



# My Lurid Past

*Lauren Henderson*

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**She's a bona fide man-eater.**

As a successful publicist specializing in the food trade, Juliet Cooper has never had any trouble meeting men; she just doesn't want them hanging around her London flat on a Sunday, asking her how she feels about her mother (who, for the record, hails from hell). After four years of serial dating Juliet's suddenly realized that men -- like big lunches -- have a tendency to repeat on you. But what else is a girl to do?

**She's hungry for love.**

Though Juliet secretly envies her friend Gillian's life -- The comfort and companionship of marriage? Lovely! -- Gillian said goodbye to her sex life when she said, "I do." And as much as Juliet likes sporting leather for her friend Mel's fetish parties, she's much too lazy to be a dominatrix. Fortunately, as Juliet masterminds the career of her new celebrity chef client Liam, who has the sex drive of a testosterone-crazed rhino, these friends are about to discover the truth about what women really want, and how sometimes -- against the odds -- they end up getting it.

## My Lurid Past Details

Date : Published November 4th 2003 by Gallery Books (first published April 18th 2002)

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Author : Lauren Henderson

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## From Reader Review My Lurid Past for online ebook

### Meredith Miller says

I do not know whether British society finds it acceptable to invite relative strangers up to their apartment and offer them cocaine after a brief encounter, but I found it a bit strange. Even if the book did not go into odd behaviors like S & M, fetishes and drugs, it was very predictable and boring. I did not find it erotic, just odd and boring. A definite "Skip It."

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### Hana Nur says

lurid indeed..not memorable, pretty common.in fact, i can't remember the story line.

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### Michelle says

chicklit

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### Kirsty Darbyshire says

When I read anything that falls into the category of "chick-lit" I usually feel, first, guilty for enjoying it, as if the mysteries that I usually read are somehow a higher form of art than these books, and second, disappointed that it's never as good or interesting as I'd like it to be. This however is a cracking read and is full of wonderful characters and well plotted to boot.

It should be noted that all Lauren Henderson's books up to this one have been mysteries and that I've enjoyed them all. I did find some of the mysteries to be a little weak in the plot department but I think a mystery is intrinsically harder to plot than a book that doesn't contain an investigation that needs to bear some semblance to reality. Turning her hand to a non-mystery though Henderson shows exactly why I think mystery writers are better than most every other writer out there.

As with her Sam Jones' mysteries Henderson creates a great cast of characters here. The narrator is Juliet, a thirty-three year old working in public relations who has just realised that a life of casual sex and takeaways isn't doing it for her any more. Her star client at the moment is a newly famous TV chef who seemed very much modelled on Jamie Oliver without the wife and baby and with a wild side that allows him to actually get naked. Her best friends are a corsetted dominatrix and an unhappily married Sloane. In summary they sound a bit like stereotypes but they never seem stereotypical. Henderson fleshes them out more than enough to make you believe that they are real people with real lives, real problems and she creates real drama with them.

In short, I was looking forward to reading this but expecting it to fall short of what it could be. I'm glad it didn't and I really look forward to seeing what the author can do next.

### **Cat Parker says**

I was looking for a palette cleanser, something to read that didn't require too much thought, and I stumbled on My Lurid Past. I thought it looked like an easy read and it didn't disappoint. On the whole it was fairly predictable, but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

The story centres around Juliet, a partner in a PR company who seems to do a lot of drinking and cocaine while sleeping with as many men as fall at her feet. Inevitably, this lifestyle wears thin and she re-evaluates what she wants in a relationship. She was fairly likeable, once you get used to her being quite self absorbed. Her friends Gill and Mel are quite a contrast to herself, but they worked well in the story, as did her mother and brother. Henderson does build up a good picture of why she is like she is.

There were parts of the story that I found a little unnecessary, and I will admit to skim reading certain sections just to get to the point. Overall however, I enjoyed the book. It was what I wanted and expected from this genre. I would give this a 3.5 star rating.

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### **Heidi says**

This was a good book, its labeled as a romance comedy. But it was more comedy then anything. Different but still good.

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### **CLM says**

So far this is dreadful but I am waiting for the train and my only other option is the Bostonians. At least this book will fulfill its other role-that I can discard it and make room on my shelves...

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### **Kim says**

i thought "my lurid past" was a great little book. it was enjoyable british fun that i was able to temporarily shut my mind off, wind down, and just read. i appreciate the different stories of the main character and her friends and basically liked whom i was supposed to and disliked whom i was supposed to. the author made it quite simple.

i didn't necessarily appreciate the cocaine usage, but i don't think it interfered enough to make me dislike the characters or the story, and definitely not enough to make me stop reading it. fast paced, whimsical, charming, and flirty. just about anyone can relate to any given scene or character and i appreciate the ending wasn't handed to you on a silver platter, but left open for the reader too. it made it just as satisfying.

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### **Felicity says**

I have never really read any "chick lit" and only read this book because it was the only thing half decent looking in a charity shop, but I have to say, it is actually pretty good. A lot of it is cliched sub Sex and The City nonsense, but when it breaks out of this, there are a couple of gems. The difficult relationship with the main character and her family being the most interesting, as is the fact that she manages to be best friends with both a working class dominatrix and a posh housewife. Not a bad book at all.

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### **Amy says**

read again in August 2007. Surprising, since I didn't like it that much.

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### **CJ says**

The one word I would use to describe this book is filthy. The main character is a food public relations person representing a young chef who's doing his best to "shag" all the girls, snort all the cocaine, and drink all the alcohol in London. Juliet is doing her best to keep up with him. While I don't live like this, it was fun to read about other people who do. And as filthy as it was, it was the first book in a very long time that made me wish I was at home reading every second.

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### **Emilyandherlittlepinknotes says**

I picked up "My Lurid Past" attracted by the promise of a tarty bad chick lit, I wanted something sharp and cynical and that's precisely what I got. If you like a provocative heroine who makes her own rules and her own success this is the book for you.

Lauren is a satirical irreverent voice and I enjoyed her novel very much, Juliet's character is a captivating one, she is stuck at that point in which she can proclaim herself commitment phobic , scenario that is filling her with insecurities about her lifestyle, her career, her relationship with her family.

It's an amusing chick lit that involves some serious soul-searching, Juliet is a very likeable real character but her ways won't be appreciated by everybody so I wouldn't recommend it if you are a very conservative person who likes certain rules to be respected (it probably won't happen in this book).

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### **rainyfeathers says**

reread. Very slow paced. Not worth another read. It doesn't get better.

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### **Barbara Elsborg says**

I suspect this book would be an acquired taste for some. It's one you'll either love or hate. Almost a 4 stars for me because I really did like it and yet there was lots in it that made me squirm. The MC is a bit of a tart - though the author does show her trying to clean up her act. I loved the humour in this. Some great lines and though I was left feeling the MC didn't really deserve her happy ending, I thought the story offered an interesting insight into fast city life.

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### **Tony says**

I am not 100% sure as to what point the author was trying to make. Gender equality, single life v's married life, relationships with mothers, sexual diversity, drug use - they all got a bit of a run. In my mind, though it was an enjoyable enough light read, I felt it was fairly cliché and almost like episodes of Seinfeld and Sex in the City combined. There was opportunities for the author to really explore some of the themes and make some great points but it was almost like she lacked the confidence to do so and resorted to trying to 'shock' the reader with some of the behaviours. It is not a must read but would be a good holiday book to get through.

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