



## Looking for Leon

*Shirley Benton*

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Andie hadn't gambled on meeting the love of her life on a holiday in Las Vegas - but when she meets Leon, love suddenly seems like a bet she can win. That is, until the wheel of fortune steps in and separates them during a fire drill.

## Looking for Leon Details

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Author : Shirley Benton

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## From Reader Review Looking for Leon for online ebook

### Rabid Reader says

Fun romance read. The ending was no surprise for me, but it had a sweet HEA ending. It made me laugh out loud and shed tears multiple times, so it must be a 4 star book at least for me to feel those emotions. The characters were mostly engaging, but some parts dragged on a bit. This read was time well spent, but it won't be a book that lingers in my mind for weeks.

Strongly recommend reading on a Kindle device as there are colloquial Irish words interspersed throughout the book that are unfamiliar to US readers. It made the book more entertaining for me and feel more authentic, but some words required a quick lookup.

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### Marleen says

If I'm honest, I wasn't entirely sure whether I was going to like this book very much when I bought it. The blurb on the cover sounded interesting, but deep inside I was afraid I would find myself reading a all to predictable girl meets boy, girl loses boy, girl finds boy after all sort of story. Thankfully, this book turned out to be anything but predictable.

Yes, at the start of the story, Andie is in Las Vegas where she meets and bonds with Leon during a long evening and night only to be separated from him during a fire drill in the hotel. The girl has indeed lost her boy, and despite a frantic search and a few desperate publicity stunts, Andie fails to find Leon before she has to fly back to Dublin.

Back at her job, journalist Andie writes columns about meeting Leon, and her search for him and soon her stories capture the public's imagination. A broadcasting company takes up her story and sends her back to Vegas with a camera man to continue her search for the elusive Leon. When her story is also picked up in America, Andie finds herself with a ruthless publicist steering her in all sorts of unlikely directions in the search for the man of her dreams. A search that will have consequences that Andie couldn't have predicted or anticipated in a million years.

This is one action packed book. There is never a lull in the story. This is also a funny book with lots of laugh out loud moments as well as a sad and at times deep book. In fact, I don't think there is a human emotion that isn't covered in this book. And while that is definitely one of the strengths of this book, it was at times also a bit too much for me. I think I could have done with one or two moments to come up for breath and reflexion. At times the shifts between fun and serious were a little bit to abrupt for me.

Having said that, as first books go, this was a good read which I enjoyed very much. I had a huge smile on my face when I read the last words on the last page, and that is a very good way to finish reading a book. I will be keeping an eye on Shirley Benton in the future. I've got a feeling things can only get better, if this story is anything to go by.

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### Chani Altman says

### Maybe Still Looking

Overall, really a great read. Great characters to follow around through the story. Some major cliches, it that's alright. One pet peeve of mine is how the author filled in much of the story with dialogue that was purely to fill in gaps and was suppppper cheesy. Good twists and sweet story.

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### **Leah says**

When Andie Appleton goes on holiday to Las Vegas, the last thing she expects is to fall in love. But when she meets Leon, her attraction for him is instant and very much reciprocated. When they're separated during a fire drill, Andie ends up returning to Ireland alone, having been unable to find Leon. Andie ends up writing a series of columns about her search for Leon before her holiday ended and when Eire TV pick up on it, they send Andie back to Vegas with camera-man Colm to try and find Leon with no expense spared. Andie's search soon spirals out of control, and soon the entire world is gripped by Andie's search, everyone except Leon himself that is. Why, though, does Leon not want to be found?

Looking For Leon is Shirley Benton's debut novel, which first came to my attention in late 2009 when her book deal was announced. I thought her novel sounded very interesting and I was very keen to read it because the premise was so intriguing. It sounded like the ultimate romantic novel, showing the lengths something will go to find someone they had a connection with after one night in Vegas. I finally got my hands on a copy, thanks to Shirley herself and when it finally arrived after two torturous weeks I was eager to get stuck in.

Whenever I read a synopsis of a book, my imagination runs wild with the possibilities of what's going to happen. There's no doubt that the synopsis of a novel is what entices the reader in, and the synopsis for Looking For Leon sounded brilliant. I expected a mad-cap Vegas adventure as Andie desperately searches for the mysterious Leon. Unfortunately, my mind was wrong. Yes, there is a search for Leon but it's much more sedate than that. And to tell you the truth, it wasn't what I expected. Because despite the numerous interviews Andie does, there's very little physical 'searching' being done. It wasn't particularly fast-paced either and after a pretty speedy start, I found myself getting a little bored during the middle part of the book.

But like I said, the book starts well, if a little frantically. There's a funny exchange between Andie and her mother that made me laugh – about what happened to Andie's car when she was on holiday in Vegas, it 'met' some other cars! We then go back to the last night of Andie's holiday in Vegas when she met Leon, before coming back to the present. Andie's boss seizes on the idea of Andie's fruitless search that she concocted for her final day in Vegas and Andie ends up going back to Vegas in her bid to track Leon down. The book does suffer in the middle though because there is a bit of a lull in proceedings, despite Lindy's (Andie's PR agent) best efforts to make Andie look peculiar and a bit desperate. While Andie searches for Leon, she also has to put up with camera-man Colm whom she doesn't particularly like.

While Andie is a very likeable heroine, I wasn't a fan at all of the way she treats Colm during the novel. She's very mean to him at the beginning and treats him horribly for no real reason (because he apparently invaded her personal space). It rubbed me up the wrong way but I had a suspicious feeling as to why it was occurring. We don't know much about Leon, as he isn't in much of the novel but from what we learn, he's a man I could have grown to love had we had more of him. As for camera-man Colm, I liked him, despite Andie constantly ripping him to shreds about (gasp!) bringing biscuits from home! He didn't do anything majorly wrong, besides being a bit of a loner, and he was a wonderful character. Those three make up the bulk of the cast, with a few background characters, Lindy is one whom I didn't really like, and there's also Phillip who works at the MGM in Vegas and whom I adored!

What saved the book from being a total disaster for me was the ending. I was meandering towards the end, thinking that it wasn't what I expected, wondering why Leon hadn't turned up, consigning it to the scrap heap, when up popped the exact reason Leon hadn't been in touch. It shocked me completely and I wasn't expecting it at all, and after that I was desperate to finish the book, but now because I was fed up, but because I was eager to learn it all and see how it ended. I must admit, I knew early on how the book would end in certain ways, but the curve-ball that came was totally unexpected. So despite being luke-warm for the majority of the novel, I thought the ending really brought it up for me. Shirley Benton is definitely good at the curve-balls, and probably for the rest of the novel as well, I just expected a lot more than we were given, it has to be said. For the ending alone, I would recommend this book, and it does provide a few laughs (none more so that the car meeting other cars... the turn of phrase gets me even as I write this) and it also provides some very touching moments and I will absolutely be looking out for Shirley's second novel.

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### **Tashika Lordeus says**

#### **Disappointing**

The writing was subpar and all over the place. Even though it was a somewhat original premise, I finished the book feeling very disappointed.

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### **Aimee Rekoske says**

#### **Adorable**

I loved this book. The twists and turns of Andie's adventures made it a fun read. I recommend this book.

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### **Lynne says**

#### **The perfect book**

Impossible to put down, it made me laugh and cry and kept me thoroughly entertained. A great book by a great writer

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### **Gaufre says**

Skimmed more than read.

I have a hard time seeing why the heroine is so great that men kept falling head over heels for her. She is very much self-centered. It's like everything that happened is to help her deal with her issues. There is a major reveal/twist.

Not my sort of story.

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### **Vickie says**

This was a good book. The author tends to fill in events already past to make a point, otherwise great story

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### **Kit says**

#### **A fun read...**

Looking for Leon is a fun story with a whacky but likable protagonist. Like most of the romantic comedy genre it is a bit formulaic, but has well developed and fun characters.

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### **Melody Cox says**

Just not my cuppa. I didn't care for this story. I will have to remain mute on that subject lest I create a huge spoiler.

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### **denise mahers says**

#### **Heart warming**

I laughed, I gasped, and I cried. Loved this book so much I read it in 1 day as I couldn't put it down.

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### **Lisa says**

I loved this book. I really liked Andie, she was a believable and likeable character. Her crazy adventures while trying to find Leon had me laughing out loud. I couldn't wait to read what the next page had in store and as the book went on, the twists and turns left me hungry for more. I thought the relationships between the characters had authenticity, particularly the evolving friendship between Colm and Andie. The ending was just fantastic and I can't wait to read more from this author.

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### **Susan Donnelly says**

#### **Surprisingly Good Read**

This book was either a 99p one or even a freebie, can't remember. It did take me a little time to get into it and at one stage I was tempted to give up on it. However I'm glad I didn't. It's a basic girl meets boy, girl loses

boy and then finds another who she promptly loses also. I thought I had this book sussed until there was a change turn in it that physically made me gasp! From them on I continued to read. Main character Andie is a little annoying but most heroines are really when you think of it. It's a very thoughtful book with a few great twists to it. If you are looking to save some pennies or you can get it free then download it, you will be glad.

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### **Marion Morrison says**

One of my favorites this year.

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