



# Goodbye, Paris

*Anstey Harris*

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## Goodbye, Paris Anstey Harris

Jojo Moyes meets *Eleanor Oliphant* in *Goodbye, Paris*, an utterly charming novel that proves that sometimes you have to break your heart to make it whole.

Grace once had the beginnings of a promising musical career, but she hasn't been able to play her cello publicly since a traumatic event at music college years ago. Since then, she's built a quiet life for herself in her small English village, repairing instruments and nurturing her long-distance affair with David, the man who has helped her rebuild her life even as she puts her dreams of a family on hold until his children are old enough for him to leave his loveless marriage.

But when David saves the life of a woman in the Paris Metro, his resulting fame shines a light onto the real state of the relationship(s) in his life. Shattered, Grace hits rock bottom and abandons everything that has been important to her, including her dream of entering and winning the world's most important violin-making competition. Her closest friends—a charming elderly violinist with a secret love affair of his own, and her store clerk, a gifted but angst-ridden teenage girl—step in to help, but will their friendship be enough to help her pick up the pieces?

Filled with lovable, quirky characters, this poignant novel explores the realities of relationships and heartbreak and shows that when it comes to love, there's more than one way to find happiness.

## Goodbye, Paris Details

Date : Published August 7th 2018 by Touchstone (first published August 1st 2018)

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Author : Anstey Harris

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# From Reader Review Goodbye, Paris for online ebook

## Cindy Roesel says

After reading a barrage of thrillers and psychological dramas, it was more than satisfying to find the quirky GOOD-BYE, PARIS (Touchstone) on my to be read shelf. It's a delightful novel about having your heart-broken and finding happiness again. GOOD-BYE, PARIS is a cheery and incredibly satisfying read. Can you tell I liked it immensely?

Grace loves the cello. Grace loves David. Grace loves Paris, her violin shop and the charming gentleman who regularly shows up in her store. Grace even loves her rude, highly opinionated teenager store clerk, whom all the customers adore.

But when David saves a woman on the Paris Metro and becomes famous, his long-distance affair with Grace is open to public scrutiny and some unexpected hidden truths find the light.

"Sometimes you must have your heart-broken to make it whole." GOOD-BYE PARIS has been compared to Jojo Moyes meets Eleanor Oliphant. If you've read either, you'll find something very special in GOOD-BYE, PARIS ... plus, we discover another British author, who is making her debut across the pond.

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## Morgan Tallman says

Did I just stay up way past my bedtime reading this book? Yes i did! Do I regret it? Not one bit! I loved this story and became completely immersed in it! Following Grace, Nadia, and Mr. Williams as they go through changes in their lives; and while experiencing an in depth love of music was amazing to read.

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## Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

### 4 stars to Goodbye, Paris! ? ? ? ?

Wow, Grace, the main character in Goodbye, Paris is leading a complicated life. She had once been a prominent cellist, but something happened in college that has kept her from playing in public since. Grace leads a somewhat hidden life while she has a long-distance affair with a man named David who is married with children. She is tied to David and waiting for him to leave his marriage for her, but he openly refuses until his children are grown. And until that time, Grace waits.....

David gains unplanned public attention when he heroically saves a woman on the Metro. However, the fame comes at a cost: his privacy. Grace is left broken-hearted and is considering bowing out of the her cello-making competition into which she has put all of her energy.

Grace's saviors come in the forms of two unlikely friends, an eighty-year-old man and a teenage girl. How will this quirky pair help Grace put the pieces of her shattered life back together?

Goodbye, Paris is a charming, comforting story of overcoming obstacles and pain through friendship and

how a heart can mend itself with the bolstering of steadfast companions.

Thank you to Touchstone for the complimentary ARC. All opinions are my own.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: [www.jennifertarheelreader.com](http://www.jennifertarheelreader.com)

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## **Book of the Month says**

Why I Love It

by Steph Opitz

I think if the news cycle was less intense, or I wasn't in desperate need of a palate cleanser post-*Handmaid's Tale* and *Westworld*, I might have overlooked this book. I'm not naturally drawn to romantic stories (see above), and the idea of reading about a cello maker in the throes of a long-distance affair felt out of my wheelhouse. But skipping *Goodbye, Paris* would've been my loss.

From the beginning I was hooked: When David, married father of three, saves someone on a subway platform in Paris, the surveillance footage of the incident turns him into a national hero. Unfortunately, his valiance is captured right along with the fact that he is clearly on a night out with Grace, an instrument maker and former cello prodigy who is definitely not his wife. When the ensuing media whirlwind drags their infidelity into the limelight, Grace is left tending to her instruments and waiting for David to declare his marriage is over. But will she hold out for him to finally go all in with her, or begin to see her life's trajectory in a new light?

There are a lot of ways to read and enjoy the characters in this book. Hate-read David for any ex you need to remember and then excise (it's cathartic, I promise). Joy-read Mr. Williams and Nadia, an unusual pair of sidekicks and music enthusiasts who bring hope when Grace is in dire straits. And cheer-read Grace, who makes classical music exhilarating, who perseveres in the face of heartbreak, and is the unlikely, though very winning, hero of her own story.

Read more at: <https://www.bookofthemonth.com/goodby...>

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## **Fran says**

Grace Atherton was a promising cellist. Her mother worked two jobs and her dad was a mechanic. Her parents paid more for her cello than they did for the family car. They dreamed Grace's dreams. In her first year of college, Grace was traumatized. Criticism and humiliation destroyed her confidence. Her overly critical professor asked her to leave his music program. She never played cello in public again.

Grace found her calling. She became a luthier, a restorer and maker of violins and violas. She soon started to craft cellos as well. She played her cello alone in her house using it as a coping mechanism. She practiced for herself. A chance meeting at a party hooked her up with David, a married man. They had an instant connection, were head over heels in love. They visualized their future marriage and family when his young children were older. In the meantime, he lovingly showed Grace, by his thoughts and actions, that she was loved and highly valued. He surprised her by entering her in the Cremona Triennale Competition in Italy.

Held in Cremona, the birthplace of Antonio Stradivari, the judges would determine the top violin, viola, cello and bass. The winner in each category would find the prices of their instruments soar as a result of this recognition. Grace must now craft a flawless cello. Winning could fulfill her promises and dreams.

Recently, Grace and David had returned from a getaway in Paris. After attending a concert, they walked to the Metro. As the train approached, a young woman fell on the tracks. Without a second's thought, David jumped onto the tracks and was able to whisk her away moments before the train entered the station. Trying to avoid recognition, David and Grace went up the escalator to leave the Metro station. The public had other ideas. They wanted to acknowledge the gallant hero. CCTV footage revealed the mystery man, David and arguably proof of his dalliance with Grace. She was devastated. Back in England, Grace had been able to cultivate two friendships. Mr. Williams, a customer and eighty year old violinist and Nadia, her eighteen year old angst ridden shop assistant. Their support of downtrodden Grace helped her heal from her heartbreak.

Grace's job as luthier was fascinating. I learned that a cello never sounds as good on the first bowing. If a great instrument has been crafted, it will continue to sound better over the years of playing. The depth of sound will be conveyed through the rings and knots of the wood.

"Goodbye, Paris" by Anstey Harris is ultimately a novel showing that disappointment and heartbreak must not prevail. Support and encouragement can change a narrative and create a different path to happiness.

Thank you Touchstone and Anstey Harris for the opportunity to read "Goodbye, Paris" in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Cindy Burnett says**

I had to DNF this one about a third of the way through. Grace is in a bad relationship, and all she does is constantly talk about what will happen when the day comes, and they can truly be together (a day that the reader can see won't come). I couldn't decide whether to be super irritated or feel very very sorry for her. Either way it was painful.

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### **Jill says**

To paraphrase Forrest Gump, books are sometimes like a box of chocolates—you never know what you're going to get.

From the brief synopsis I read about Goodbye, Paris, I had pegged it as typical chick lit: interesting woman character, personal growth journey, woman hits bottom and rebounds, ends up knowing more about herself.

And yes, the structure is all there. BUT. And this is a big BUT. Anstey Harris can write and this story strains at its structure and ends up becoming absorbing and touching and downright good. Part of it, I think, is the character herself—Grace, a talented cellist who suffers from PTSD after a sadistic professor destroys her confidence. She now owns her own violin shop—she crafts cellos—and she's good at what she does. The author knows her stuff when it comes to the music world and that world comes alive.

The other main differentiator is Grace's love affair with David—a married man whom she meets on a regular basis in Paris. Anyone who has ever been under the spell of a narcissist will understand what Grace has opened herself up to. The surprises in that relationship keep coming, even when the reader believes she has figured it all out.

Add in a few more characters—the nuanced portrayal of Grace's teenage store assistant Nadia and her friendship with an elderly elegant gentleman Mr. Williams—and a fascinating world has been created. Although there is a little too much predictability in the ending for my taste, this is a fun ride and a great summer read that I will be recommending to friends. Thanks to the publisher, Touchstone, for allowing me to be an early reader in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Angela M says**

Comparisons to other books in book descriptions is a pet peeve of mine because most of the time I just don't see them. I've read and enjoyed several books by Jojo Moyes but I guess not the ones that this is compared too. I did read and love Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine and the comparison is thin at best. So if you are going into this looking for those stories, you may not find them. I didn't, but having said that, I found a sweet story in its own right and I wish publishers would promote a book on its own merits.

It was sad from the beginning - the status to which Grace Atherton elevates her boyfriend, David, her married boyfriend with a wife and children had me feeling sorry for her as she was just so gullible. I had such mixed feelings about Grace Atherton, about the story at first. I definitely didn't get why Grace hung in there with this guy for 8 years, believing that he'd leave his wife when the kids were grown. The story moves back and forth between the present and when they first met and recounts the times that they meet in Paris, when of course it's convenient for David. Grace is a luthier, making and repairing string instruments, a career she embarks on since she has been unable to play her cello after being thrown out of music school, when she believed she had a promising career as a musician. Eventually we discover some of the trauma that she experienced, but it isn't until the end that Grace discovers that it wasn't because of her lack of talent.

At some point, I became more engaged in the story with the introduction and connection to two other characters. Nadia is a teenage girl working in Grace's shop, a talented musician who is experiencing some typical teenage drama as well as the hurt over her parents marital problems and their lack of concern for her. Mr. Williams, an aging customer for whom she refurbishes an old violin made by a friend is lonely and has his own relationship stories to tell. I loved the kind and wise Mr. Williams. This unlikely trio of friends, three sad, lonely people help each other to heal, to overcome their grief and to find themselves. A little predictable, but I enjoyed it nonetheless.

I received an advanced copy of this book from Touchstone through NetGalley.

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### **Liz says**

The marketing for this book stated it was for fans of Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, which was a

favorite of mine. So, I had to give this a try. At the beginning, I didn't see the connection. Grace is already in a relationship, albeit with a married man. But while they are together in Paris, he saves a woman in the metro and their lives are changed.

The book is told from Grace's perspective and she paints David in a wonderful light. But I disliked him from the get go. Call it my personal quirk. I've got a real problem with adultery. I never buy the whole "staying together for the kids" BS.

But I loved the relationship between Grace and Nadia. And with Mr. Williams. It is like Eleanor in that these friendships are not the standard. Their initial bond is music. I am always in awe of writers that can translate making art or music onto the written page. Harris has that ability. "We are an engine, the three of us, and we play with exactness, precision. We play like we are making a pact with the devil." Harris also has the ability to describe the instruments. "The music this instrument makes warrants real, heavy words. It keeps making me think of food : of chocolate, of treacle, of dark burnt toast and melting yellow butter."

I read this as a real paper book and I have to say, I missed being able to highlight sections on my kindle. This for example: "Isn't that the beauty of life, Grace? Those unexpected moments where a turn that feels so wrong , so awkward at the time, blossoms into opportunities like this?" Or this: " We are two adults with a brief episode of shared past; he's not a monster and I'm not a failure. The past is mostly harmless."

I can't say I understood Grace's actions. I don't know that I've ever felt that amount of pain that I would do something like that. But the book ultimately is about learning from your mistakes and finding the strength to move on. It kept my interest and was a fascinating book. And keep the hanky nearby, you'll need it. Another favorite for 2018. Five big sweet stars.

My thanks to Touchstone for an advance copy of this book.

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## **Jenny says**

Anstey Harris choose the "feel good novel format " for Goodbye, Paris, her first novel. She fully embraces this genre. Every person involved in this story has problems or issues or woes. And in the feel good format, all are neatly resolved by novels end.

Grace Atherton has her life set. She repairs musical instruments in her shop, tends her home, and friends Nadia and Mr. Williams. Most importantly she waits patiently for the children of her married lover, David, to come of age so she and David can marry and live happily ever after. Life interferes with her plan.

Now crisis after crisis occurs. Drugs, pregnancy, damaged instruments, retaliation by David's other mistress, and stage fright are some of the problems.

For me the weakness of the novel is that every issue is resolved. Not only resolved but resolved neatly, kindly and efficiently. It is too perfect. It is too neat.

The book was eminently readable especially the descriptions of lovingly restoring the damaged instruments. If you suspend reality, you will love this book. But if reality creeps in, you will still enjoy it. I received an advance copy of this book from Netgalley. #netgalley #goodbyeparis

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## **Linda says**

If you put Paris on a book, it'll catch my eye every time, especially if the cover is as charming as this one. That was enough for me to add this to my reading list and enter the giveaway, but soon after, I was contacted by a representative of the publisher, offering me a copy of "Goodbye, Paris." If it hadn't been for the speed and ease in which I had received this, I would have done a little research and most likely deleted it, thinking it was just another love story--not my genre of choice, but this book turned out to be so much more.

In what I've observed to be a trend in the past several years, books are becoming larger and longer. It appears that some authors tend to use a lot of filler, which ruins what otherwise could have been a notable read. In this talented author's debut novel, she successfully gives the reader a look at one woman's life from childhood to present; filled with unique, lovable characters that you'd gladly welcome into your own world; scenes and actions so vividly written that they seem to appear before your eyes; and a storyline filled with a myriad of experiences and emotions in 277 pages. I thoroughly enjoyed this little gem of a book--such a welcome change to my usual reading choices.

I'd like to thank Isabel DaSilva and Touchstone Books for a copy of "Goodbye, Paris," and to say, "Hello, Anstey Harris. I thoroughly enjoyed your delightfully refreshing 'story of love' and very much look forward to reading your next book."

I definitely recommend!

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## **Noemie says**

Thank you to Touchstone Books for the free copy in exchange for my honest review! #partner

Grace Atherton is a lovely woman. She owns a stringed instrument shop, and makes/repairs beautiful instruments (cellos, violins, etc). She has a relationship of 8 years with her partner, David, whom she frequently meets in Paris for romantic rendezvous. One day, an unexpected event occurs, and she is faced with changes - what will her life look like now? How can she continue on?

This is a very sweet book, all about friendship, loss, love, and discovering yourself. The cast of characters - Grace, Mr. Williams, and Nadia - are a wonderful mismatched trio. I absolutely fell in love with these three characters, and loved the quirky moments & the development of their lives together.

I loved the tones of classical music throughout this book. All the mentions of symphonies & beautiful instruments & classical composers just made me want to go listen to this beautiful music! The author did a wonderful job tying this in, but not making it seem above the average reader's head.

This is a book that is well worth picking up!

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## **Liz Fenwick says**

Beautiful. Loved it.



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## **TL says**

received this via Goodreads Giveaways in exchange for an honest review. ?

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I am not really sure what to say about this book. On one hand, I did enjoy the story but on the other hand, it didn't hit me as deeply as I wanted it to.

I was side-eyeing Grace and David a lot during the first part of this (David more than Grace but still). Without saying too much, I've seen the song and dance before in books/tv shows/movies so I wasn't really surprised at what happened but I did want to kick his behind at a certain point.. for multiple reasons.

Mr. Williams.. loved him!:) Every time he came on the scene, it never failed to bring a smile to my face. Such a good kind soul:).

Nadia: I didn't feel attached to her for awhile but she slowly clawed her way in and grew on me. She had her share of problems but still soldiered on.

The friendship these three had with each other touched my heart:).

I was proud of Grace for getting back on her feet and (view spoiler). She kept herself going and didn't give up.

Why didn't this hit me more in the feels? I can't pinpoint it exactly.. (don't you hate when that happens?) It was more an overall feeling of disconnected-ness throughout.

I will revisit this again one day and see if I still feel the same (some books grow on you more with a second read).

Happy reading!

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## **Beyondthebookends says**

Thank you, Touchstone for my copy of this book. It will be released in about a week. This is a book about Grace a musician who has to come to terms with her life, her choices and find a way toward happiness. The beginning of the book was enjoyable but the book really develops as Grace comes to find herself. Her inter-generational friendships really brought this book to life for me.

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