



Postcards from the Heart

Ella Griffin

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Life is looking up for Saffy. She has a great job, a gorgeous flat in the most desirable part of Dublin and - after six years - it looks like her boyfriend, Greg, is going to propose. Greg (just voted the 9th most eligible man in Ireland) is on a high, too - he's about to swap his part as a heart-throb in an Irish soap for a break in Hollywood. His best mate Conor wakes up every morning with Jess, the most beautiful woman on the planet but, even after seven years and two kids, she won't marry him. He spends his days teaching teenagers and his nights writing the book he hopes will change everything, including Jess's mind. But their happy endings are playing hard to get. It seems everyone's keeping secrets - one night stands, heartbreak, grief and loss are all in the mix. It's going to take some tough questions and even tougher answers before anyone's being honest - even with themselves.

Postcards from the Heart Details

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Author : Ella Griffin

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From Reader Review Postcards from the Heart for online ebook

Anne says

Postcards From The Heart is the debut novel from Irish author Ella Griffin. The novel is warm, funny, engaging and full of emotion and places Ella Griffin well and truly up there with some of the best modern female Irish authors. Anyone who enjoys Marian Keyes, Cathy Kelly or Patricia Scanlan is going to really enjoy this.

If this were a film, it would be a rom-com, definitely funny and most definitely full of romance, but not slushy or overly sweet - it's down to earth and Griffin's characters are likeable and well drawn. The story revolves around two couples - best friends for years but living very different lifestyles. Saffy and Gregg are rich, successful and famous whilst Conor and Jess are poor but very happy. It's about falling in love, hanging on to love, losing love and then finding it again.

There are some complex relationships, not least between Saffy and her mother, and at times the story is very emotional, yet even when dealing with the heavy issues, the touch of humour is always there in the background. Jess and Conor's twin children are amazing characters with both of them having some fabulous one-liners.

I think Ella Griffin has a real hit with this novel and I'm looking forward to reading more from her.

Anne says

Really enjoyed this one - well written chick lit that had just the right balance of crisis, tragedy and humour with some very well drawn characters. Sadly this was a really bad manuscript proof that distracted me at times - couldn't understand why Conor + Jess signed their texts "B" and "D" and at one point I got confused between the mother's cancer consultant and the missing hamster. Lovely book though - looking forward to her next, Marian Keyes watch your back!

Nathalie says

I'd read a few good reviews of this, so I bought it to see what it was like for myself. I must admit, I found it really really hard to get into this at first. I'm not really sure why, maybe the pace was a bit slow, maybe I had a bit of difficulty getting the hang of who people were.. but I did struggle with it for a bit. I am really pleased I stuck with it though - once I managed to get in it, I flew through it!

I will definitely be reading Ella Griffin's book.

Susan says

I was devastated when I finished "Postcards from the Heart" because it was so beautifully written, a great story with numerous plots that all interweave seamlessly drawing you into each character's life. I couldn't put this book down. Ella Griffin is one of those rare storytellers that uses language so effortlessly, so as you're reading you get right inside each character - feeling their emotions as well as experiencing the event. There are so many wonderful scenes - my top two favourites are the champagne restaurant scene early on in the book, and the old lady in the hospital elevator at the end. In between both these scenes it's an incredible journey of hilarity and sadness - a real page turner. This is one of very few novels that made a big impact on

me. It's going to be picked up and made into a movie for sure.

Carol W says

There are 3 stories unfolding in this delightful read.

Saffy and Greg are the couple about town. He is the soap hunk, with a funny problem with sayings, and she has a successful career in advertising. The novel begins on Valentine's night, when Saffy feels sure Greg is about to propose. Disaster strikes at the restaurant.

Conor and Jess are comfortable with each other, having lived together for 7 years and having twins, Lizzie and Luke. Jess is quite happy with the ways things are....or is she?

Saffy has a strained relationship with her mother and the reason for this is deep-rooted and is revealed in the novel. Circumstances are about to change this relationship.

The Postcards from the Heart actually came from a source that I had not guessed. I would like to have seen more of this part of the story earlier in the novel, but it was a very moving part of the novel.

Ella Griffin has written a comman tale of relationships but given it more of a rollercoaster ride. Her comic timing at some of the most poignant moments was fabulous. I would just be feeling emotional and a laugh would come along.

4 out of 5 for me!

review copy

Chloe says

Saffy finally feels like everything in her life is going right for her. She's got a great job that she loves, a beautiful expensive apartment, best friends and she is sure her boyfriend Greg Gleeson is going to propose to her at last! Greg, however, seems a bit more focused on his television career and cracking Hollywood than he is settling down anytime soon but he doesn't want to tell Saffy that. Their best friends Conor and Jess have it pretty good too. Jess doesn't ever want to get married but is happy in her relationship with Conor and their twins, and despite the fact Conor would love nothing more than to make Jess his wife, he's happy just being with her and trying to write his book. But there are secrets all around that are threatening to ruin everything the four friends have ever worked for – will the truth make or break these friendships and relationships once and for all?

This is Irish author Ella Griffin's debut novel, and a very good one it is too! I was impressed when I received the book because there on the front cover was a quote from Marian Keyes saying what a good author Griffin is, so that's a pretty good recommendation to go by, especially for a debut author! I have to say I really don't like the cover – it is quite bland and dull, and certainly doesn't stand out against some of the other books I have received lately which is a shame, but as the age old adage goes... never judge a book by its cover and I am glad I didn't on this case. Inside is a really good debut novel and it certainly makes me keen to read more from Griffin, a new promising voice in Irish chick-lit!

The book begins introducing us to Saffy and Greg, a couple who on the surface look very much in love, and like the perfect couple. Greg is a TV star and very famous and good-looking, and Saffy is happy to sit in the background, except when the female attention towards her boyfriend gets too much for her. Straight away, I took a dislike to Greg – he seemed too cocky and dismissive of Saffy, and I could see that he was going to be a real problem for Saffy and her needs. He was arrogant, cocky and certainly the male character we are supposed to hate in the book, and Griffin has written him well, although perhaps a bit of a cliché. Saffy on the hand I really liked – she was cool, calm and collected despite what Greg does to her, but I did want to give her a bit of a shake at times as she did seem a bit too oblivious to Greg's negative sides too much.

The other main characters are Conor and Jess, who also happen to be Saffy and Greg's best friends. Their story is very much the opposite of Greg and Saffy, they aren't rich, they work hard to get what they can for their young twins and seem very happy. I could relate much more to this couple than I ever could Greg and Saffy, and I am glad that Griffin chose to put some more down-to-earth characters into the book as well. I felt really sorry for Jess and Conor as things started to go wrong between them, and really wanted them to work at it, they are clearly very much in love but as usual a breakdown in communications is where things start to go wrong for them. Conor in particular was very sweet and I really liked him a lot, and while he did a few wrong things, I couldn't help but think his heart is in the right place!

The book is told in the third person and it worked really well for this book because of the amount of main characters, I was easily able to follow the four different story lines and also the more minor characters with ease too. As well as the issue of love and relationships which is the main theme of the book, Griffin also tackles some more serious issues within as well. Saffy's mother suffers a serious illness within, and Griffin uses this as a tool to not only develop this storyline in a touching and sincere way, it also gives her a chance to have a great storyline develop between Saffy and her mother Jill, and I thought this was very touching, despite its twists and turns along the way. This story easily sits in alongside the main plot, and works really well for me. I also have to mention the storyline with Joe and Liam, it was very well handled by the author again and I was really impressed how she has managed to squeeze so many serious topics into one book!

Overall, I was very impressed with this debut novel. It has a real warmth about it that made it very readable and despite the fact there is constantly a lot going on, I found it easy to follow and all the characters (bar Greg!) were very likeable and believable. I really felt for Saffy as she didn't have an easy time of it throughout the book but Griffin writes her in such a way that she is a strong character and holds the book together very well. The writing style was excellent and made for a pleasant reading experience, and I was especially taken with how sensitively Griffin tackles the more serious issues within the book. I would definitely recommend this excellent debut novel, and look forward to reading more from Ella Griffin in the future.

Jules (Never enough time to read) says

I loved it, I loved the characters and I loved the ending. I could have easily read more.

Julia Freitag says

For me personally the book came kind of at the right time because my mum had removed her breast too nearly at the exact time when i read about that in the book. That really depressed me, it was sad & the part about changing the drainage was too detailed for my taste. But the good thing was that I could read that book wherever I was, on the train, the bus, it was easy written & not something where you have to concentrate a lot. I liked the characters & what happened between them but for me the Becky- person was not necessary. I hated her & Conor in that part.

Additionally, I would recommend the book to my best friend (already did after finishing it that night) & think it was a great first novel by Ella Griffin!

Lucinda says

This novel i recently recived from a book blog (DizzyC'slittlebookblog.blogspot.com) and i am so grateful, as typically it is not something that i would usually pick off a shelf. It however completely and utterly supriised me and i found it to be most enjoyable. At times it made me laugh and at times i was literally in tears, it was so increadibly emotive and beautifully written. It is very detailed and descriptive and a truely beautiful love story.

For the avid reader and book lover, regardless of whatever particular genre you enjoy i would highly recommend this novel as it appeals to all readers and a wide audience. Take a look (you will not be disapointed!). x

Chrissy says

As I was coming to the end of 'Postcards from the heart' and really enjoying it I did that thing where you check to see what else the author has written hoping to enjoy another 10 or so books by her and I was devastated to find that this is Ella Griffin's first novel! Well, I mean devastated because now I'll have to wait for her to write another but also shocked because there's no way this reads like a first novel. Firstly, it is not only laugh-out-loud funny it is chuckle-uncontrollably-to-yourself-days-later-because-you-remember-a-line-that-you-laughed-out-loud-at-in-the-first-place. Greg in particular supplies some great one-liners despite or because he's self-obsessed, vain and deluded. The bit where he's dressed as celery has to be one of the funniest scenes ever. But it's also sob-out-loud sad when Griffin writes about Saffy's Mum's cancer and when she discovers something (I won't spoil it) about her Dad. You really get the impression that she knows the Mad Men type advertising world very well indeed and can write knowledgably about it and about the TV/film world. Above all this book moves effortlessly between all the characters keeping everything ticking along and resolving everything brilliantly at the end.

Victoria says

I really enjoyed this book. It was a little rollercoaster which had my emotional a little all over the place. I really liked the characters and could relate to them and understand why they made the decisions they did

even when it was something I didn't necessarily agree with. It was a heartwarming story of love in all its forms.

Anita says

Positives:

I like that no-one is perfect in this book. Everyone comes with their own baggage, everyone messes up, and there are consequences. Well written, believable dialogue and scenes. Lots of plot twists, so keeps you interested.

Negatives:

The number of plot twists are unbelievable. The main characters are all good looking, thin and young. Lots of the peripheral characters are bullies. Who would keep working at Komodo?

Overall: Readable.

p.s. Two of the character names in the main review are incorrect.

Diane says

Initially, I thought that the entire book will simply relate the struggles and challenges to that one great ending of the four characters. Surprisingly, the book caught so many issues about work, friendship and family life. This is one aspect of Griffin's writing I appreciate. People would always claim that when you found the one, things will suddenly fall to its right place. Apparently, real life works in the opposite. You found the one? You may find yourself in bliss but at the end of the day, you still have other issues in life.

The book carried out a lot of themes from love, friendship, betrayal, unfaithfulness, to which everyone can relate. In one way or another, each of us have experienced the struggle of the characters. Call me a pessimist but another point I love about the story, it's how Griffin made me see that everyone is perfectly imperfect and we are capable of messing up, at least once in our lifetime.

While the entire story relates about struggles, I noticed that the title of the book doesn't seem to fit as I was reading the initial chapters. Who was sending the postcards in the first place? The answer lies on the last chapters, which gave me my much appreciated unexpected endings. For those who have been reading my previous book reviews, you know how much I appreciate authors who are able to craft unexpected endings.

If I will rate Ella Griffin's book, I'll give it 4 out of 5 stars. The book gave me my much needed light read. It never gave me lessons and all those quotable quotes. However, some realizations about work, relationships, family and life are more than enough to make me love Griffin's first novel.

Book-shelf Shelf says

This book is simply brilliant, hilarious accounts of what it must be like to date someone who thinks they should be famous. I laughed all the way through the antics of the four friends/lovers. Will be straight on another of Ella's books as i love the Irish sense of humour and think Ella has it in bucket loads.

Penelope says

I'm always a little apprehensive when I try a chick lit novel by a new author, so many of them are badly written, filled with worn out cliches and unfunny asides and the authors just seems to be trying too hard. So when I started 'Postcards from the Heart' I was delighted to discover that this would not be the case with this book. Ella Griffin writes with the confidence of an established author and bring a deft and creative voice to this genre. Her characters are a delight, both those you love and those you hate, her plotting is nicely paced and keeps you guessing and there is a real sense of warmth to the writing that makes it infinitely readable, you just want to put off the housework and keep on reading. I finished the book with a tear in my eye and a great desire to see what Ms Griffin would come up with next. Hooray for a great new author!
