard hitting themes about when life hits its lowest ebb. This is a wonderful book about life and love, not a fluffy romance.

5*s from me for this very strong, and emotional, look at life. I got to the end and gasped; during the book there were tears and smiles. I will definitely be re-reading some/all of this book. Brilliantly written. A story, and characters, that will stay with me for a long time.

There is a Q&A section with the author at the end, plus suggested questions for Book Clubs (contains spoilers).

Anstey Harris says

An exquisite book. So beautiful. I cried and cried.

This story and these characters stayed with me for days when I finished it. An absolute triumph and a book that I turned straight back to the first page to read again when I'd finished. Loved it.

Liz Fenwick says

An exquisite book looking at a relationship in honest detail that it speaks to the heart of all marriages...the fears and insecurities to indescribable love that holds you together through the darkest days. I read it in two days, the pages turned themselves. It is a gorgeous emotional read that had me in tears...read it to believe in the power of love.
