



## The Cocktail Bar

*Isabella May*

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## **The Cocktail Bar** Isabella May

Rock star, River Jackson, is back in his hometown of Glastonbury to open a cocktail bar... and the locals aren't impressed.

Seductive Georgina is proving too hot to handle; band mate, Angelic Alice, is messing with his heart and his head; his mum is a hippie-dippy liability; his school friends have resorted to violence – oh, and his band manager, Lennie, AND the media are on his trail.

But River is armed with a magical Mexican elixir which will change the lives of the Three Chosen Ones. Once the Mexican wave of joy takes a hold of the town, he's glad he didn't lose his proverbial bottle.

Pity he hasn't taken better care of the real one...

## **The Cocktail Bar Details**

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Author : Isabella May

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# **From Reader Review The Cocktail Bar for online ebook**

## **Berit??? says**

A romantic tale filled with cocktails, love, humor, and a generous sprinkling of magic!

This book was just straight up fun! All these characters were drawn so well, i felt as though i was in the middle of all the chaos... such a lovely story filled with drama and laughs and plenty of push and pull, give and take...

River returns home leaving his life as a rockstar to open his dream cocktail bar... armed with a magic elixir that will bring happiness if he administers it to the chosen three... River soon find himself in the middle of a tug-of-war between Georgina and Alice for his affection... these two ladies could not be more different, and you will have a definite favorite! Although I have to admit I really liked both of their characters quite a bit, and I loved the drama and back-and-forth! We also have River's mother who is absolutely fabulous! This was definitely not your run-of-the-mill average rockstar romance, that is for sure!

Beautifully told with descriptive writing that popped off the pages... storytelling that really pulled you into these characters' lives completely enveloping you.... by the end of this book I felt as though I really knew these characters and I truly cared for them!

An engaging story that will warm your heart and humor your soul, absolutely recommend!

\*\*\* many thanks to the author and Rachel for my copy of this book \*\*\*

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## **Holly says**

Through Isabella May's beautiful descriptions of Glastonbury, I really felt like I was watching the story being played out, as a bystander, seeing everything happening before me.

I liked the main character River, however there were occasions where I just wanted to shake him- at times I felt like he enjoyed, almost thrived off the chaos he created, especially where the female characters were concerned!

If you're looking for a witty, light-hearted read, which is just what I needed, then The Cocktail Bar is a must read for you

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## **Zoé-lee O'farrell says**

We meet River, a famous singer in a band who decides he has had enough of the high life and hot tails it back home to Glastonbury and opens a cocktail bar. This is not just any bar though this is a bar where he is going to be able to help three people, the Three Chosen ones with a special Mexican elixir. But who these chosen ones are well no one knows.

To make things worse for River, because life is just not that simple, locals do not want the Cocktail bar, they want the local pub and his band manager is on his trail to fulfil his contract. His ex-best friend's sister Georgie now seductive Georgina wants River but wants to ruin him. Alice, Rivers' band mate is completely in love with him, unaware of how he feels and River's mum, who you must call Heather is just a scream. I loved her being on the page.

At times, and I think it might have been tiredness, I did get a bit confused with what was actually going on in a couple of passages but I always knew who was the narrator as it was in the header chapters as we follow River, Alice and Georgina and the bar. All I want to do is go and visit this bar, it kept making me want cocktails. Some of these sounded so amazing!!!

The Cocktail Bar is a fun, heartwarming, fate filling book, making you see the brighter things of life, there is something for everyone in it. It was witty and I did enjoy being in River's company, I must admit I became quite enamoured with him even when I wanted to knock his head and make him see what was in front of him.

This book creates the magic and it lets you sit back and savour the tastes and fruition of the story and the characters, whilst you pretend you are in the sunshine, on a beach and not facing the reality of cold and snow!!

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### **Sarah Ramsden says**

I'm not sure what it was about this book, but it couldn't keep my attention. I decided to carry on reading and see if i could get into it but in the end I gave up. May try this book again.

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### **Karlita | Tale Out Loud says**

River Jackson, a former indie rock band member of Avalonia, have a passion for mixology and cocktails. When he met Mercedes thinking wisdom will be imparted on him, he was entrusted a bottle of *magical elixir* instead, a holy grail he have to guard at all times and be a messenger to find **The Chosen Three**. So, he ran away from the limelight and did what he always love to do—set up his own cocktail bar.

On the other hand, Alice decided to go back to Glastonbury even she knew what was awaiting for her. She became too hard on herself for disappointing her family when she set off to London with River years ago and she got tired with that life, she wanted back where her heart was.

But when Alice was gotten in on the frame, River's no strings attached relationship with Georgina got complicated in a sort of some kind of love triangle. **Will revenge gets a fruity pop of flavor or a lush spirited destiny is so much stronger?**

Georgina's character spiced up the plot. There were times I thought she would change but no, she has not. Like a **potent green apple ginger martini**, she was blinded by jealousy, greed and hatred. Her character deserves a clap for the devious plan she devised on both River and Alice. Hey! But she also did get a huge slap because the ending was an epic fun and I want to high five Isabella May for bringing her character to my

memory of best book villains I don't intend to forget.

While Tamara's character earned a special mention who deserves the best supporting villain award for putting hell of a life to her sister, Alice. She has no equal but a **dry punch of lemon, lime and bitters** for twisting a knife behind her sister's back.

From Blake, Lennie and Lee to Cassandra, Hayley and Heather, the role they were given in the story were thought well to fill the fun to the brim. It was like watching reruns of F.R.I.E.N.D.S where the author gave us **a rowdy but complex bunch of characters**, you are either going to get a *Kaffir Lime Sour* or both River Jackson and Isabella May's *Tor In The Mist* and *The Magical Mañana*.

Isabella May was able to approach the events and the narrative so well that she shaped River's character, a conduit to give a powerful message about how hate could be so lethal-y consuming, you won't even care what's the consequences. She was also able to point out the meaning of destiny and how goodness could be contagious, you won't be able to stop it because it will **"spread like a wildfire"**.

From cakes to cocktails, Isabella May made the perfect mojo mojito here on her new book. Set in a small town of dreamy Glastonbury where music, tales and myth collide, **The Cocktail Bar is an intoxicating deadly mix of romance and drama**. After reading the author's debut, Oh! What A Pavlova, I knew for an instant that this story is an **uproar magnet of wit and fun-loving characters that will give you a joyride twists of fizz and magic**.

**\*\*\*Thank you to Isabella May for providing me a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review!**

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## **Rekha Rao says**

A fun and entertaining read. The characters are likable. The story is interesting. The twist in the end steals the show!

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## **Books Beyond The Story says**

I was beyond excited when I heard Isabella May had written her second novel. I loved Oh! What a Pavlova and was excited to see what May's next book was about! It came at no surprise that when I started reading this book, I couldn't put it down! May writes with a wonderful wit that stems from her first novel. I knew instantly that The CocktailBar was going to be another hit as May has a distinctive narrative voice that you can't help but love! May's descriptive language pulls you in and makes you feel like you're inside the story. I love it when a book can pluck you out of the real world and pop you in the centre of another reality for a while. I felt myself escaping and could see myself sipping a strawberry daiquiri or a pina Colada whilst listening in on the drama! Speaking of drama- I have to talk about the characters! There's a hint of melodrama, a taste of magic, and a drop of superstition! The characters in this are well thought out and very memorable! There's a mad mother, a sneaky significant other, an old flame, a relentless music manager, and of course, River. River was a very entertaining character- he has a lot of flaws and gets himself into the most

unusual yet hilarious situations! I face-palmed many a time when reading this story! I loved the travel aspect of May's first novel, and if you did too, then you'll love The Cocktail Bar! This story transports you from one end of the world to the other, and a few stops in between! The main place the story takes place is Glastonbury- I've never been to this small wonderland but I felt as if I was there! There's one thing for sure, small towns definitely are not boring, or what they appear to be... As the story unravels, the plot thickens. May adds twists at every turn and keeps you wanting more! This devilishly good novel is something to sink your teeth into, with a side of something sparkly! Don't worry- no spoilers! Recommendation? This book is a dangerous cocktail in itself- blend a handful of crazy characters, add a dash of humour, sprinkle some magic crystals, and finish off with some good local culture, and you've got The Cocktail Bar! If you loved the food in Oh! What a Pavlova, then you'll love the cocktails in this story! May adds her own twist on this shaken up tale (see what I did there? ;) ) and stirs up tension with a good hint of laughter! If you want a feel-good book to read that goes down easier than a Long Island iced tea, then read The Cocktail Bar! You will taste the sweetness, squirm at the saltiness, and be drawn to this fruitfully flavoursome novel! Perfect for fans of Isabella May, travel novels, comedy, drama, and of course- chick-lit!

[Booksbeyondthestory.wordpress.com](http://Booksbeyondthestory.wordpress.com)

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### **Cath Deacon says**

A really fun read which fizzles and pops like a bottle of champagne!! River Jackson leaves behind his rockstar life to open a cocktail bar in Glastonbury...with a secret magical drink that may just change the fortunes of three chosen people. River's own life goes through a series of mishaps until he finds his own peace and happiness. Isabella May writes with wit and I particularly liked River's slightly bonkers mother who epitomises Glastonbury's mystical hippyness. It would be a perfect beach read with its blend of cocktails, love and humour.

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### **Chantelle says**

River turns his back on his successful rock band career and heads back to his family home to follow his dream of opening his own cocktail bar. In search of unique recipes across the world he meets Mercedes who shares a secret ingredient, which shakes up the residents of Somerset. As the story develops, you never quite know if River will share his heart with the devious Georgina or elusive Alice.

This book made me feel the heady mix of Fun Summer nights, warm evenings watching the sun set and a thirst for cocktails. A great read for this Summer.

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### **Dash fan says**

5? A Fun Filled Romp, with a Dash of Romance & Drama!

The Cocktail Bar is a Fun Romp full of Scrumptious Drinks, Humour, Rivalry, Underhanded Tactics, Drama, Romance, Mystery, a dash of Magic and Plenty of Fun!

River is back in Glastonbury and his return is about to ruffle up some feathers!

River has had his time as a fully fledged rockstar, but now he is home and wanting to fulfil his dream and open up a Cocktail Bar!

But what people don't know is that the tonic to River's potential successful Cocktail Bar is riding on a magical potion, a Mexican Elixir. But what that potion does....you will just have to read it to find out ?

River is a bit of a lothario, which I guess came part and part of the rock star lifestyle.

But he is back home now and it's not so cool having two ladies fighting for his attention. As he is quickly finding out!

But it certainly makes for an entertaining & drama filled story!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading The Cocktail Bar it's a Light hearted, Uplifting read.

The Characters are fun, endearing and quirky.

The plot is original, witty, warm and engaging perfect for getting lost in.

If you are looking for an Endearingly Feel Good, Warm, Passionate, Humorous, Drama Filled Book, That will leave you feeling warm inside then i highly recommend you reading The Cocktail Bar!

Thank you to Rachel Random Resources for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my Blog Website:-

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2019/0...>

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## **N.J. Simmonds says**

I thoroughly enjoyed May's first novel 'Oh! What a Pavlova', so was over the moon to hear she had written a second book. The Cocktail Bar isn't a sequel, but it does retain that unique Isabella May flavour – tantalisingly morish descriptions, a sprinkling of magic and a belly full of laughs.

The Cocktail Bar is about reluctant rock star River, who opens a bar in the hippy dippy town of Glastonbury. The locals, who are more comfortable clutching crystals to Cristal, are not too keen. Throw an old flame into the mix, a girlfriend with a cunning plan, a bonkers mum, a music manager, the press and River's not-too-bright childhood enemies – and you're guaranteed a delicious swirl of hilarious characters and local charm. So how will River bring back calm to his hometown? Luckily he's been bestowed a magical elixir from Mexico that is guaranteed to change the lives of three unsuspecting patrons - but it's up to fate to choose who.

The Cocktail Bar could easily be the lovechild of Marian Keyes and Paulo Coelho after one too many Tequilas in Somerset. It's funny, spiritual and a fantastic insight into small town life. My only complaint is that I didn't get to enjoy the book while sipping on my own mojito in the sun, because it would make a great holiday read.

A brilliantly bubbly, colourful and addictive 5 star read!

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## **Georgina Roberts says**

I really enjoyed this book, the story just flowed along and the plot really grips you making you want to know more and wondering what will happen next. After reading Isabella's first book I wasn't expecting the story to be like this and it was really refreshing that it wasn't exactly like Pavlova.

There was a character in the book with the same name as me as well which I never often see so that was nice as well, even though she was a bit of a bitch!! A really enjoyable read.

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## **Susan Roebuck says**

The Cocktail Hour comes fast on the heels of Oh! What a Pavlova. Although it's not a sequel, it does continue the author's unique – and soon-to-be very popular (you mark my words) writing voice which is like a breath of fresh air. I think Ms May enjoys writing so much that her enthusiasm shines off the page.

The prose gallops along without a boring moment as River (the main character) leaves the high life to set up his cocktail bar in Glastonbury. There's a whole host of quirky characters from bitchy Georgina to hippy Mum populating the book that romps to an ending that will have readers crying out for more (just like the perfect cocktail).

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## **Birdie O says**

The Cocktail Bar by Isabella May sounded really humorous and campy...so I jumped on the chance to read and review it. It turns out, there really is a lot more going on here. The characters are simultaneously caricatures and so full of depth that you get a bit of whiplash trying to figure them out. This just adds to the allure, though. The way you are introduced to Georgina makes you wonder if this is an enemies-to-lovers storyline...but she's a bigger piece of work than that tiny bit of a trope can hold. River...I always get the impression that he's much younger than he is. I'm not sure if that's unintentional or if it's on purpose and a reflection of his lack of maturity from being a rock star for the past decade.

There were parts of this story that really made me uncomfortable. I can only give props to May for this because in order for things to be uncomfortable, the writing either has to be terrible (trust me, it's possible to be embarrassed for an author) or it has to be good enough that you're embarrassed and upset for the characters. This is definitely a case of the latter when it comes to The Cocktail Bar. It's so easy to place yourself in almost any of the characters' shoes, despite the fact that you are not, in fact, a vindictive psychopath or a hippy or a former rock star following the directions of a lady you met in the middle of an agave field. There's this sense of immersion that comes with reading this story that you can't help but embrace, while hoping you get some distance soon.

The storyline can be a bit slow. I found myself wishing for more action every now and then, but this really is a character-driven story...and the introduction of a cast that is mind-boggling intense and heart-warming

takes place over the entire book. This is a story that is about finding yourself, having faith in family and friends, and realizing that you are just as important as the next person. It is a book that speaks a lot about a phrase I actually adopted in college, but lost sight of over the years. “Que será, será.” The belief that we can hope to change the future, but that we’re really just passengers along for the ride of life. May spends a novel explaining something I struggled to verbalize in regards to this phrase: this is not a fatalistic view on life, but a view that accepts that we can only do so much...and some things must be admitted to being beyond our control. I very much enjoyed this book and look forward to reading more from Isabella May in the future.

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### **Callie Sutcliffe says**

This book was very exciting and fun to read. Isabella May has a wonderful way to create drama and tell a story that leaves your stomach in knots while reading. Great work!

Rock star, River Jackson, is back in his hometown of Glastonbury to open a cocktail bar... and the locals aren't impressed.

Seductive Georgina is proving too hot to handle; band mate, Angelic Alice, is messing with his heart and his head; his mum is a hippie-dippy liability; his school friends have resorted to violence – oh, and his band manager, Lennie, AND the media are on his trail.

But River is armed with a magical Mexican elixir which will change the lives of the Three Chosen Ones. Once the Mexican wave of joy takes a hold of the town, he's glad he didn't lose his proverbial bottle.

Pity he hasn't taken better care of the real one...

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