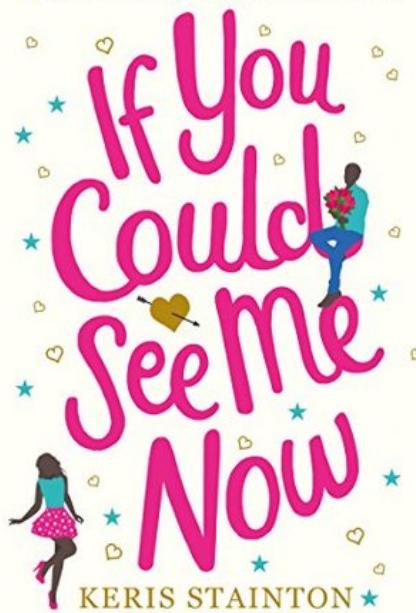


A laugh-out-loud romantic comedy about being your own hero



If You Could See Me Now

Keris Stainton

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Izzy Harris should have it all – but her boyfriend has been ignoring her for months, she's been overlooked for a promotion, and the owner of her local coffee shop perves on her every time she has a craving for a salted caramel muffin.

Then her life is unexpectedly turned upside down.

Izzy dumps her oblivious boyfriend, and leaps on the chance to win a big pitch at work. Needing to work closely with gorgeous colleague Alex is an added perk...

But then her best friend has her heart broken, the pitch is way more complicated than expected, and Alex is keeping secrets. Does Izzy have what it takes to help her friend, save her career and get the guy?

If You Could See Me Now Details

Date : Published August 4th 2017 by Bookouture

ISBN :

Author : Keris Stainton

Format : Kindle Edition 223 pages

Genre : Romance, Adult, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary, Fiction

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From Reader Review If You Could See Me Now for online ebook

Meggy says

Sometimes, timing is everything. **If You Could See Me Now was the perfect read I needed after a difficult story.** I'm sure it would also work for you after a long day at work, for an Saturday evening instead of going clubbing, or during your baby's nap in the afternoon. **In fact, this book is a remedy to life's pressure**, especially with a cuppa! (Tea, no alcohol!)

Have you ever felt invisible? Like no one really saw you. I remember feeling like this last Christmas when dishes were handed out in front of me without stopping. And all I did was stare and shut up. Now if you know me online, I am chatty and happy to share, and delightful, but this me, this real me, really has to try to exist in this world. The old Meggy was invisible. **Now it's Izzy's turn. And I mean it on every level.**

As you might have guessed, **I related to Izzy from the very beginning. A personality hidden by years of lack of confidence, a fear of change, a fear of not being loved for who you really are, a fear to exist. So Izzy stays in the grey.** A good job that she does without extra motivation, an unsatisfying but convenient relationship with someone who stopped looking at her as if she were the 9th Wonder of the World (I'm the 8th!), if he ever did. Been there, done that.

But everything in If You Could See Me Now is done with such humor, originality, and truth that no matter where you are in your life, you can only fall for this fun existential crisis which rings true and makes you laugh until you get cramps.

I was skeptical at her very special and literal wake up call for ... two minutes. The dialogs, intern and with her best friend, her thoughts, everything about Izzy is hilarious and fantastic and she's the only one not seeing it. So I believed in the story, and I believed in Izzy. I had all the reactions that were expected, the "OMG what a douchebag"; the "How is there always a cute guy around in books and never here with me??"; and the "**I need a BFF for whom sex is an acceptable subject at any hour!**" Except I am lucky to have that last point. No naming... Right Jill? So yes, there's quite some ... talks and adventures in this area, which the prude I am blushed at! But it was a key point in the story to make a turn towards more in depth analysis and the chuckles it gave me make me unable to resent the author! After all, I read the book in two hours. Had I not enjoyed it all, I would not have been so keen on reading!

Invisibility, true or not, is something we face when we need to grow up, to accept who we are, what we are not, and to decide what we want to be. Izzy learns her lesson the hard and visible way! But not everyone dares to take the step and the message behind the seemingly light story was perfectly conveyed.

Armed with the most amazing best friend and a yummy and oh-so-sweet guy, I rooted for Izzy with my whole heart, wishing her to be seen, recognized, and valued for what she is. But old habits and old protective walls are not so easy to dismantle, which made her journey so weird and genuine. **We all have those shameful moments, some of us are so shy the slightest interaction feels like a mountain. This is why the top of it is the most beautiful place. A place the author reminds us we can reach.**

If You Could See Me Now is a hilarious and shameless self-discovering story filled with extreme situations, amazingly endearing characters, and a feel-good sparkle that makes it a great read.

Thank you to Bookouture for letting me be a part of this blog tour!

Shalini says

I picked this book up for a lark, just by its cover. I needed something to perk me up and this book fit the bill perfectly.

Keris Stainton has done a fabulous job to write the book with over-the-top overtones.

Izzy after a night of drinks becomes invisible the next day and that starts the ball rolling...

I loved the way the author has developed Izzy from a quiet yes-girl to a confident young woman. It was just so uplifting.

Izzy and Tash's friendship was another sight to behold and their quirky banter had me in splits most of the time.

This book gives a nice break to the brain from the heavy reads and brings a smile to the face at Izzy's antics. Recommended when the brain needs a break and the face needs a smile...

Agi says

"If You Could See Me Now" was my first book by Keris Stainton, but also the author's first try at writing an adult novel, and heck, Ms Stainton, if they're going to be as brilliant as this book then pretty please, keep them coming! This book, guys, has totally taken me by surprise.

So, writing about such things as invisibility in woman's literature may be a very tricky thing - sometimes it works, more often it doesn't - but this time Keris Stainton has managed to really pull it off. It completely worked, even though - to be completely honest - at the beginning it was a bit confusing, this whole invisibility things as there was nothing explaining why this happened to Izzy. But the more I read, and especially after her becoming visible again, I just had a feeling that I've got it, this invisibility thing - Izzy changed, started to appreciate herself, to believe in herself, stopped to fear to stand out, and I really liked this message!

The author has delivered a brilliant funny, captivating and different story. She has created great characters,

added many moments of uncertainty, when you didn't know what's going to happen and how the plot is going to turn out. Keris Stainton's writing style is brilliantly light, entertaining and easy to follow and the story is fast - paced.

What was great was the depth of this novel. You know, there are really many laugh - out - loud or cringe with embarrassment moments but this book is so much more than meets the eye. It was about finding yourself and what it really is you want from your life, about overcoming your insecurities, realising how much you are really worth - so under all this lightness and humour here were many important and poignant messages to Izzy, and to us, and I truly appreciated how well the author has mixed it all.

So altogether, "If You Could See Me Now" was deliciously filthy, sexy, with a great balance between humour and seriousness and I totally enjoyed it. Already looking towards Keris Stainton's next release!

Copy provided by the publisher in return for an honest review.

Megan says

This book was advertised as a laugh-out-loud comedy but I didn't really find it very funny at all. What I found instead was a brilliant story about overcoming insecurities and finding your path in life. This was a beautiful journey of self-discovery for Izzy, that had so many poignant messages about society as a whole that I found it absolutely inspiring. It was sweet, sexy, romantic and totally addictive. I quickly devoured this book and now I'm sad it's over. I want to say so much more but I feel that I would spoil it by doing so. I went into this book completely blind (not having read the blurb or anything other than liking the cover and seeing that it was a romantic comedy) and was blown away! You should do the same. Fantastic!

Charlotte Burns says

Review also posted on my blog.

If You Could See Me Now is Keris Stainton's first adult novel, but it reads like she's an expert in the genre. I deliberately didn't read too much about this one before picking it up, because I wanted to be surprised. From the line "Apparently, I'm fucking invisible", I was hooked. What's not to love about a story of an invisible woman?

I loved that the story was about Izzy being physically invisible whilst dealing with being metaphorically invisible to those around her. She doesn't stand out. Her boyfriend, Max, barely notices her and she is always in the background at work. Then one day she becomes literally invisible, and through this, she learns to stand up for herself and make herself seen. She discovers what she wants from a relationship, what she wants from her job and what she wants from her life. I became so invested in Izzy's development and future that at one point, I shouted out loud and scared my dog. Keris also makes some really great and important commentary on gender, feminist issues and the male gaze. If You Could See Me Now strikes a great balance between serious issues and a laugh-out-loud story that keeps you wanting more. Keris is a wonderful writer. You should definitely get hold of this book.

Kirsty says

I thoroughly enjoyed Keris's latest novel. It was funny and thoughtful and had real heart.

If you could see me now is the story of Izzy. We've all been a bit like Izzy at some point. She puts up with a less than perfect relationship because it's easy. She puts up with a less than perfect job because it's easy. She never quite puts herself first or thinks about striving for more because what she has is fine. However this is about to change for Izzy.

Izzy wakes up one morning and finds that she is invisible. Being invisible gives her the opportunity to reevaluate her life (along with the help of her best friend) and opens Izzy's eyes to all of the things she's just put up with because they are comfortable and pushes her to strive for more and value herself more.

I loved following Izzy's story and particularly loved the relationships within the book particularly that between Izzy and her best friend.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed it and cannot wait for more from Keris.

Nina Rossing says

Funny, light, perfect for summer relaxation.

Michelle (Fluttering Butterflies) says

Soooo much fun. And it's funny and sexy and empowering. I loved it.

Gem ~ Bee says

This is such a delightfully funny feelgood book that is guaranteed to lift your spirits and provide all the feels! It has a supernatural element similar to that of Kitty French's Chapelwick mystery books and, like those, it completely works and provides such an original, captivating plot you are just hooked from the start. It is full of actual laugh out loud moments, so funny and so hilarious you can't even explain them if someone asks. Great characters, great writing and great plot. Definitely one to grab this summer.

Sophie says

Funny, sexy and feminist - Keris Stainton and adult fiction are totally a match made in heaven.

Fiona M says

Such a brilliant, fast paced sexy book. I loved all of it. Izzy is such a relatable character and it was brilliant to see her blossom, find courage to stand out and not care what others think anymore. I greatly enjoyed this book.

(I had to stop reading it on the plane because it was getting a bit steamy otherwise I would have read it in 1 sitting)

Mary Thomas says

Thanks to Netgalley for my copy.

3.5 stars really.

Izzy is in a crappy relationship and is treading water in her career. Her best friend Tash is in an open relationship and is frustrated with Izzy settling for the life she has.

Izzy wakes up hungover and has miraculously become invisible. I know right, it is a ridiculous over the top unbelievable scenario. But the ensuing chaos is very entertaining and delightful. Izzy and Tash are a wonderful pairing as best friends and some of their conversations made me laugh.

This is a great fun read that would be perfect for on the beach. The only thing is I felt the ending was rushed and left unanswered questions.

Sara says

A perfect example of a book that should be great on paper (cover+blurb+reviews) and then turns out so B.O.R.I.N.G.

Fist of all the plot is about Iz becoming invisible (I swear, I kid you not), and I don't mind a bit of magic in my romcoms but the reader should be warned somewhere it's that kind of book. The blurb says "Then her life is unexpectedly turned upside down." which is nowhere near "be ready to have an invisible main character." Also we have no explanation of where this magic comes from... no wish, no fairy godmother, no falling star.... nothing!

The language in the book is very foul. Again, I don't mind a bit of swearing where it's needed... but in this book I felt it was just over the top and uncalled for. Most of the "girl talk" was so gritty it made me cringe, as did some of Iz inner dialogue. I really felt it wasn't necessary. To give you an example, "pi\$\$ in my mouth" is a phrase I don't want to read in a romantic comedy, no matter the context. Sorry for grossing you out as well, but I felt the need to warn you.

If this wasn't enough the pacing of the book is so damn slow, boring to death. The romance weak and uninspiring... This whole story should become invisible.

My suggestion is to skip this one.

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novelgossip.com

What an absolutely fun read this turned out to be! It was different than what I was expecting, but I mean that in a good way. Without spoiling it, it gave me a Kitty French/Chapelwick series vibe and had a touch of magical realism that worked really well for me. It was highly original in both the concept and the characterization, I cannot wait to read more from Keris Stainton.

Izzy was such a fabulous character, she went through quite the transformation throughout the book and I was rooting for her the whole time. She's been a bit of a doormat her entire life and lets people walk all over her until something kind of crazy happens to her. Her best friend Tash was also fantastic, she's naughty and sassy and the perfect balance to Izzy's more subdued personality. When they were together they had me laughing so hard, there were SO many hilarious scenes in this book.

I loved the positivity throughout the book, it was super uplifting and lighthearted but it still had a powerful message of female empowerment that had me nodding my head in solidarity. It's a little risqué but in a wickedly funny way and while there was definitely romance, the entirety of the plot did not hinge on that aspect which was great! If you're looking for an original, easy weekend/vacation read this is it.

Lauren James says

A sweet story about a woman who wakes up one day to find herself invisible - and realises she has to use her words and actions to be seen, for the first time in her life.

Feminist, empowering, buttery and it's made me wish I was invisible too.
