



Searching for Steven

Jessica Redland

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When Sarah Peterson accepts her Auntie Kay's unexpected offer to take over her florist's shop, she's prepared for a change of job, home and lifestyle. What she isn't prepared for is the discovery of a scarily accurate clairvoyant reading that's been missing for twelve years. All her predictions have come true, except one: she's about to meet the man of her dreams. Oh, and his name is Steven.

Suddenly Stevens are everywhere. Could it be the window cleaner, the rep, the manager of the coffee shop, or any of the men she's met online?

On top of that, she finds herself quite attracted to a handsome web designer, but his name isn't even Steven...

During this unusual search, will Sarah find her destiny?

Searching for Steven Details

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From Reader Review Searching for Steven for online ebook

Paula Sealey says

A delightful novel following the escapades of Sarah as she attempts to complete a clairvoyants prediction and find the man of her dreams, who must be called Steven. But along with the Stevens, she meets Nick, and has to decide if she should follow what's in her head or her heart.

The addition of the clairvoyant reading added a lovely touch to this story, and I found the characters engaging. I liked Sarah, the protagonist, and her dilemma in finding a partner, and her best friends Clare and Elise were great supporting characters. A lovely read from this debut author.

*Thank you to the publishers for providing a review copy through NetGalley.

Arielle Deltoro says

Review originally posted on my blog <http://www.livinglifewithjoy.com>

I was recently introduced to Jessica Redland's writing in her novella Raving About Rhys and absolutely loved it! Upon finishing, I immediately added her to my list of go-to authors. I hope you find yourself doing the same after reading Searching for Steven!

Searching for Steven was a fun and compelling read. In hopes of never ending up alone, Sarah goes through a series of relationships. She's on the hunt to find and marry her true love and she's already a few years behind schedule in her big Life Plan. Her search for a soulmate takes a life-altering turn when she comes across something she thought she lost ages ago. She doesn't trust herself to make a decision without the use of post it notes and her two best friends Clare and Elise. After the help of her post-its and a few glasses of wine and conversation, Sarah finds herself on the hunt for love and searching for Steven.

Sarah's search brings up the main theme of the novel; what true love means and how to know when you've found it. It introduces the idea that just because two people are compatible on paper, doesn't mean that they'd make a good couple and be happy in a relationship. You have to have a spark and be attracted to that person, because without the attraction, they're just another friend or brotherly type of guy in your life. When searching for true love, one must look inside themselves to know if it's right or if it's wrong.

You can't force a relationship to happen just because you're scared you'll end up alone. That's no way to live; you have to allow it to happen naturally. You have to be honest with yourself if you're in it because you're afraid of ending up alone, or if you're in it because you can't imagine your life without this other person. You need to be in a relationship with someone that makes you the best version of you and loves you for who you are, not who they want you to be. How do you know when someone is The One? When you can't imagine your life without them and that even if you can't be with them, then you'd rather not be in a relationship at all.

This book was filled with lessons of life, love and happiness, but also instances of tragedy and moving on after tough times. Another theme that presented itself in this story was the idea that things aren't always as they seem and sometimes they're exactly what we didn't know we were looking for. There were a few major

twists and turns that truly surprised me and the ending wasn't at all what I was expecting, it was so much more. Thank you for penning a truly fabulous and compelling novel Jessica!

Memorable Moments:

I knew honesty was the foundation of a good relationship, but these were only little white lies, weren't they?

'I know you won't want to hear this, but you need to get over this ridiculous obsession with getting married; it's not the answer to life, the universe and everything you know.'

'This is you we're talking about. The girl with the Life Plan. The girl who uses post-it notes to make the key decisions in her life.'

My Rating: 5/5 Stars

Susan Buchanan says

Absolutely loved this book. It was light, adequately fluffy and I loved the premise for the story, not least because the exact same scenario happened to a friend of a friend! I loved the main character, Sarah, and how life had thrown her a few curveballs relationship-wise but that she had been offered a great opportunity in the sticks with her aunt's florist shop. The characters were endearing, from the auntie who had decided she was retiring and going travelling to the sexy window-cleaner called Steven who turned up with 3 kids. The two best friends who hated each other Elise and Clare only added to the enjoyment of the book. Lessons to be learned too in the sense of not everything is as it seems. The way Sarah meets the various Stevens in her life is fun and makes you want to keep reading. But meanwhile in the background there is of course another guy not called Steven. Will she decide that the psychic who told her she was going to meet a Steven was correct, or will she give the non-Steven a chance? Definitely worth a read. I immediately went to check out Jessica Redland's back catalogue I enjoyed this so much, and I will be reading Raving About Rhys shortly. A great new discovery. Love finding new authors. Perfect for all chick lit fans.

Whispering Stories says

Book Reviewed by Stacey on www.whisperingstories.com

Sarah Peterson has dumped her firefighter boyfriend Jason, given up her job in the city and moved back to the place she calls home. The night before she moves out of her apartment she discovers an old tape from an 18th birthday party she attended. The tape is of a clairvoyant reading she had done, but Sarah couldn't remember the reading due to being so drunk.

The clairvoyant tells Sarah how her life will progress in the next 15 years. Listening to it, twelve years after it was recorded, Sarah discovers everything the clairvoyant told her would happen, has, even to her moving back home and her new adventure. She also tells her that a new man will come into her life, this is the man for her. His name is Steven.

Now Sarah is seeing Steven's everywhere, starting with the window cleaner for her new florist shop,

‘Flowers’ gifted to her by her Aunty Kay who is off travelling around the world.

But with her eye on local man Nick, and her ex-boyfriend Jason turning up declaring his undying love for her, is Steven really the man for her?

Searching for Steven is an amusing look at one woman who desperately believes in love trying to find her happily-ever-after, she just needs to find the right man first and it seems that Steven is the one, well a clairvoyant has told her he is the one and everything else she told her has come true.

Sarah is a lovely young woman. I enjoyed getting to know her and follow her on her quest for true love. She also has two great best friends Claire and Elise (they can’t stand another). They are polar opposites. Claire is the posh, doesn’t want to settle down, likes to play the field, sceptical type woman who doesn’t believe a word that the clairvoyant has told Sarah. Elise married her true love many years ago, she is a big believer in ‘the one’ and a believer in what the clairvoyant had to say too.

With Steven’s everywhere, including those she meets via internet dating – I suppose it makes it easier to choose when you’re going by name and nothing else – surely there must be one with the right name waiting for her, but none seem right.

This is a great start to the ‘Welcome to Whitsborough Bay’ series. Jessica Redland’s writing is superb and the plot held my interest the whole way through. Does she end up with a Steven? You will have to read it yourself to find out.

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quote:

All that stuff today was just the icing on the cake; it’s all very nice but the cake is the best part and I already have the cake.

My Review:

I have gotten around to all the Whitsborough Bay stories and oddly enough have read the first one last, but it really didn’t matter, they could all stand on their own with independent and strong storylines. I have enjoyed this series with its quirky cast of characters and their amusing encounters and unique considerations. I hope there will be more as I enjoy Ms. Redland’s clever humor and engaging writing style. Her levity balances and tempers the angst and heart-squeezes. I adored the characters of Auntie Kay as well as Nick and Sarah and found Sarah’s attempts to locate her fated Steven to be pleasantly entertaining. The premise was original and interesting while the writing was fun and humorous yet also thoughtfully observant and insightful. And as always, Ms. Redland has provided me with new Brit vocabulary words, this time I have gleaned swot (studious), and pernickety (UK version of persnickety).

Debbie says

The blurb of this book made it sound really interesting, so I was glad when I received it after requesting it.

However, I think the story could have been shortened a WHOLE lot. I mean, it was a touching story, but towards the middle I was pretty much done with it. I skimmed a bunch of pages looking for some meat or something different to happen. But it never did. I also wanted to slap Sarah for staying with Jason after those gym memberships. Right there, I thought what an eejit, but I trudged on. And it was cumbersome. To me, this was more like a YA where teenagers would be having these thoughts, not women close to 30.

I gave the book 3 stars, an extra for the time the author put into it.

Thanks So Vain and Net Galley for this free e-galley in exchange for an honest review.

Misfits farm says

Sarah has a problem with her long term boyfriend Jason. Not only is he insensitive to her needs but he treats her like an unpaid skivvy. When she arrives home one night to find him on the sofa and the flat a total mess, enough is enough. By chance she contacts her Aunt and one thing leads to another and before she knows it she has moved house and changed jobs and is now the proud owner of "Flowers Florist". After discovering a long lost tape from a psychic when she was eighteen and several things already having been proven, Sarah she will follow the instructions that the love of her life will be a Steven and so the search begins. This is a wonderfully written lighthearted story that envelopes you warmly in its pages. You take to the characters and perhaps remember your own dating/university/beach/city days. I'm not normally into romance but this was something special, really special. So well written it brought a tear to my eye. We all need lifting sometimes and this is just the book to do it. If you are having a bad day pick this up and restore your faith in friendships and human nature. A real sparkling treasure of a read.

For more reviews please see my blog <http://nickibookblog.blogspot.co.uk/>
or follow me on Twitter @nickijmurphy1

Dash fan says

5? This truly is the perfect anytime read!

When Sarah, decides she's had enough of her fairly long term boyfriend they make an amicable decision to split up.

Sarah needs to get away so she goes to stay with her Aunt Kay.

However unbeknown to her Kay is eager to travel around the world with her friend and gets Sarah to agree to run the florist for her.

Whilst moving her things she comes across a tape of her goals and aims from her youth.

So far she's pretty much achieved not many of her goals.

But one thing stands out to her. She needs to find a Steven as he could hold the key to unlocking her heart.

I adored this charming and funny feel good read. I loved being a part of Sarah's quest to find 'the one'

The Characters are unique, fun and memorable.

The plot is engrossing, the writing style was engaging and entertaining and the romance fizzies along perfectly.

This truly is the perfect anytime read.

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/2018/0...>

Donna Maguire says

<https://donnasbookblog.wordpress.com/...>

This was a really fun book and I thoroughly enjoyed it!

It is a fairly light-hearted read and it is not a long book to read but it packs in quite a lot of content. I really enjoyed the characters and their interaction - but at times I did want to give Sarah a big shake!

The writing style was great for the story and spot on for this genre. I loved the ending and it was the perfect one for me, suited the book very well.

Four stars from me - an enjoyable read and definitely recommended to fans of romance/chick lit books - would be right up your street!

Margaret Madden says

This debut from Jessica Redmond is a little slice of chick-lit heaven. It has all the right ingredients; humour, romance, set-backs, misunderstandings and lots of best friend advice. Turning the pages of this novel is like picking up the phone to catch up with your childhood friend, who you haven't seen for a while. It's comfortable, heartwarming and endearing.

Sarah is far from perfect. She worries about her weight (don't we all), settles for the wrong men and depends a lot on her two best friend's opinions. When she relocates to her hometown, leaving her London life behind, she begins the search for Steven, which results in some hilarious encounters. Through it all, she has friends Elise and Clare, who are polar opposites but who have Sarah's best interests at heart. Aunty Kay is a wonderful character and I wish she was part of my life!

The writing is light, warm and flows nicely. Like all Rom-Coms, there is predictability, but the humour and clever character interaction keeps you hooked. The florist shop sounds divine and the local pubs and restaurants, featured in the book, make Sarah's hometown seem idyllic.

I am now officially a fan of Jessica Redland and can compare her with authors like Sophie Kinsella, Jenny Colgan and Claudia Carroll. Here's to another great women's fiction writer on the block...

Nina Silva says

We're back in Whitsborough Bay to join Sarah in her search for love. Being brought up in a loving home with two darling parents, has made Sarah determined to find everlasting love the way they did. She wades through life and boyfriends, not really finding the spark she's looking for until a fortune teller's message and an aunt's gift changes her direction.

The setting for this novel takes us back to Whitsborough Bay. The seaside town is enchantingly described. Forget the Cotswold, Jessica makes the northern English coast sound like the most idyllic place to be. It's the perfect backdrop for a romance story, yet not too much of the narrative is lost to unnecessary descriptions.

The main character, Sarah, is really well-drawn. We get a look into Sarah's, past, present and possible future. As Jessica's stories often span a time period of over a year, the reader also has a chance to witness the main character's evolution. There were times I would call Sarah, self-centred, whiny or mopey but it's all part of her growing up and taking control of her life. She's not perfect but she's perfectly likeable (most of the time!).

The secondary characters are cute and very useful plot devices. Sarah's best friends are Elise and Clare. They are polar opposites and irritate each other to no end! Their sparing, for the most part is very entertaining. Good luck to Sarah choosing a maid of honour between those two. That could seriously be the beginning of world war three. They are cleverly used as the angel and the devil sitting on Sarah's shoulders and push Sarah to consider her circumstances from different perspectives.

The male MC is so dreamy. I just want to snatch him right out of the story. We see mostly his positive sides as this story isn't so much about their relationship as it is about Sarah's growing up and taking control of her own destiny.

You don't need a clairvoyant to reveal that this is another clear winner from Jessica Redland. I look forward to reading more in the Whitsborough Bay series. I voluntarily reviewed this book provided by Rachel's Random Resources.

Rachel Gilbey says

I loved the idea behind this book, the idea of a clairvoyant accurately predicting the name of your future soul mate and the person you are destined to marry. It sounded like a great twist for a chick-lit book, so couldn't resist requesting a review copy via netgalley. This is my honest review.

When we first meet Sarah, it's her 29th birthday and she is half expecting a proposal from her boyfriend, but she is very disappointed by his present. Fast forward to her 30th birthday and we get an idea of what happened in the in-between months. Ultimately she breaks up with him, and runs back to Yorkshire and seeks solace with her Auntie Kay.

Her Auntie Kay has the opportunity of a lifetime for Sarah. She is gifting Sarah, her flower shop, as Kay is

about to go travelling around the world, and its Sarah's to do with as she likes. After a bit of deliberation Sarah decides to give it a go, she always was good at florist.

While packing up her life in London, Sarah and her two best friends Clara and Elise come across an old cassette tape, which turns out to be a reading a clairvoyant did for her, at a friends 18th birthday (Sarah was too drunk to remember the original), and is a forecast of what her life for the next 10-15 years will be like. Sarah is now 30, but can't resist listening to the tape to see what it says.

There are a lot of scarily true predictions, but the main thing that stands out, is that she will marry a man called Steven.

So as Sarah embarks on setting up her new business she is also hyper aware of any Stevens she meets. The search takes her through many hilarious encounters, and its hard to see how hard her heart is torn between an old flame, and a new potential flame, although one of them isn't called Steven.

Searching for Steven is a very entertaining story, full of moments that will make you chuckle. It is a book that will make you laugh and I loved seeing Sarah search for her soulmate.

Her two best friends are hilarious and complete opposites. Clara thinks clairvoyants are rubbish and is very sceptical, and Elise married her childhood sweetheart and is very into all that "hippy stuff".

I found Searching for Steven to be an enjoyable story, and I loved Sarah's complete belief in romance and true love. The assorted male interests in the story are from all ranges of the spectrum, especially the ones from the internet dating!

Els says

A lovely book with the right amount of laughter, tears, love, happiness and sadness. The happy end has a nice twist and the cover is also very well chosen.

I loved it.

Suze Lavender says

Sarah finally takes the decision to end a relationship that isn't right for her. She's now single again and still has to find her Mr. Right. When she finds a misplaced tape with a reading by a clairvoyant she can't wait to listen to it. She was drunk at the time of her reading and she can't remember any of it. The clairvoyant seems to know so much about Sarah's future, she's accurate and doesn't make any mistakes. Everything she said about Sarah has come true, so when she tells her she will find the love of her life Sarah knows what to do. The clairvoyant even has a name for her, the name of the man she's destined to be with is Steven.

Sarah's sweet and beloved aunt Kay has given Sarah her flower shop. She wants to travel around the world and Sarah is a gifted florist. All of a sudden Sarah is living her dream. She has a nice, new home, a great business and amazing friends. The only thing that's missing is Steven. The internet is the place where she'll be able to find him. Sarah meets with several Stevens, but none of them make her feel the way she feels

when she's with Nick. Only Nick isn't Steven and to make things more complicated her ex-boyfriend shows up to win her back, what is she supposed to do and will she find her happily ever after?

I liked this book so much. It's a wonderful, heartwarming story. It's perfect for anyone who believes in love or who wants to become a believer. Sarah is such a great heroine, she's lovely, but she's also scared and tends to run away when things get too awkward. That puts her in dire situations every now and then. She has quite a few lessons to learn before she's ready for real love. Searching for Steven is a book that will put a smile on your face and happiness in your heart. It's a definite must-read, because of the original story, the sympathetic characters, the beautiful setting and most of all the magical feeling of true love. I liked the creative aspect and the quest to find the one. This is a lovely feel-good book and one of the best romantic stories I've read in quite a while. It's a light, cheerful quality read that I enjoyed very much.

Kim says

Sarah agrees to take over her aunts florist shop meaning a total change in career, lifestyle and break up with her selfish boyfriend.

She returns home and unpacks several childhood boxes and comes across a tape from a clairvoyant. When she and her friends listen to it many things seem to have come true- but her true love is going to be called Steven.

Despite having met a man in the florist who sets the butterflies flying, she is desperate to start searching for a man called Steven. Her friends help her set up an online profile and she goes on some amusing dates. Is there a Steven out there for her.

I loved the description of the setting up of the florist and the way her business took off for her. Also loved the sound of Smuggles cottage and the small town sounds like a perfect place to live.

Where will her heart lead her- well worth a read to find out!
