



Welcome to Rosie Hopkins' Sweet Shop of Dreams

Jenny Colgan

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Were you a sherbet lemon or chocolate lime fan? Penny chews or hard boiled sweeties (you do get more for your money that way)? The jangle of your pocket money ...the rustle of the pink and green striped paper bag ...Rosie Hopkins thinks leaving her busy London life, and her boyfriend Gerard, to sort out her elderly Aunt Lilian's sweetshop in a small country village is going to be dull. Boy, is she wrong. Lilian Hopkins has spent her life running Lipton's sweetshop, through wartime and family feuds. As she struggles with the idea that it might finally be time to settle up, she also wrestles with the secret history hidden behind the jars of beautifully coloured sweets. Welcome to Rosie Hopkins' Sweetshop of Dreams - a novel - with recipes.

Winner of the RNA Romantic Novel of the Year Award 2013

Welcome to Rosie Hopkins' Sweet Shop of Dreams Details

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Author : Jenny Colgan

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From Reader Review Welcome to Rosie Hopkins' Sweet Shop of Dreams for online ebook

Rea Cobb says

After reading Meet Me at the Cupcake Cafe last year I have been eagerly awaiting a new book by Jenny Colgan to come out so you can imagine the expression on my face when I was contacted by Sphere Publishing and asked to review her new book I was over the moon and then when I read the press release and see the title of the book I knew this was going to be the book for me I LOVE SWEETS!!

Jenny Colgan brings us a unique storyline that must be everyone's dream come true. I mean who has never once in their life wanted to work in a sweet shop! I really enjoyed watching Rosie working to get the sweet shop back to its traditional glory, and when she finds the different kinds of sweets in the shop it had my mouth watering and me shooting back to my childhood remembering all my favourite penny sweets!

The storyline flows at a gentle pace which helps, along with the beautiful descriptive writing, to set the scene in the idyllic little village. There were a real mix of characters some who you love and some who you just have to roll your eyes at! Our main character Rosie is full of warmth and is at a dead end in her life we instantly pick up that Rosie isn't really happy with things in her life but we hope that by taking time out of her day to day routine that she will finally find some happiness by making some changes in her life. What I liked about this book was I was never quite sure how the story was going to end which made me keep turning the pages eager to see what was going to happen next.

There was plenty of humour in this book which only added to this perfect concoction to make a deliciously delightful read.

Aisyah ? says

Lovely novel, would recommend it for candy lovers seeking a light read while having a cup of tea (or coffee) on a cloudy day ~~any day in fact but the cloudy part makes it much more enticing to curl up on the couch reading this novel rather than going out.~~

TBH I like this book but I'm not crazy about it. It drags a little, especially during Rosie's great-aunt flashback scenes. I felt a huge urge to skip past a bunch of them. To me, these scenes are like the ones where there are tons of pages you've read but can't really remember what it was about. Filler stuff that don't really add much bores me, and I'm sad to say that this happened quite a number of times. There were a few LOL moments and some romance going on ~~duh~~, but in general this book failed to capture my complete attention and devotion to finish it. Not to say the writing wasn't good, it was nice and sweet but again not really my cup of tea... (view spoiler)

Of course, after finishing this book, I'm looking forward to trying out some of the 3579 types of candies mentioned in it... Moreover, there are also some recipes for sweets that the author swore she used and was highly successful, so there you go.

Candy out.

Ellie says

I'm not really a fan of chick-lit but I ran out of books while on holiday and thought meh might as well. The female protagonist really makes me cringe. At the start she acts very childishly about her relationship with Gerad, once she moves to the countryside she's just embarrassing and pathetic and it doesn't get better from then on. Nothing makes me hate a book more than a weak female character! Only good thing about this book was the sweets, all of the characters were poorly written and had very little depth and the plot wasn't believable at all.

Aleksandra says

Romantično, ali ne i patetično, optimistično, ali ne i površno, zabavno, ali ne i plitko, ukratko ovaj roman je nešto što mi je trenutno baš leglo. Nešto što podsjeća na radost života i uživanje u životnim radostima, nešto što, kao i proljeće koje je sad počelo, budi želju za prirodom, boravkom na otvorenom, pa čak i za promjenu našina života. Pomisliš kako bi bilo dobro pobjeći iz grada i početi neki novi život i posao na selu, ali...puste želje... Jenny Colgan je mogu reći moja nova omiljena autorica romana, za koje ne bih rekla da pripadaju chick litu, već zapravo onom, u filmskoj industriji već pomalo zaboravljenom, žanru dobrih, starih, finih romantičnih komedija, recimo sa Meg Ryan, pa stoga željno čekam nastavke ovog serijala o Rosie i njenoj prodavnici slatkiša iz snova, kako bih opet sa osmjehom okrenula posljednju stranicu romana i još dugo zadržala taj lijepi osjećaj da sam pročitala nešto sa ljubavlju napisano.

Dee says

When I saw the high ratings for this book I was really excited. I'm not a fan of chick lit but thought the idea of an old fashioned sweetshop being restored and someone falling in love with the country side after living in the city sounded charming.

Oh dear. I was really disappointed. I did not like any of the characters in this book. The protagonist, Rosie was really annoying. Her boyfriend made me cringe! Such a useless person attached to Mummy and is obsessed with food and himself. Who stays with someone for 8 years who is like that? it only took her over half the book to start sorting her head out! The back story concerning her aunt in the 1940's was nothing new or original, I have read that plot line so many times.

The characters were all, im sorry to say, so boring! I hate giving negative reviews but this book was a real chore. The two stars were for the writing. The writing was good, the plot...well...I think I have said enough. Such a shame when it could have been a really interesting story.

Susan Buchanan says

I loved this book from the start, mainly due to all the references to sweets and particularly all those old favourites, some typically Scottish. I could completely imagine myself in the little sweetshop I frequented before I went to school in the morning and this book definitely took me back. The characters were well drawn. I can't even choose a favourite character, as I would have difficulty choosing between them. I wasn't

particularly impressed with Rosie's boyfriend, but I wasn't meant to be, even if he did have some good points. The writer really managed to bring the village to life and I could even imagine the hill down to the farm that Rosie cycled down! The book is fun, but also addresses the more serious issue of Rosie looking after her ailing great aunt. This is the best Jenny Colgan book I have read and would actually make me go back and read others in her back catalogue which I haven't managed thus far.

I loved the flashbacks into Lilian's life and the parallels which were drawn.

There is something in this book for everyone and reflects all age groups - a great read.

Nancy says

This is literally a very sweet story. A young nurse goes to a small town to assist an elderly great aunt at her mother's request and finds a new life. She and her great aunt teach each other many things and both of them benefit from each others company. There were many great characters and the revival of the town sweet shop brings them all together. This was a very pleasant book to spend an afternoon with.

Deb says

Yes, there is a formula to Jenny Colgan's books but they never fail to bring cheer, offer a light breezy read & make me hungry. Rosie is a fun character as is her feisty great-aunt Lilian. No surprises in the story but it's sweet & fun.??I do feel like my Halloween candy bowl isn't nearly as interesting as the British sweets sold in the country sweetshop.

Jessica (Jess Hearts Books) says

Welcome to Rosie Hopkins' Sweetshop of Dreams was my first book by Jenny Colgan and I absolutely loved it! Her last two books have really appealed to me what with being a real foodie, and her pretty charming covers have really caught my eye. I think the concept of having a chick-lit novel intermingled with a delicious treat, in this case old fashioned sweets, is a bit of a genius idea as it really gives the sense that your indulging in something naughty but nice and it's refreshing to see a chick-lit novel that celebrates the joys of sweets instead of the heroine counting the calories and going on a diet in a bid to lose weight.

The book begins with our loveable heroine Rosie living out a pretty mundane existence. She's in a steady relationship and has a good job in a city that she loves. Rosie's always been a true Londoner and has never known anything else but the hustle and bustle of city life. So when she gets a call from her mum pulling in a family favour asking her to go and care for her Great Aunt Lilian in the countryside Rosie's not at all thrilled. But as she gets settled in and swept up in the gorgeous quaint country village of Lipton Rosie not only finds herself falling in love with this way of life and her aunt's old fashioned sweetshop but the people too particularly three strapping countrymen a doctor, his patient, and the local handy man who are a far cry from her high maintenance boyfriend back in London. Soon enough Rosie has some big decisions to make, return to the life she's always known? Or take a leap of faith into something new? And if she does take the plunge which local lads arms will she be falling into?

The story's told in an alternating narrative between Rosie and her Aunt Lilian. Rosie's chapters are told in present tense as she refurbishes Lipton's Sweetshop and Lilian's are told in the past tense taking us back as far as 1942 when she was a young lass running her family's sweetshop through war, heartbreak, and family

feuds. I have to admit that I did prefer Rosie's chapters simply because I found her more relatable than Lillian. But that being said Lillian's chapters were fascinating to read about and gave a little something extra to the story especially as we come to learn of Lillian's mistakes and regrets and how they start to mirror Rosie's own situation. There's a strong moral of living with no regrets, of taking what you want from life, and learning from past mistakes.

I absolutely fell in love with the Hopkins' Sweetshop. The way that Jenny Colgan describes the sweets and scenery was so vivid that my mouth would water as I imagined the sweet sugary scent which made me nostalgic (not to mention hungry!) for the sweets I enjoyed as a child. Chocolate Limes, Flying Saucers, and great big thick slabs of creamy Fudge they're all here and celebrated in this book. I particularly enjoyed the sections on sweets taken from Lillian's recipe book at the beginning of every chapter particularly the one about life being like a bag of Revels rather than a box of chocolates!

Overall Welcome to Rosie Hopkins' Sweetshop of Dreams is a charming and delicious treat of a book for foodies and chick-lit fans alike. The blend of sweet nostalgia, warm characters, and yummy men make it a book good enough to be eaten up in one single satisfying bite.

Amalia Gavea says

This was such an enjoyable quick read! I didn't believe I actually love this novel, but I did and I am glad, because - every once in a while - I need a light read to unwind from all the doom and gloom of my regular reading choices. To find a book that is cheerful and quirky, but not silly or centered around a sloppy romance, is a real discovery.

The blurb of the edition I bought mentions the word *indulgence* and it pretty much summarizes the essence of Jenny Colgan's novel. Throughout the book, we find the personal notes of Lillian, the fascinating, formidable elderly owner of the sweetshop, and they are a true delight. Chocolate, caramel, strawberry, licorice, mint, blackcurrant, nothing's missing. It is Lillian that Rosie, a young auxiliary nurse, comes to help and it is Lillian's personal story, set during the Second World War, that gives this special touch to the novel.

Lillian is a fascinating lady, full of strength, and determination. Rosie is also a wonderful heroine. She is optimistic, friendly, with some insecurities, just like every human being. That is why I couldn't believe how she could have fallen in love with Gerard, who is basically a couch potato, with the personality of a doormat, and the dictionary definition of the term "momma's boy". In Greece, we have a word for people like him but best not translate it here...(view spoiler)

There are two very interesting male characters. Moray, the young doctor of the small town, and Stephen, a young man with a strange wound and an even stranger personality. Moray is kind, polite, a true gentleman, whereas Stephen is like a wounded animal trapped in a cage, too afraid to break the bars and walk out. He has a whole lot of darkness to fight against. It was really interesting to come across such a troubled character in a chic-lit novel, although I cannot say I am an expert of the genre.

The interactions between the characters are realistic, funny (where needed) and believable, the romance of the story is well-grounded, neither naive, nor too dramatic, and the descriptions of the English countryside of Derbyshire are vivid, beautiful, full of the quiriness that is the main characteristic of all small towns, regardless the country. The end is satisfying, well-rounded and, somehow, bittersweet, but full of hope and new beginnings.

This isn't a beach read like many critics have mentioned. It is a book for summer, for autumn, for spring and

winter. It will warm your heart and make you consider the moment when we need a new start.

Anja says

Rosie lives in London with her long-term boyfriend. She is an auxiliary nurse, but currently unemployed. So her mother asks her (the only unemployed in the family AND the only nurse) to go to the small village of Lipton for a short time and care for her great-aunt Lillian. Lillian herself owns a sweetshop, which has clearly seen better days and which Rosie is supposed to bring back to life, so that someone can finally buy it off her great-aunt.

At first, all Rosie wants is to go back to London, her boyfriend (who doesn't seem to want to pop the important question) and her their normal life. But soon things start to change: Rosie finds new friends, falls in love with the shop and finally begins to reconsider her choices...

Oooh, I loved the story. It was gorgeous. What I loved the most was that you didn't only get to know all about Rosie and her life, but also about Lillian and her own love story from nearly 70 years ago. I love stuff like that. ♥ You could witness her falling in love and how that ended and how all these things from the past are related to the present. That was really great. ♥

Rosie's Prince Charming (well, almost, ha ha) was nice as well, although not my very favourite of all time or something. Also, I loved Lillian. At first, she seemed a bit grumpy or something and you got the image that she didn't really want Rosie in her cottage, but that changed quickly and the more you got to know about her past, the more you liked her. ♥

It was a really lovely story, most of all because of that back-in-the-wartime-part. I can definitely recommend it! ♥

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

Rosie has a rather stagnant life. She lives in London with her boyfriend of seven years, Gerard. She is an auxiliary nurse with a few good friends. She is over thirty, bored yet rather complacent. She gets a phone call from her mother in Australia. Her Great Aunt Lillian, who lived in the small village of Lipton needs some help. She is in her 80s and her health is failing. She needs to sell her sweet shop and cottage and move into a care facility and Rosie is the closest relative, who is also single, who is available to help. Of course this storyline alone becomes rather humorous at times as well as thought provoking, but there is another story also being told. Lillian is remembering her life as a teenager and telling the story of the young man she falls in love with and the trials they had in this relationship, such as it was. Lillian is a wonderful character, she is not growing old gracefully, fighting tooth and nail to hold on to her independence; she's feisty, stubborn and sharp tongued. When she and Rosie first meet there is a certain amount of animosity, but that gradually disappears and they begin to care very much for one another.

Lipton is full of delightful characters as well as several good looking men from the jovial Moray to flirtatious Jake and the stubborn, handsome Stephen. Rosie's journey throughout the book is funny and insightful. Rosie barges into the lives of the villagers and encourages them to question their decisions and situations. From children, to parents, to her Aunt Lillian she touches everyone's life she meets. She also examines her own life and decisions to make the changes that will push her to try love again. Rosie made me want to head to Lipton just to meet her. She has an ability to laugh at herself and analyze her situations to a point that I want to get

her opinions over a cup of cocoa and some chocolate. There are some great lessons in this novel. Lillian teaches Rosie, and us, to grab life and stop letting it pass us by while she herself gradually learns that we all need a little help sometimes.

I listened to the audio book and really enjoyed the narration. It made the characters come alive for me. It was relatively long, but it certainly kept my interest throughout. I recommend this story to anyone at a crossroads in their life, those who enjoy chick-lit and those who love sweets.

Nicki says

Well I have mixed feelings about this book as I didn't finish it, not because it was rubbish but because it annoyed me. I liked the main character Rosie and Lillian was fine for an embittered old woman. I couldn't get on with the two time frames at all and this made it too hard to enjoy from the beginning. I liked the whole idea of an old fashioned sweet shop, but there were too many things going on in the story for me to concentrate and enjoy it. I was going to carry on but in the end I couldn't be bothered as the storyline just got more unbelievable. I know it's chick lit and I should have switched my brain off whilst I read it, but as I really enjoyed 'Meet Me At The Cupcake Cafe' and thought this might be similar.

Rosie Read says

The only real way I can think of describing Colgan's book is delightful, but I am afraid that that makes it come across as absurdly twee and saccharine when it isn't at all. Sweet Shop definitely has hidden depths.

Rosie is cajoled into leaving her somewhat anticlimactic London life to visit and care for her Great Aunt Lillian. Rosie is your somewhat typical 'Bridget Jones' character; thirty-something, bored and disenchanted with her job and life in general. Juxtaposed with Rosie's somewhat monochrome existence is the riotous colour recollection of Lillian's dramatic World War adolescence. Lillian is a wonderful secondary character, she is most assuredly not growing old gracefully, fighting tooth and nail to hold on to her independence; she's feisty, stubborn and sharp tongued.

Lipton, possibly the most adorable village ever, is full of a delightful cast of characters and, apparently, a whole host of single, good looking men from the jovial Moray to flirtatious Jake and the Mr Rochester-esque Stephen. Rosie's journey throughout the book is funny and insightful. Rosie is definitely one of those heroines who whirls into your life and encourages you to question your own decisions and your own situation. She's also one of those wonderfully witty, self deprecating and down-to-earth heroines you want to sit down with and share a bag of chocolate eclairs.

Sweet Shop is nothing if not a life affirming novel. Lillian teaches Rosie, and us, to grab life and stop letting it pass us by while she herself gradually learns that we all need a little help sometimes. I cannot recommend this book enough; it's the perfect treat on a late summer evening. Before you start though, I do suggest you take a trip to your local sweetshop before hand, it'll save a desperate scramble for some cherry lips or pear drops halfway through the book.

Full review at [Rosie Reads Romance](#)

Sophie says

How on earth did I spend 36 years on this planet and not read any Colgan books? This was just absolutely wonderful! I laughed out loud, I teared up - a perfectly wonderful book.

The story features Rosie (well, of course) who is an auxiliary nurse stuck in a severe rut. Her great-aunt Lillian is poorly, and Rosie is cajoled into staying in the country with her to take care of her as she recovers, and to sell Lillian's sweet shop next door, in order for Lillian to go into a home. Rosie's adventures are funny and Rosie herself is a great girl you wish you knew yourself. But it is Lillian's story I loved most of all. It is told in flashbacks to the WWII years, and it broke my heart. I thought Colgan captured heartbreak (in various forms) extremely well.

Still, this was a book that I really didn't want to end, and I haven't felt that in a while. :-)
