



# True Love (and Other Lies)

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## True Love (and Other Lies) Whitney Gaskell

Travel writer Claire Spencer doesn't believe in fate, much less any part of that fairy tale, happy ending, love at first sight stuff. Especially not for Amazon-sized women like her. So when Jack, the sexy man who sits next to her on a flight from New York to London, asks her out, Claire figures there has to be a catch. Is he blind? Sleazy? On the rebound? But she decides to accept, and finds herself smitten and a little frightened at how happy she is with how fast things are moving.

While in London (on assignment for Sassy Seniors! magazine), Claire is also looking forward to seeing her best friend, Maddy, one of those impossibly gorgeous, if-I-didn't-love-her-I'd-hate-her women who's got everything in the world going for her--except that, for the first time in her trouble-free life, Maddy has just been dumped...by Jack. Claire's finally met what seems to be the perfect guy, and now the only way she can have him is by betraying her best friend. It's almost enough to make Claire believe in Fate, but if Fate does exist, it seems intent on screwing her over.

## True Love (and Other Lies) Details

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# From Reader Review True Love (and Other Lies) for online ebook

## Jessica Lawlor says

True Love (And Other Lies) by Whitney Gaskell tells the story of travel writer, Claire Spencer. Claire is not an extraordinary woman, by any means. Self-proclaimed as extra tall and curvacious, Claire doesn't feel attractive- especially next to her beautiful best friend Maddy who relocated to London a few years prior.

When Claire is traveling to London for work, she meets a very sexy man on the flight. His name is Jack and he is like no man Claire has ever dreamed of knowing. When Jack takes an interest in Claire, and asks to see her again in London, Claire gives him her number, but is convinced he won't call. When he does call and they go out on a few successful dates, Claire is thrilled to have finally found someone special- even if he does live on another continent.

In the meanwhile, Claire is concerned because her best friend Maddy is ignoring her phone calls. Claire finally gets a hold of Maddy and learns that Maddy's boyfriend has dumped her. Claire rushes to her side to console her. While she's with Maddy, Maddy's ex-boyfriend comes over to pick up his things and you'll never believe who the man at the door really is.

I loved this book! My favorite thing about it was that I randomly picked this book up at a book sale a few months back. I'd never previously heard about it or read about it on a blog; I just loved the title and decided to give it a try and I ended up loving it.

I really was able to resonate with Claire in this novel. We both love to travel and we both love writing. I feel the same way about Claire in regards to relationships and I was rooting for her the whole book to land the man of her dreams.

Even though I loved Claire, I did wish that she grew a bit of a thicker skin and defended herself more throughout the book. I won't go into more detail for fear of spoilers, but I think Claire could have been a tad bit stronger, especially since she was strong and determined in other areas of her life.

Overall, a very cute story that had me turning the pages. I finished it pretty quickly because I didn't want to put it down!

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## Dee Montoya says

\*\*\*\*\*5 Chocolate dipped Stars\*\*\*\*\*

So we've establish by now that I'm a sucker for a romantic comedy and *True Love and Other Lies* was every bit of funny and endearing, so great that I couldn't put it down and finished the whole book in less than twelve hours.

Claire is a thirty two year old writer with a terrible dating record, divorce is a common thing whiting her family and friends so she is jaded and even a little bitter when it comes to love. She is on her way to London on a work assignment and seating next to her in the plane is a very handsome man, the guy starts a conversation and against her previous plans of sleeping throughout the flight she can't resist the good-

looking and smart American who if she believed in love at first sight this guy would be definitely it.

Jack is completely smitten with Claire and so he asks her out and they spend a couple of very romantic days together in London where he currently lives; they have a lot of things in common and are totally perfect for each other, but just as Claire's luck would have it, there is a big catch in her incredible love affair, and she will find herself in a battle between heart and mind.

There's a lot of reasons why I loved this book, but the first one was definitely the honesty in which it was written; the characters were not only lovable but extremely relatable. Claire has a strong personality and she's made peace with her curvaceous appearance but like many of us she can't see in the mirror what others do, and that is that she is beautiful, sexy and very smart, she is also very cynical and is always waiting for the other shoe to drop when it comes to love. This story was simple yet highly entertaining, I find that stories like this that are able to captivate your emotions without any of the embellishing facts are my favorites. This book was extremely funny, I was laughing my ass off and found myself reminiscing with Claire about all those terrible first dates that we all in fact go through. This is a novel with great substance and I enjoyed it tremendously, without a doubt I will recommend this one to all my reader friends.

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### **Jennifer Vogel says**

NY-based travel writer Claire is bored with her life. Her last significant romance ended with him leaving the country to get away from her. When she is seated next to a sexy stranger on a flight to London, they hit it off and arrange to hook up after he ends his current unsatisfying relationship. Not expecting to ever see him again, she is surprised when he calls and arranges to show her around London.

Imagine her surprise when she discovers that her new man, Jack is Jack Harrison, the man that just dumped her best friend Maddy (though Maddy refers to him only as "Harrison"). It wouldn't be so bad - after all, she did not know who he was, except that Maddy is obsessed with getting back with Jack, while Claire might just be falling in love.

They continue to have a trans-Atlantic romance, and Claire never gets around to telling Maddy about it.

Claire suffers from self-esteem issues and can never really understand why Jack wants her. She is suspicious of his intentions, and it does not help when those closest to her feed into her ego problems. She has to decide...Does she betray her bestfriend or fall for Jack? Predictable ending. Easy read.

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### **Obsidian says**

So I have been reading Whitney Gaskell off and on for years. I noticed she hasn't put out something new in years though. I decided to do a re-read of some of the books I owned and I can't understand why I loved this book when I read it before. Maybe because I was younger and thought the whole plot was so romantic. Now I am older and call BS more I guess.

"True Love and Other Lies" follows Claire. Claire is a travel writer who has pretty much given up on love

after being shat upon by her ex called Sawyer (that name you guys). But she has an absolute awesome meet cute (yeah...it was alright) with a lawyer named Jack on her way to London. Claire feels herself getting excited about Jack, but second guesses everything he says and does after he expresses interest in seeing her while she is in London. A huge surprise is in store for Claire though when she finds out who Jack was dating before he started seeing her.

Claire was driving me up the wall through most of the book. She hates her job, has a dubious relationship with her sister (who she diagnoses as anorexic or bulimic) and acts like an asshole towards her parents when they make other holiday plans without her (this is after she goes into how she doesn't want to go out of town to see them) and also acts like a jerk towards her best friend Maddie when she makes other plans to go out and once again Claire doesn't want to see her since she has plans. Did you follow all that? Pretty much Claire wants everyone to be thinking about how her all the time while ignoring how she is not putting any effort into her personal relationships at all. She's also a jerk at work and I didn't find myself rooting for her at all. I think some of the characters she was tormenting would be writing into "Ask A Manager" cause of the crap she pulls.

I think I just got tired of Claire and her woe is me thing she had going through the whole book. Her own mother tells her she has self esteem issues. But honestly, I don't think that's it. She just acts contradictory about every little thing and it drives you up the wall.

The secondary characters don't work that well. There is Claire's best friend Maddie, that I wish we had gotten more details about since most of the book is about their relationship. And Claire's next door neighbor Max who I found to be off-putting the entire time I read about him.

I did love the writing about London and New York. I wish that we got more details about Claire's travel assignments, but we just get tidbits here and there.

Without giving away the plot, I no ma'amed through most of this book. I just could not with Claire and also side eyed the hell out Jack as well. When you get to the end things fall apart (the center cannot hold) with an explanation about things that did not make any sense at all.

The book fast forwards about a year or so though and we get a happily ever after.

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### **Missy Maloof says**

A love story, about a man that makes a women who believes herself unlovable by attractive men. To have it abruptly fall apart because of secrets. Then she must make some choices!

It is was good but not remarkable.....

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### **Leah says**

True Love (and Other Lies) tells the story of Claire, a travel writer for Sassy Seniors. She's single and doesn't believe in The One or Happy Ever After.

However, on a flight to London, she meets Jack, an attractive ex-pat and they spend the three days she has in

London together.

It's all going well, until it turns out Jack was seeing someone close to Claire... someone very close to Claire.

I first read True Love (and Other Lies) a year or so ago and thoroughly enjoyed it. Seeing a fellow blogger review it I decided to re-read it and review it myself.

I found it a bit slow-going second time around so it's probably a book you can only read once unlike some where you can read them again and again without questioning what the main characters of the book do.

However the book is still really enjoyable. At first the meeting of Claire & Jack seems fanciful and not something that would happen in real life. However all is revealed through-out the book – which is one of the reasons I loved the book. The fact that someone would go out of their way to do what they did made the book for me. Of course, what I'm saying sounds ridiculous but I can't mention what happens otherwise it spoils the magic of the book. Let me just say it's incredibly romantic and makes you say, "I wish that would happen to me!"

Second time around I found Claire a bit annoying. Going on and on and on and on and on about how fat you are compared to your best friend gets really annoying after a while. If, as Claire said, she was happy with her body she would not be comparing herself to Maddy or keep mentioning the fact she was Amazonian sized. However I enjoyed reading about her struggles in the office to have her column printed the way she wanted it to – sarcasm and all.

I liked Jack even when everything was revealed. Depending on your views the big reveal could make or break the book for you. I found it romantic and thus, it made the book for me. I thought he and Claire clicked and worked well together.

I liked Maddy but there were also huge dislikeable points about her. I thought she was a bit of a cow to Claire but I could also understand why she was so spiteful.

Overall it was an enjoyable novel, and a quick read at that. I love Little Black Dress books and this is one of my favourites. It's the ultimate in romance novel and is well worth a read.

Rating: 4/5

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### **Renee Barrette says**

It's been a long time since I've read a book that I just could not put down, and this was definitely a page-turner! I commend Whitney Gaskell for writing a fun, witty, smart book for women of all ages! Claire Spencer is a REAL woman, someone many of us chicas can relate to in real life, I know I did! I felt like at certain moments, I was reading about myself. SUCH a good read! I highly recommend!

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### **Katrina Passick Lumsden says**

Why do I keep having to read about women who allow others to treat them like garbage? Why is it somehow

noble amongst women to allow your "bestie" to abuse the shit out of you? I don't get it.

Should the Amazonian travel writer have told her best friend, "Hey, I just fucked your ex? Sorry, didn't know who he was at the time!"? Probably. Does that make what the best friend does at the end even *slightly* justified? (Here's a hint; your answer should be a resounding " **Fuck** no!").

Should said Amazonian travel writer put the needs of her abusive, self-absorbed best friend over her own happiness when said abusive, self-absorbed best friend obviously cares very little for anyone besides herself? Well, I guess if she wants to continue on the path of being a spineless doormat, sure. Just keep letting everyone walk all over you, sweetheart. It's very empowered.

I fucking hated these people.

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## Carrie says

I ended up skimming this one, in the hope that the ending would be different from my prediction. But nope, it turned out that I was right. I didn't like the main character at all. At first I was excited—here was a tall, voluptuous, sarcastic woman starring in her own chick lit. Finally! Alas, she secretly hates everyone around her and is jealous of them. I was sad for her and how much she felt like she was competing with her friend. Claire's kind of the worst.

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## Jaime says

I picked up this book while waiting at the library for my husband to pick me up and immediately got sucked into this story. While Claire isn't the most charismatic heroine I have ever read about, I identified with her immediately. I'm not sure if it was her job as a travel writer or her 'naturally bigger and curvy' body that made me 'click' with her, but I sure did in a hurry.

Gaskell mixes romance, sisterhood (and the lack thereof), and travel to create a contemporary romance that had me keep turning the pages as often as I could. Claire's voice is so strong and distinct that it was easy for me to lose myself in what was going on in her head.

I quite enjoyed how she incorporated the quirks of all the locations involved (New York and London, mainly) without turning it into a travel guide. My inner travel addict wanted a bit more, but I do think it was the perfect amount for the story.

My nitpick in this story is that it seemed to drag out a little too much for my tastes in the last third of the book. I thoroughly enjoyed the ending, but I felt like the author took just a bit too much time getting there.

The ending was a bit too nicely packaged up with a bow for my tastes as well, but I still enjoyed the happily ever after.

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## **Didi says**

Need a quick chick-lit fix, this was the first book I pounce upon entering the library. Skimming through the first paragraph and read this "The whole concept of a One True Love Who Completes Your Soul is total bullshit." Couldn't check it out fast enough.

Finished this in over 18hrs, 3.5 stars.

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## **Melissa Musko says**

Cute! Read this book on a Sunday...I love Claire...she is so relatable. The writing was funny and honest and the whole cast was great. Will def read another one of her books.

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## **Shelly Metzinger says**

Reminded me of a bad lifetime movie

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## **Meghan Cooper says**

I would, if half stars were allowed, give this book three and a half. I would have given it three but I gave it an extra half star for making me cry!

I really loved this book. I thought that everything about Jack and Claire's relationship was perfect and it was just the sort I thing I like to read so I can imagine me being in the girls position. When i say the relationship is perfect, I mean Jack is utterly the most dreamy guy every, he couldn't be any more doting, Jack could look like a dog and I would still marry him, but he is good looking to top it off! Enough of my raving about a fictional character! As you can probably see I have fallen in love with Jack the guy with whom Claire falls in love with.

i haven't though fallen in love with Claire. I'm sorry but she was not right to lead this novel. I am not just jealous either. I found Claire really negative, complaining, stupid, idiotic and annoying. She just couldn't seem to do ANYTHING right. And I mean anything. She was constantly moaning about the fact that she was a size fourteen and that she was fat and her friend was prettier. I wouldn't have minded a little but it was just over the top and she made me feel like she was calling me inadiquite (sorry cannot spell). Another thing that annoyed me about Claire is that she was so blind to what was in front of her eyes. She didn't seem to realise that Jack actually cared about her and that he loved her. I know that the point of the story was that she was meant to have loads of defenses up and she had a bad history. She didn't even have a history with anyone just a boyfriend who left her for another country, it would have been more beleivable if he had died or she had been married to a guy who cheated. I couldn't beleive that she was so negative about Jack at points calling him deceptive and a chaser! She frustrated me so much and I think that she ruined the whole book for me. The whole point of the story was that she was too scared to fall in love but it just didn't work for me. She had no reason to be really bitter!!

I found also that this author had an annoying habbit of going of on another subject and long speils of thoughts in the middle of a conversation. I am sure that lots of other authors do this, but I have never noticed this before now. It really annoyed me and it made the story really stoppy and starty. They would be in the



middle of a really important conversation and then Claire would start thinking and it would be a massive paragraph. It stopped my thought process and all of the conversations lost their momentum. It kind of ruined it.

I admit this book moved me to tears. I thought that I wasn't enjoying this book but then I started crying at an emotional point and I was like "Why am I crying". At two points in the story (both at the end) I was sobbing! I think that beneath all of the thoughts I had about the main character being annoying and negative, I actually got quite attached to the characters and I was actually upset for Claire. I cried for her. I couldn't believe it, somehow the author had managed to grab me and to make me actually feel for the characters.

That's why I recommend this book to all girls out there who love reading their chic flicks. I want to know if it was just me being a woosy or it was actually the book's fault. I also want to make everyone love Jack as much as me.

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## **Shruti says**

Sweet. Romantic. Funny. The best book to get you in a good mood.

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