



The Lipstick Chronicles: Book One: Men at Work/ By a Nose/ Landslide/ Tumbling Down

Kathryn Shay , Fiona Kelly , Vivian Leiber , Lynn Emery

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The hilariously sexy chronicle of five women at work, at play, and in love.

Together, Elyssa, Alix, Dana, Carole, and Robyn make up Allheart.com, the online greeting card company where romance is more than just business. With lives in progress and love in limbo, they aren't asking for much. Just a decent man, a good cocktail, and a close friend. In the meantime, two out of three ain't bad.

The Lipstick Chronicles: Book One: Men at Work/ By a Nose/ Landslide/ Tumbling Down Details

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Author : Kathryn Shay , Fiona Kelly , Vivian Leiber , Lynn Emery

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Chris says

annoying, all 4 stories were basically identical.

Michele says

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Together, Elyssa, Alix, Dana, Carole, and Robyn make up Allheart.com, the online greeting card company where romance is more than just business. With lives in progress and love in limbo, they aren't asking for much. Just a decent man, a good cocktail, and a close friend. In the meantime, two out of three ain't bad.

Kristin says

+I liked how the women worked at an online greeting card company!

-Unrealistic, cheesy, predictable.

-Dana's story wasn't in the book at all.

+/-The first two stories were OK and much better than the last two.

Fedora says

A mixed bag--this is about a group of five women who start an electronic greeting card business and become fast friends in the meantime.

Elyssa, the CEO, is a workaholic overachiever who meets her match in the head of a VC they approach for second round funding.

Robyn, the "gofer," meets the man of her dreams, Steve, a pianist at a local bar.

My favorite was Carole's story--she's a divorcee, and somewhat cautious of relationships since her ex was such a needy guy. She's used to be the caretaker, and is unsure how to let someone take care of her. She meets Mitch, a senator's aide, and is tempted but he's quite a bit younger than she is...

The last story was about Alix, whose life is turned upside down when her perfect guy turns out to be gay.

I'm curious to read more, but am not dying to run down the next book in the series.

Brandi says

I liked this book except for the very last section. I couldn't relate to it and I felt it was written poorly. Almost made the whole book a waste of time.

Rose Moore says

Warning: This review is not going to be a positive one, I'm sorry!

The Lipstick Chronicles is a romance/erotica collection of short, interconnected stories about five women who run/work at a greeting card company. First issue for me was that neither the fact that it was romance nor the fact that it was four short stories is advertised on the book! I'm not a fan of romance or short stories, so if this was clear from the blurb on the back, I wouldn't have picked the book up to start with.

The other major (and I mean, MAJOR) issue with the blurb on the back is that one of the stories described there simply isn't in the book. The back cover describes it as a "hilariously sexy chronicle of five women", and goes on to describe each of the women in a small paragraph, along with their "story". Four of these correspond to the four stories in the book. The fifth, Dana's story, is apparently about the "queen of the one night stands" who decides to go celibate, but is falling for her celibacy mentor. This actually sounded the most interesting to me, but it is simply not in the book. At all. Dana appears once or twice, but literally no mention is made of the description on the back. I feel like it's just... missing.

Of the four stories that did make it from the cover to the pages, three are... typical romance. Dull, sappy, ridiculous and predictable. They involve impossibly perfect men who fall madly in love with the women either at first sight or within a day or two. Unrealistic and impossibly satisfying sex is quickly followed by some kind of misunderstanding, which is then solved to allow each of the women to skip off into the sunset with their new love. The shorts also included some of the typical sexism and misogyny that plagues this genre. Every single one of these apparently successful and smart women loses it within moments of meeting "their" man, and starts to act possessive and bizarre after the first date. Demanding to know where it's going, assuming that if he is so much as speaking to another woman, it's grounds for ignoring, yelling, even throwing things at the poor man's head. Standard themes of being saved also run through the stories. Prepare for eye-rolling.

However, the final story, "Tumbling Down" actually went from eye-rollingly predictable "romance" into a very dangerous territory. The relationship here is between the company's graphic designer and an ad executive that is working with the company. First off, there are issues with the legality of these arrangements - he is simultaneously trying to convince her to come work for the agency AND boinking her brains out. Massively illegal ploy, and there would be huge ramifications about her going to work directly for him, but that doesn't bother anyone. In fact, her friends are egging her on (as were the friends of a character in another one of the stories, who decides to sleep with a potential investor. Because there is nothing wrong with that, apparently.). Even more disturbingly, the story continually and repeatedly romanticizes reluctance to the point of rape. Repeatedly, the main character tells the man in no uncertain terms that she doesn't want to sleep with him, that it's not ok because of their work connections, that it will not happen. Instead of respecting that in any way, he badgers her into admitting attraction to him, jumps on her to kiss her into submission, and even tells her that he is revoking the job offer! Words about reluctance and being "unable to resist" after he surprises her by leaping on her when she has already said no abound - it's supposed to be

sexy, but it's just creepy. It's also quite terrifying to think that this is being romanticized for readers.

Finally, the last story has overtones of homophobia - because Alix's ex is gay, constant and inappropriate references to AIDS are made. Clearly the author needs to do some research on why, exactly, HIV isn't a "gay problem" and hasn't been considered one since the 70s (when it still shouldn't have been). This attitude made it extremely difficult to finish reading - I was left with a nasty taste in my mouth.

In conclusion, I expected a chick lit novel. I was promised five stories and given four. Three of the four were mindless and predictable drivel, and one romanticized non-consent and had strong homophobic undertones. I wouldn't recommend this novel, and I would love to know what on earth the "authors" were thinking. (Also to tell them about the many spelling errors. It's a printed book, for goodness' sake! An editor should have caught these, at least)

Jennifer D. says

A quick, easy read. Purely entertainment as the stories that each of these women have aren't very realistic!

Tanya says

very good. now I'm wondering what is going to happen with Dana?

Sonya says

Classic "Chick-Lit" :)

Naomi says

Just like a relationship, sometimes, you ended up with the wrong person! So is with this book! I bought it at Border, Singapore. I've to admit that I don't have much time to scrutinize (yes,scrutinize)the store to find my "soulmate" and ended up buying this totally boring book!

But, sometimes, you just got to put up with the bore. Sometimes, we had to meet the wrong person in order to prepare ourselves for the right one.

Back to the book. Don't be discouraged by my mean comment! Some people might found the book interesting. So I'll leave it up to you. But still, to be honest, this one is definitely not my soulmate!

Bree says

It started off good. The details and set up were good. It was the fact that it got split into different stories that made it go down hill. Each story got shorted and the author must have assumed that since the characters were mentioned in an earlier story that the character was already established, which was clearly not the case. I lost interest and tried over and over to get back into it. I'm not going to finish it at this point and it has never taken me a month to read a book unless I just decided it's too crappy to finish. I can count that on one hand.

Deanne J says

There is no story for Dana. My favourite would be the last story about Alix and Marc Preston :)

Mary says

Nice bit of fluff.

Nikki (Saturday Nite Reader) says

Fun quick read. I liked how the book was divided into sections with different stories about each character.

Sarah says

Eh. Not that jazzed by this book. I finished it because I can't not finish a book once I've started. All four stories were predictable. And all the same. Just different characters. Just glad it's over.
