



The Year of Taking Chances

Lucy Diamond

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It's New Year's Eve, and Gemma and Spencer Bailey are throwing a house party. There's music, dancing, champagne and all their best friends under one roof. It's going to be a night to remember.

Also at the party is Caitlin, who has returned to the village to pack up her much-missed mum's house and to figure out what to do with her life; and Saffron, a PR executive who's keeping a secret which no amount of spin can change. The three women bond over Gemma's dodgy cocktails and fortune cookies, and vow to make this year their best one yet.

But as the following months unfold, Gemma, Saffron and Caitlin find themselves tested to their limits by shocking new developments. Family, love, work, home - all the things they've taken for granted - are thrown into disarray. Under pressure, they are each forced to rethink their lives and start over. But dare they take a chance on something new?

The Year of Taking Chances Details

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From Reader Review The Year of Taking Chances for online ebook

Sally Whiteside says

3 women, new years eve, fortune cookies. 3 very different lives. When the universe gives you a sign, take notice. Extremely enjoyable story.

Melanie Mole says

A lovely read :)

Koki says

Príbeh začína na Silvestra. Zhodou okolností sa práve v posledný deň v roku stretávajú/spoznávajú tri ženy, ktoré sú od seba veľmi odlišné. Gemma je šťastne vydatá žena v domácnosti, ktorá by sa rozdala ako manželovi Spencerovi, tak i svojim dvom ratoľstiam - pubertálnemu synovi Willovi a iba o niečo mladšej dcérke Darcey.

Caitlin je naopak nešťastná, pretože okrem toho, že sa s ňou rozišiel priateľ Flynn a svojimi krutými výrokmi jej poriadne podkopával sebavedomie, prišla ešte aj o prácu. Aby zmenila svoj život od základov, rozhodla sa opustiť mesto a vrátiť sa do rodného kraja. Tam, v dome, v ktorom vyrastala, ju čaká ťažká skúška. Potrebuje pretriediť veci po nedávno zosnulej matke. A popri tom narazí na tajomstvo, ktoré jej matka celé roky zamlčovala.

A nakoniec je tu Saffron, 38-ročná žena, ktorá svoj život zasvätila kariére. Darí sa jej v PR oblasti a má priateľa Maxa, s ktorým si výborne rozumie. Aby vyriešila navštevajúci problém a pretriedila si myšlienky, vyberie sa na predtýždeň víkend do Larkmeadu.

Osud tej noci zvedie všetky tieto ženy dokopy. Do nového roka majú mnoho prianí, všetky však veria hlavne v to, že bude dobrý. Ten najlepší. Zvyšok recenzie je tu: <http://kokina1.blogspot.sk/2016/05/bu...>

Hannah Symonds says

I have read quite a few of Lucy's books now and they never fail to disappoint. You do feel as if you know all the characters personally and Lucy brings real life problems to her stories which people will be able to sympathise with. Brilliant story, Brilliant characters and a Brilliant author. Will really be looking forward to Lucy Diamond's next book.

Hannah Clarke (Love Books Actually) says

I picked this book up by chance in my local library and I'm pleased I did, after reading a few reviews I knew I had picked a fab read.

The book kicks off at a house party, New Year's Eve and hiding out in the kitchen are three women who have just met for the first time.

Gemma the hostess of the party, happily married to Spencer living in their new house with their two children.

Caitlin an old school friend of Spencer's who has returned to the village to sort her mums house who sadly passed and to figure out what's next in her life.

Saffron a PR executive taking a break from life, staying in the cottage next door to Gemma, with no one to greet her and with no help when the electrics go out decides to pop next door to seek help.

The three women brought together by the party, bond over dodgy cocktails, fortune cookies and making New Year resolutions.

The three main characters were likeable from the start, the storyline too was very easy to get into and believable. We follow the three women throughout the year, each chapter switching to each character. I always enjoy books that are written this way, reading each characters point of view always gives you that extra insight into their mind.

Over the next few months Gemma, Saffron and Caitlin face change and they are forced to adapt to their new situations. Throughout the changes, struggles and opportunities arise for the three women and they are all made to rethink their choices in life.

I felt that the story was to teach us that change although sometimes can be daunting, it can always be a good thing and helps us to learn, be brave and take risks and to take the positive out of any situation. However much you plan things never go the way they should!

Throughout this review I know I haven't gone into depth about the storyline itself, with a few secrets and twists I would hate to give away any spoilers and ruin it for others. I would class this book as a feel good read, although the story hits some tough times for each character, the close friendship they form is really heart warming and made me think of my own support network and how grateful I am. Lovely read and I recommend!

Karen says

It is New Year's Eve and three women come together, purely by circumstance, who can have no idea of how important their evolving friendship will become as each faces difficulties and changes in their lives.

This was another lovely story of friendship and drama from Lucy Diamond, she has just the right touch with her characters, some are flawed but they are all realistic and believable. I warmed to each of the three women straight away and was hoping that all would turn out well for them. One character in particular, who I initially took a dislike to turned out to be an unexpected delight. The story was structured so that each of the three stories were combined seamlessly into a humorous and heart-warming read. I enjoyed every page and look forward to reading more by this author.

Lucy Robinson says

Another cracker from Lucy Diamond that had me gripped. There is such wonderful warmth in her writing; such a strong sense of the kindness of the human spirit. In spite of the struggles encountered by the novel's heroines it was a shining tale of positivity, bravery and - let's be honest here - the kick-ass brilliance of women! A truly gorgeous story.

Elke says

Wat een heerlijk boek om het jaar mee te beginnen. Heb gelijk meer boeken van haar besteld. Echt van die zoetsappige boeken. ik snap dat het geen hoogwaardige literatuur is en dan 5 sterren misschien iets teveel van het goede is, maar ik heb nou eenmaal erg van dit boek genoten. Ja het einde is een beetje voorspelbaar en cliché, maar Who cares. Lucy Diamond kan gewoon goed schrijven. Moeilijk om dit boek weg te leggen. De karakters zijn zeer goed uitgewerkt en het leest alsof je een film of serie kijkt. Ik hou er van. Hopen op nog heel veel fijne Lucy Diamond boeken!!

Jules (Never enough time to read) says

Just the type of cheesy, romantic and drama filled chick lit I love.

I'm off to look for more books by Lucy Diamond...

✿ Cristina ? says

DNF at page 180.

I'm just not interested in this at all.

Simona says

Book provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Three different women, three different stories... But they are all connected and it all starts New Year's Eve, with some resolutions.

Each one of them is in for something new and changes are ahead. Can they stand the pressure and be strong?!

When Gemma's husband Spencer has an accident Gemma sees her family life turned upside down. Spencer

is not the same anymore and they kids... Then Spencer is gone...

Saffron is pregnant, but what about the father?! She writes him a letter, but finds out weeks later that she didn't post it. Now she has to face him and tell him the truth. And she is also in for a change in her job and living situation.

Caitlin finds out something that might change her life and she meets a guy, but is he the right one for her?!

The three women bond and built up a strong friendship. I was glad they had each other throughout the story and they were always there for each other. They also build up a great business.

This book is about family and friendship, the good and bad times and so much more. Lucy found a great way to include all three women into the story, change the perspective from chapter to chapter. I liked them all from the start and enjoyed being part of their story.

I loved how they all had their own story to tell, but then it was one story combining the three of them - great! Oh and the title is perfect for the book...

Rating: 4.5

Book Addict Shaun says

New Year's Eve is a funny time of year, and my least favourite. I spend each one reflecting on the year just gone, and on the one ahead and each year my thoughts become more negative and I vow to do something to change that. I hate the fakeness of it, whether that be making resolutions you'll have forgotten about by February or having to wish family members you can't stand the rest of the year 'All the best'. I've never liked it, that said Lucy Diamond is one of my favourite Women's Fiction writers (The Beach Café being one of my favourites), and I couldn't pass up the opportunity to read this book. It being New Year and the characters making resolutions is just the basis of the story though, and there's so much more to the story. I was only a couple of chapters in when I realised I was in for the long haul. Don't start this book unless you have a very clear schedule!

What I love about Lucy's books is her ability to create realistic characters, strong women not without their flaws but real characters that female readers can really get behind, and relate to. Here we have three very different women and even in the opening chapters I found myself understanding the fears that Gemma was expressing about her life. Overhearing her daughter describing her as 'just a Mum' has thrown her a little bit, does she want to be 'just a Mum' when her friends are juggling motherhood and successful careers? I don't have children but still at just 24 am not fulfilling any dreams I might have had growing up, children say it like it is and so how would one that knows me describe me? It was certainly a wake-up call for Gemma and the start of her journey in the book. Caitlin has returned to the village to pack up her Mum's house and to figure out what to do with her life while Saffron, a PR executive is hiding a secret that even her talents can't make any better. These three women bond at Gemma's New Year's Eve party, making a promise that the upcoming year will be their best one yet. Little do they know that it's not going to be easy.

Despite my dislike of the New Year and what it signifies I found myself completely enthralled reading about the lives of these three women, Gemma especially, each almost having to find themselves again as they attempt to better their lives and themselves. Lucy handles some sensitive subjects expertly but rather than the

book becoming dull or morbid it is infused with humour throughout, bringing some real laugh out loud moments and leaving you with a smile on your face. There are some emotional parts in the book as well, I found myself really caring for these characters from very early on and felt as if I knew them so really felt an emotional connection towards them. If I'm honest I was a little sad when the book was over! I loved spending a few days in the company of these characters, and I think Lucy Diamond fans are going to completely love this book too. It's shown me that perhaps the resolutions we make are possible, it just requires real effort. Seeing these characters better themselves, and finding happiness has left me wanting to do the same thing. It is a life-affirming read, and a book I think is perfect for kicking off your reading year. How long until the next book Lucy?

Thanks to the publisher for the review copy.

Tóra says

This is chick-lit and feel-good at its best! A gorgeous story about three women, who randomly meet at a New Year's party, and how their friendship becomes so dear to them. I definitely enjoyed this book mostly because of its humour; I found myself smiling - even grinning - at it a couple of times, because it's just so spot on on the subject of being a modern woman: her relations, her love-life, children and career.

There was something about New Year's Eve that always brought her up a little short - that taking-stock moment when life seemed to hinge between two planes, past and future, and you were forced to examine exactly where you were.

The three women - Gemma, Caitlin and Saffron - have very different schedules and different dilemmas in their life. However, they join together and help each other whether it's familytrouble or business.

As said, I laughed quite often at this amazing book by Lucy Diamond. I even shed a few tears (which is just awkward in public transportation). I would definitely recommend this book to you if you like chick-lit, feel-good, humours books and women in all their normality.

Jessica (Jess Hearts Books) says

I started reading *The Year of Taking Chances* on New Year's Eve and it was the perfect book to start 2015 with! The book follows three characters who meet at a New Year's Eve party and whose lives intertwine as we follow them throughout the year.

My favourite character, and the main character of the story, is Gemma who has a picture perfect life until her husband is in a terrible accident that leaves him both depressed and unable to work. Now Gemma's struggling to make ends meet and to be the glue that holds her family together during such a hard time. Next up is Caitlin who lost the two most important people in her life in one day when her mum passed away and she returned home looking for comfort only to find her boyfriend cheating on her with a friend. Then there's Saffron who has just discovered that she's pregnant. The baby's father doesn't want to know and she's dreading telling her sister who is undergoing IVF trying to get pregnant. All three women are going through an awful time but are hopeful that a change will soon come.

What I really enjoyed about *The Year of Taking Chances* is how the book is about ordinary acts of bravery. All too often New Year is seen as a time for a dramatic lifestyle change and a strict list of resolutions but this book shows that a far better approach is to take small baby steps and make gradual changes towards the life you want. It made the book that much more relatable and inspiring to read and it was great to see each character slowly grow in confidence throughout the year.

Despite being busy with New Year celebrations I flew through this book because I was so caught up in the characters' lives. *The Year of Taking Chances* is a brilliant new year, new me book and is one that I'd recommend to anyone who is going through a tough time and hoping for a better year ahead.

Best Crime Books & More says

Apologies for those that don't want a lengthy or waffle like review but, well sometimes needs must. Many people know me for my Book Blogging and other know me as a friend etc. What connection some people don't make is that I also run my own business. A business that was born from a seedling of an idea that came from a book by none other than the lovely Sue, or as others know her Lucy Diamond. For that reason even 5 years on, with my business growing at an alarming rate, but stresses of life getting me down a bit, I did what I have done in the past and turned to a book written by the wonderful lady herself.

I picked this one up as I still have a few of hers left that I haven't read and figured there was nothing better to lift me out of the gloom that a book written by Sue. Thankfully my wishes were granted as I raced through this book in one day, over two sittings and that feeling of gloom has lifted a little. The book was an absolute corker and brought me out of the feeling sorry for myself phase. Three women have a chance meeting at a New Years Eve Party and from that point on they all become intertwined in each others lives.

I particularly liked Gemma Bailey. The married Mum of two who seems to have a wonderfully settled life with a great husband and wonderful home, until an event changes her life in an instant. Then there is Caitlin who is trying to work through her grief after losing her Mum. She returns to Larkmead to try and sort out her Mum's house but whilst there she not only befriends Gemma and Saffron, but she discovers some things about herself which will alter her life. Saffron, the third and final of the trio is a PR exec just on a visit from London trying to clear her head.

These three characters were a pure joy to read about. Nothing about their journey's was easy, but they were done with the support of family and friends. The story kept me engaged from start to finish and I was genuinely annoyed to have finished. Luckily for me I have another couple of LD books to keep me going. Some may say this book is predictable, but for me this is the perfect balance. A sheer joy to read and another reason for me to thank my lucky stars that Sue managed to inspire enough confidence in me to give my own business a go.
