



Keep the Change

Nirupama Subramanian

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The uncoolness of her name plagues B. Damayanthi, along with the bunch of unsuitable prospective husbands her Amma throws at her, a dead-end job as an accountant in a decrepit firm, the oppressiveness of Chennai. When she finally jettisons her job and some of her inhibitions to join a bank in Mumbai, Amma's parting words are: 'Be good. Don't do anything silly.' Translation: 'Stay away from sex and alcohol! '

Soon Damayanthi is negotiating competitive corporate corridors and big-city life. Aided by dubious words of wisdom from the cherub-faced Jimmy, she must impress the intellectual C.G., who has a low opinion of her; battle Sonya Sood, flatmate and size-zero sophisticate, for the TV remote; choose between resisting or giving in to temptation in the form of the seductive Rahul; deal with the moral dilemma of 'stealing' a million-dollar idea for her project.

Can a good girl have a really good time? Can the conservative, curd-rice-eating Damayanthi become a cool, corporate babe? *Keep the Change* is a rollicking, wickedly witty story of every girl's journey to fulfill her dreams and find her own place in the world.

Keep the Change Details

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Author : Nirupama Subramanian

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From Reader Review Keep the Change for online ebook

Nags says

My sis passed the book on to me and since it was available and free, I read it. Was very ho-hum, just another chick-lit. The Tam Brahm thing has been overdone in blogs and it was funny for a while. The book doesn't add anything to the existing jokes and brahminisms. I dislike it when these books don't mention exactly how good-looking the main character is. I think that's because they want to eventually have her emerge as a pretty thing later and it kinda happened in this book too. I wanted to conjure up a mental image of Damayanthi but just could not, even with my overactive imagination.

The book is excessively long too. With nothing to say for it.

Miss-able.

Rucha Anjaria says

Indianness of the central character and her family-the customs, the stereotypes and society-bound lifestyle is highly bang on, although the ending is quite abrupt. The book gets really jocular-bit whimsically funny at times- with its typical clash of "trying to taste the lifestyle and though process of western woman" set up/scenarios collide with day to day manoeuvres of an average well-educated middle class Indian girl. The monologues are laugh out loud at times- made me chuckle a lot of times. The book would have been better if written in first person-not in form of letters and would have been WAY better if the end was well formed and bit more elucidated, as the story forms well and it is quite abrupt in its finish.

Its not a brain-storming, intellectual read neither is it in lines with books at cause an emotional upheaval or make you cling to its mystery or romance- try it out if you fancy a light, humorous chick-lit on a lazy day!

Jaya Siva says

A very funnily and differently written book. I loved the way Nirupama built her protagonist and the story using the medium of letters. Also the characters were not prim, proper and perfect; making them easier to relate to! And while the whole story was fun to read, I wished the ending were a little different and perhaps 'happier'.

Saritha says

Not quite the laugh-out-loud brand of humour, and leaves me itching to re-read Anuja Chauhan's Zoya Factor.

B. Damayanthi gets a life-upgrade from Amman Kovil Street, Chennai to Lokhandwala, Mumbai when she bags a job at a multi-national bank. Once her decision is taken, her transition is - if I may say this - a little too smooth. Barring her billowing cotton nighties, all traces of her former self are wiped clean, including the insecurities. She falls headlong in lust with a cad, has cat-fights with her flat-mate and by the end of the book, is a successful professional with a possible suitor.

On the whole, a book that's high on bank-speak and low on character motivation.

Zoya Factor - any day!

Smitha says

Nirupama Subramaniam's debut book is about good girl Damayanthi. Damayanthi has never rebelled, never done a wild thing in her life. She has topped all her grades, become a CA and now works with the neighbourhood Chartered Accountants. The only thing she hasn't done like a good girl, is get married as soon as she was of the 'marriageable age'. She lives with her parents and they have been trying very hard to get her hitched off. At the ripe old age of 26, they fear that their daughter will remain a old maid unless drastic measures are taken.

Damayanthi on the other hand, is bored and dying for a change. Bored of her job, bored of her life, bored of leading a life where watching Sex and the City is the high point of her life.

Egged on by her successful friend Sumi, she jazzes up her CV and started applying. She lands a job at an international bank, and there is no looking back. She is ready to take on the world, do the things she has never done so far. She hopes to transform from a conservative curd-rice eating, living with her parents girl, to a go getter corporate babe. A complete makeover, as far away from Amman Kovil Street as she can get.

She lands up in Mumbai and then starts her adventure. So does she change? Does she do everything she wanted to? Read it to find out. One thing I can promise is that you'll have a great time finding out. A total chick lit, which keeps you laughing through the pages. You just don't want it to end. Its a light, fun read if you enjoy this genre of books. It was certainly perfect to keep me sane and laughing during a day full of home decor challenges!

Aadvik Sehgal says

Keep the change was the stupidest book I have ever read. B.Damayanthi was the single most irritating book character I have ever had the misfortune of reading about. Not only was she living in another century she was full of stereotypes and prejudices. According to her women cannot be attractive and smart at the same time, I beg to differ. For example, she thinks that her flatmate Soniya will only marry a millionaire and quit her job to spend his millions because she is attractive and fashionable. This book is a regressive piece of crap. I highly recommend that you read it, vomit on it and stash it in the back of your cupboard.

Neetha says

The story is nothing new but the writing style is hilarious... you find yourself chuckling at the different catastrophies in B Damayanti's life. It's fun to read....

Malathy Garewal says

Loved this book as I can relate to this very well. Damayanthi is typical of middle-class girls who grow up in Chennai, study in girls' schools and colleges. Her entry into the corporate world reminded me of mine. The story resonates well and is so typical of Chennai life.

Sundarraaj Kaushik says

The coming to corporate world of a Tam Bram girl, Damayanti, born and brought up in the confines of Amman Kovil Street in an orthodox Brahmin setup somewhere in Chennai. A typical Brahmin girl who has

She has been putting off marriage proposals brought to her by her parents. She longs to break free from the confines of the street and go romping in the world cavorting with the alpha males and lead a life like the women in *The Sex in the City* and other serials that she watches on the TV. She wishes to get boyfriend as described in the *Mills and Boons* books.

She gets her opportunity to break free when she gets an offer from an MNC bank and is asked to relocate to Mumbai. Her parents are hesitant, but they relent and let her go with enough words of caution. She comes to Mumbai and settles in a flat provided by the company in Khar. She finds a good friend in a Parsi colleague whose company she likes. They find that they have been assigned to a not so desirable project under a manager who has not made his mark in the bank. They are asked to come up with a plan to reduce the costs in the banks by streamlining the processes along with an external consultant.

Damayanti, finds the consultant not so friendly, but then after a few casual unofficial encounters with him finds him to be friendly. Her Parsi friend tends to while away his time browsing the internet rather than contribute to the project.

Damayanti is soon sent off to Goa for a induction cum training course with a bunch of other new comers to the bank. She is again cautioned by her mother to be careful while in Goa. She finds Rahul an alpha male from the bank who has come to Goa on a bike. He flirts with her and on the last day they end up at a seaside shack wining and dining. Rahul is inclined to sleep with her, but at the last minute she shrugs him off and he goes away. She is scared that Rahul will not call her after reaching Mumbai and keeps cursing herself for not giving herself to him so that she could be closer to him.

In the meantime Damayanti gets a skinny, modern, fashionista as her roommate. They do not get together with each other.

Rahul contacts her off and one and they go to a few places in Mumbai. Finally they end up in his flat. Rahul has his hands all over her when she gets a call from her mother telling her that her grandmother is ill. Damayanti uses this and leave Rahul.

In the meantime there is pressure to finish up the project that they are doing along with the external consultant. They are finally assigned a desk and when they rummage through the earlier occupant's content they find a report by a trainee for reducing costs. Her Parsi friend suggests that they use the report and pass it off as their own. Damayanti is hesitant but agrees. They end up meeting the cost saving targets thanks to the report of the trainee. Their manager promises that he will get them to present to their boss and if possible to their boss's boss.

After a few days Damayanti gets up at night for a drink of water and finds Rahul foraging her fridge in a boxer shorts. She realizes that Rahul has been sleeping with her roommate. They have an heated exchange. Her roommate comes out and argues with Rahul and drives him away. Both the roommates now sympathize

with each other.

The boss's boss comes and Damayanti and her Parsi friend are asked to be ready to present their project work. They end up waiting the whole day and finally realize that their manager has already made the presentation, and neither are their confirmations recommended by their manager. Both feel cheated. The Parsi man puts in his paper and Damayanti goes off to Chennai to be with her mother and switches off her mobile to get over the double whammy of being cheated by her maybe boyfriend and of being cheated by her manager.

When she switches on her mobile she gets a call from the external consultant asking about her whereabouts. She also gets a message from the HR asking her to call back. She comes back to Mumbai prepared to give her resignation. But the HR lady tells her that she has been confirmed and that she is being considered to work with an eminent Vice President in the organization based on the recommendation of her manager. She is unable to decide so she meets up with the external consultant and on his advice decides to take up the new responsibility.

A decent read. A lot of influence of Enid Blyton and P. G. Wodehouse in the writing so makes it good reading for fans of these two authors. Looks like she will write a sequel to the book.

Priya S says

Could relate myself to the character at so many places. So lucidly written and witty. A brilliant piece. Pick this book if relieving your mind is the purpose.

Shivani says

Good chicklit
But seems I have overgrown the phase of liking chicklits now!

Rudranil Dutta says

Headline.

The book is nice for a one time read. Its one of those novels where you know how its gonna end but you read ahead anyway.

Nishant Jha says

A nice book about a 20-something CA woman who moves from Chennai to Mumbai to find and get a new lease of life and how she gets stuck in the maze of a big city life! the maze of Corporate Boardroom, Love Life and peer pressure! Nice humour throughout and lot of incidents which people can identify! I love Nirupama Subramanian's style of writing - easy and funny...definite must-read recommendation from my side....I rate it 3/5...

Richa Bhattarai says

It's a fun read ! You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Seetha Ravindran says

3.5 to be precise. I loved how it's funny, witty and totally relatable too. Ahhh how I love reading Indian authors' again
