



## Frozen Music

*Marika Cobbold*

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## **Frozen Music** Marika Cobbold

As a tabloid journalist Esther Fisher is used to picking fights in the stories she covers. But when her hard-won professional integrity comes head to head with the heart's demands, she has to ask herself if she has picked a fight with no winners.

## **Frozen Music Details**

Date : Published June 15th 2000 by Phoenix (first published 1998)

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Author : Marika Cobbold

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## From Reader Review Frozen Music for online ebook

### **Gergely says**

Except for the bit where Esther says, in all seriousness, that she was reading Socrates because she wanted sg philosophical. No editor should have let that one stand.

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### **Sorcha says**

Completed, but it took me longer than many books of a similar length.....Perhaps if I was in a more upbeat/less tired place I could have gotten through this quicker.[return][return]Pleasant story where Linus and Esther grow up hearing about each other (their step/mothers are friends), they never actually meet until well into adult life where their respective jobs bring them into conflict. There are plenty of great characters, some great humour (one of the things that kept me reading to be honest) and a reasonable story

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### **Maia says**

Could never really get into the swing of this bookclub selection. I don't think I was ever convinced by the voice--it never sounded natural to me, rather as if translated from another language. The author is Swedish and I guess I'm not really sure why, other than fantastic exceptions like Lolita, any novel would be written in any but the author's true mother tongue.

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### **Suzanne Cooper says**

I enjoyed this unusual story of colorful, quirky characters Esther Fisher---a London reporter & Linus Stendahl----a Swedish architect. The inevitable 'love story' waiting for these two is complicated on several levels & their journey is 'haunting, heart-breaking, & funny'.  
fav quote: "Architecture is 'Frozen Music".

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### **Petra says**

My least favourite of the three novels I've read by this author - the storyline is rather predictable, repetitive and long-winding, with an exaggeration of a twist at the end. And yet this author's charm and wit never fail to amuse me and her keen power of observation and insight always manages to hit close to home!

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### **Aimee Pow says**

My all-time favourite book.

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## Raisa says

This book was my mother's recommendation- she said she really enjoyed it so I picked it up to see what the fuss was about.

Frozen Music centres around the lives of two people; Linus, a dreamy boy living in Sweden, and Esther, a serious young girl living in England. The two have known about each other their whole lives, because their mothers write to each other regularly. Eventually they meet, sparking off a chain of events neither of them could foresee.

I couldn't get past this feeling of growing *deja-vu* in the first few chapters. What did this remind me of? I wondered. I got it in a scene describing a grown up Esther watching a man dive off a high cliff into water.

Call me ridiculous, but I do believe Marika Cobbold loosely based her book off Ayn Rand's *Fountainhead*. For the first half of the book, I felt like I was reading a dumbed-down version of Rand's work. Cobbold also has two characters who are extremely active and extremely passive - the self-willed Esther who is determined at all costs to get her own way, and the compliant Linus, who seems to drift through life with no definite viewpoints on it one way or the other.

Even the professions are the same- Linus is an architect who loves his work with a fierce passion, while Esther is a journalist.

This feeling of *deja-vu* did spoil the reading experience for me, at least for the first part. Other than that, it flowed well enough and the author does have her own unique style. *Frozen Music* falls under the somewhat dubious category of 'intelligent chick lit'. I am not a fan of syrupy romance as a rule, and I don't like books where the ending is predictable- and with most chick lit, you know from the start that girl A and boy B will end up together.

If that is your kind of thing, then you might like this, as it is written a bit better than most and leaves you with a bit more to think about.

Having said that, for me once the *deja-vu* feeling passed the story did lapse into cheesiness in parts, especially the parts pertaining to love, with the character concerned getting all starry-eyed and gooey.

There is a little unpredictability in the middle that did make this book a little more interesting though, but in the end that alone wasn't enough for me to like it.

In fact, I was fully prepared to hate it and write an angry rant about Cobbold ripping off Rand but then the story moved far enough in another direction for me to concede that maybe the similarities were a coincidence. And even if it wasn't, that she had at least tried to do something a bit different with the story.

I have to say though that despite my irritation initially the book was easy to read and even well-written in parts, with some interesting language used (I love the quirky ways foreign language authors express themselves when they write in English). It's too bad that in the end it was cheesy and too chick lit- it could have been much more.

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### **Lou Nixon says**

New favourite author? Maybe... It was like a really good holiday read with more depth. I like that it is a bit of an anti-romance, I adored Esther and Audrey! Reminded me of that Sue Townsend book where the main character stays in bed for a year. Cobbold really knows how to write people. Now off to buy everything else that she has ever written. Standard :)

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### **Kim says**

I first read *Frozen Music* back in 2001 and fell in love with it. The story of Esther and Linus and how they go from being childhood friends to adults who cannot seem to navigate the path to love spoke to me, especially with the cultural differences--Esther is British and Linus is Swedish. In parts a comedy of errors, while also a beautifully written love story, *Frozen Music* is a near-perfect story of just how messy and unpredictable love and life can be.

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### **Jools says**

I picked this up because of the blurb on the front which claimed this was the Nordic version of *Pride and Prejudice*. Far from finding this to be the case, I found that the first third of the book seemed to be dedicated to a retrospective telling of how difficult the childhoods of two of the characters were, and how psychologically challenged their parents were.

I have to confess that I didn't finish the book - I became bored waiting for the actual plot to commence, and to be honest I have other books to spend my reading time on! I've read "*Guppies for Tea*" by this author which was much more fluid in its writing, but again, dealt with a character who had a difficult parent whose behaviour when they were a child had affected their adult life and their ability to form meaningful relationships.

I won't be reading this author again.

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### **Linda Lawrence says**

I spent about the first half of this book being frustrated and impatient at how long it was taking for the protagonist, Esther, to even meet Linus "the only man I've ever loved" yet alone walking out on him as she states in the prologue. I found her behaviour increasingly irritating as well. As I read on however I found myself becoming sympathetic to Esther's plight; she has a breakdown and completely loses confidence in her ability to make even the smallest decision after a couple of her actions (she perceives) lead to some disastrous consequences affecting others. Her story becomes a comment on the nature and consequence of news reportage and "truth telling" by the media. Eventually she does meet Linus and thereafter I could barely put the book down until I'd finished. I can't say why exactly, just that it was a great read.

A few years ago I read another of Marika Cobbold's books, *Shooting Butterflies*, and I enjoyed it a lot too. I feel fairly confident that I will read *Frozen Music* again.

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### **Chrissy says**

Found myself completely absorbed by this book. I got the characters, I loved the friction and I enjoyed it all immensely. Perfect holiday reading for the grey rainy days we've been having! Thanks Linny and Trine, I'll definitely be reading more Marika Cobbold books.

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### **Mcvalens says**

very good, I am finding Swedish authors have a style I really enjoy. and now I know why my grandma liked her coffee and had cinnamon buns for dessert!

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### **Lisa says**

Frozen Music is the story of Linus and Esther. Linus is a solitary Swedish boy living in Gothenburg with his distant father and step-mother; a dreamy child with a buried sadness in his past Linus becomes an award winning architect, building beautiful but functional buildings and never quite getting to build his vision, his dream.

Esther meanwhile lives in a London with her parents, a cross, worrisome child, Esther questions everything much to the annoyance of her parents; her life is lived by a set of self imposed structure as she strives to find the answers to the questions that bother her. Becoming a journalist suits Esther's querying nature until her desire to do the right thing sends her into disarray.

The connection between Linus and Esther is their mother and stepmother who were old friends. At first the reader is given snippets of each of their lives as they grow up. Linus marries his first love, who turns out not to be much of a love and has a child. Esther, still questioning everything has not discovered true love but has become closer to her now divorced mother as they finally forge a relationship that works for them.

It is only when Linus's work crosses with Esther's work that they actually meet. Linus is about to achieve the pinnacle of his career, all his vision to come true in one building of his design but when Esther discovers it means an old couple losing their old family home, she has other plans.

When Esther's mother visits Sweden and her old friend Olivia, she has an accident which means Esther must go take care of her and again comes into contact with Linus and this time his family too. It is this enforced holiday on an island in Sweden with Linus and his eccentric family that Esther finally gets the answers to some of her questions but will it make her happy?

I loved this book. I loved Esther. She is one of the most self-deprecating heroines I've ever read. Faulty and quarrelsome but endearing, I loved the relationship with her mother and her quirky way of seeing things as a child. Linus too, a gentle man, bowed down by the force of his overbearing wife is a character that develops and endears. Both have something of the lost about them, both striving to find answers, confused by life and love.

There are some very funny bits in this book, the humour is wonderful and I loved the writing style. The story flowed and not once was I bored with any of the characters or the story..and the ending? Perfect.

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**Elaine Coupler says**

Frozen Music by Marika Cobbold. Do you ever look at people you see and wonder what their stories might be? Esther and Linus, the love duet in this novel, are most unlikely lovers. Their stories, personal and unique, weave through those of many other people and places until we finally see them for themselves about half way through the book when they meet. From then on they are various shades of enemies until the last page. Quite an interesting story.

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