



Mad Love

Nick Spalding

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Can two people who have never met make a marriage work? Popular dating site Sociality thinks so, and is marrying London lad Adam to California girl Jessica to prove it.

What better way to show that your 'love algorithms' work than to put two complete strangers together in an expensive publicity stunt? But, as livewire Jess and lazybones Adam quickly discover, just because a computer says you're the perfect match, it doesn't make it so!

Two million Sociality subscribers and the media are following the happy couple's progress, and they have to make a go of it or they'll lose everything, look like idiots, and destroy Sociality's reputation. But can the mismatched pair, who seem to be constantly at each other's throats, put their differences aside and work their way into each other's hearts?

Nick Spalding, bestselling author of *Fat Chance* and *Bricking It*, will make you cry with laughter at this story of marital warfare—complete with sinking boats, badly aimed flatulence, well aimed tennis balls and some very suggestive pastry.

Mad Love Details

Date : Published December 6th 2016 by Lake Union Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Nick Spalding

Format : Kindle Edition 316 pages

Genre : Fiction, Romance, Humor, Comedy, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Mad Love for online ebook

Teena in Toronto says

On a lark, strangers Adam and Jessica complete a profile on the dating site, Sociality ... Adam did his passing time while sitting on the toilet and Jessica did hers with a buzz on from some wine. Needless to say, neither was completely honest in their answers. They are paired as compatible and the prize is a fabulous wedding, a posh apartment for a year and some cash. They both go ahead with it for their own reasons.

As they live together, they discover the white lies each had told and that their personalities clash and it eventually blows up into a tense situation. If they back out, though, they lose the apartment and the money so both have to suck it up ... especially since Cassie, the owner of Sociality, is doing all she can to make it look like the two are deliriously happy and in love.

This is the third book I've read by this author and I enjoyed it. I liked the writing style ... it was funny and sarcastic. It is written in first person perspective, alternating between Adam and Jessica (the chapters are labeled so you know whose voice it is), plus blog and newspaper posts. The author is English and the story takes place in London so some of the references aren't common to North Americans. As a head's up, there is a lot of swearing and some adult activity.

I look forward to reading other books by this author.

Blog review post: <http://www.teenaintoronto.com/2016/11...>

Constantine says

Rating: 4.5/5.0

Witty, intelligent and very very funny.

I am not a big fan of humor or comedy genre books but this one was a big exception. I love everything about it and enjoyed it a lot. The three main characters Adam Holborne, Jessica Madison and Cassie McFlasteron are just hilarious. The situations and the events the characters go through are pathetically funny.

The story is basically about this dating online website run by Cassie McFlasteron which matches two persons together through an algorithm by computer, but the catch is that these strangers have to get married immediately in exchange of some benefits like a flat and other things. How can two total strangers cope with this situation? And were they really serious when they filled the application in the first place? That you need to read to know.

If this book did not make you laugh loudly, the least it will ensure there is a constant smile on your face while reading it. Reading this book is very much recommended specially if you need to read something light, funny but that is still filled with emotions.

Note: I have won a free copy of this book by participating in a giveaway.

Jacinta Carter says

Would you trust a dating app's algorithm so much that you would marry someone on first sight because the computer matched you with him or her? That's the situation Adam and Jessica find themselves in when their profiles are selected for a promotion that guarantees the site's foolproof ability to find two perfectly compatible singles. But, as expected, nothing goes quite as planned. Though many plot devices in this novel are fairly predictable, the two main characters are incredibly realistic and, though you often want to strangle them, you can't help but hope they put their differences aside and end up working out their differences. This story is ultimately a romantic comedy, and I would love to see it made into a movie eventually.

Siv30 says

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Alissa Haley says

I'd like to thank NetGalley and the publisher for providing me with a digital copy of this book!

Kat W says

At first I wasn't sure what to make of the story because of how wacky the introductions were for the two main characters. Shortly after, I decided that this book is HILARIOUS! This is an adult romantic comedy

that fulfills the promise of humor, satire, and laugh-out-loud humor at that. Really, I LOL'd. After reading this book, I really want to read more books by Spalding!

I loved everything from the quippy writing style to the main characters Jess and Adam, plus their supporting cast, to the crazy antics they go through and the jab at views on modern romance. Oh, and don't forget the jabs on the wonders of "reality" shows in the media.

What I loved:

The absolute appropriateness of the title because there is definitely more than a little madness going on.

Jess and Adam are very endearing characters and I love that Spalding has them tackle the smaller things in relationships, like personal idiosyncrasies and habits. It's all normal things that we do notice about people we live with, but you don't often see them brought to light in a story, perhaps from fear of sounding petty, when they are very much part of relationship's development.

I had so much fun with the writing, which I would describe as quippy and quite British in style. From a Californian's perspective, I do think Jess didn't sound quite Californian enough, but it's a small thing compared to how much I was enjoying reading her perspectives.

I thought the story itself was well paced, albeit fast, highly enjoyable and imaginable, sweet, and touching. I found myself surprisingly invested in this couple. And when a few events happened, I may have even shed a tear, which surprised me, because I was laughing so much and then bam, heart-jab. (view spoiler)

I had so much fun with this book. I look forward to more books by this author!

Note: ARC received from NetGalley. Thank you!

Christina Dudley says

This was a quick, amusing read which reminded me of binge-watching a romantic sitcom. The main characters are married at first sight as a marketing gimmick for an online dating site. Comedy ensues.

Like all sitcoms, it probably goes over best with breaks between episodes, or else it all blurs into one silly situation/fight after another. There were a few odd bits, like the American character referring to miniature golf as "crazy golf," which I took from context to be the British name for it. That, and calling the highway "the 17" when they visit her family in Carmel. No one in the Bay Area (and possibly even the entire West Coast) uses a definite article before highway numbers. Stephenie Meyer did the same thing in TWILIGHT, having Bella refer to "the 101." (Meyer then compounded the weirdness by having Bella call Lake Union "Union Lake"...)

Anyhow, MAD LOVE has a few laugh-out-loud passages and would be enjoyed by romcom fans.

Thank you to the publisher for the opportunity to review this book.

Natalie Salisbury says

Ok but not as good as his others

As the title says, it was an ok read but not as easy reading as some of his other books. Not as much comedy and I think the romance side missed the mark with the ending seeming a bit rushed.

Janet says

The premise of this book is clever, and actually credible, given the current reality show mindset, and the lengths to which advertisers will go to promote their brand. Two strangers are thrown together in marriage as an advertising gimmick for an online dating service. The results are quite humorous. I smiled at many points in the book and laughed out loud a few times.

This lighthearted and funny book was an enjoyable read. It reminded me of a romantic comedy, a mini-escape from the cares of every day life. This was my expectation for the book so I was satisfied when I finished. If this is what you are looking for, look no further. I think you will enjoy it.

Note: I received a copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Rachel Gilbey says

I recall laughing out loud pretty much hysterically at Nick Spalding's previous book Bricking It, so when I spotted Mad Love, I figured I had to give it a go, to see if that was a one off or not. Yet again there was at least one scene and a one-liner else where that had me laughing pretty much uncontrollably.

It seems as though this is an author that can continually hit my funny bone, and as a result I thoroughly enjoyed this whole book, which has a rather zany concept, that does seem to work.

Take two complete strangers, one publicity stunt for an online dating site Sociality, and pray that everything works out for the best! That is pretty much what Cassie at Sociality has done, in running a competition where the winners as matched by her "algorithms" will get married on Valentines Day, get a honeymoon, a cash prize plus an apartment to live in for a year.

So who are the "lucky" couple that feature in this stunt, well that would be Adam and Jess, who within the two intro chapters one for each of them, you see how on face value badly matched they really appear to be. The first two chapters don't just serve as an introduction to Adam and Jess, but also give valuable insights into the personalities, and each of them has a laugh out loud instance, that early on in the book too, to give a feeling of starting as you mean to go on.

Thinking back the majority of chapters have one highly hilarious event happen in them, a lot of them involving the various publicity stunts that Sociality keep arranging to show how happily married their couple are.

Amongst the events, there is a memorable speedboat trip in an Italian Lake, a French Cookery lesson where one of the bakes turns into not quite what was planned, an exhibition tennis match, which shows just how good each of their aim is when they want, a party that had me almost in stitches, and that is before I mention

Bad Bad Baa Sheep!

The pacing of the book is quick, the writing is witty but also fairly descriptive as I could always see properly what was happening, and just loved the dynamics between Adam and Jess. The ultimate questions that book makes you ponder are would you be willing to take part in the ultimate blind date and end up married to a stranger? What sort of people would even enter that kind of competition? And most importantly do seemingly opposites attract, and can a computer really predict human chemistry?

I loved *Mad Love* so much, I am now contemplating buying the majority of Nick Spalding's back catalogue to see just how many times he can get me to laugh out loud in public!

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Lake Union Publishing for this copy of the book that I read and reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

Sarah says

'*Mad Love*' was an easy, simple read but offered little in the way of literary satisfaction. I wanted to finish it and finish it quickly, merely to have it off my bookcase more than anything.

The plot itself is pretty believable. This is the sort of thing you can see happening in today's society with the power of social media and dating websites. Indeed, '*Married at First Sight*' has tried this in real life and I think this is what made this novel appealing. However, the incidents that happen between Jessica and Adam are downright farcical and predictable. I felt myself inwardly cringing as I saw how the plot was going to develop and just wanted each chapter to be over and done with.

Don't get me wrong, there are moments when you find yourself smiling at the humour or absurdity of the situation. Some of Jessica and Adam's narratives are a little funny but I did not find this a "laugh out loud" type of story. Switching between Jessica and Adam for each chapter did make the read more interesting, particularly as each different incident was therefore related by the opposite character, but other than that it was just a bland chick flick piece of fiction. And flicking through the pages quickly was certainly what I ended up doing.

The popular culture references are fun, but for me, that's where the fun stops. Adam needs to grow a pair and stop being so stropky and immature, whilst Jessica needs to be far less moody and also immature. Whilst Spalding attempts to show the characters "coming of age" in this read, it's not enough to make this a great and substantial novel.

Alaina Meserole says

Just like the first book I read by Nick Spalding, this book also reminded me of a certain show. Now I don't watch this show but my sister used to.. and she probably does. I think it's on TLC, but don't quote me on that, and it's called *Married at First Sight* or something like that.

Mad Love is basically that show but sort of funnier. Now I completely liked *Fat Chance* a lot more than this book but it was still enjoyable. It's a dual POV about Adam and Jessica's marriage, which of course had it's

up and downs just like every other normal relationship out there. They faced trivial problems just like the rest of us.. but they were also strangers to begin with.

Now for me, I have no idea how I would feel if I was thrown into that situation. Mostly because I would want to know who I'm marrying personally before that day comes.. but one never knows how their love lives go do they?

The one thing I didn't like about the book was the CEO from this company. She was breathing down their necks every second and even I was annoyed if they weren't. I wish it was just as good as *Fat Chance* but it wasn't. I just couldn't like every character in this book like I did in that one.

Overall, I'm still in love with Nick Spaulding's books and I really hope the next ones I dive into in June will be just as good or even better!!

Nancy says

If you need a good laugh, this book is for you. If you watch silly television programs like *Married at First Sight*, this book is for you. It is a fast and funny read.

A website in London marries off two subscribers for publicity. Adam is a British video game reviewer who ends up married to Jessica, an American doing graduate work in Nutrition. The computer proclaimed them a perfect match but both of them were not entirely honest when they filled out their profiles. Adam and Jessica received a glamorous wedding, a penthouse in a prime area of London rent free for a year, and a significant amount of cash as an inducement to go through with the wedding. They each had their own reasons for participating - Adam wanted to move to a place that did not have rats (his roommates named one Gnawbones) and Jess wanted to quit her job as a bartender at a strip club to concentrate on her graduate work.

With all the publicity, it made it hard for the couple had to fumble there way through getting to know each other and learn how to live together. So many things go disastrously but hilariously wrong with the couple getting on each others nerves but having to pretend that they are a love match in public. For example, their exhibition tennis match turns into a grudge match with Jess having particularly good aim.

Despite all of their ups and downs chronicled in the media in great detail, the couple does eventually find some common ground and develop a real relationship.

I am a fan of Nick Spaulding's irreverent sense and I have enjoyed all of his previous books,

I received a copy of this book from Net Galley in return for a fair and objective review.

Jennifer Lanak says

Can you imagine your wedding day being the first day you've ever laid eyes on your spouse? Well, when Adam and Jess win a contest on the dating site they subscribe to, that's exactly what happens. Supposedly chosen by the site's algorithm to be a perfect match, these two give marriage to a stranger a try. Only it isn't

very easy to get to know your new spouse when the CEO of the website and the media is breathing down your neck every minute. Plus, there are the little personality ticks that every individual has that may drive another person crazy (both the good kind and bad). (view spoiler)

I really enjoy Nick Spalding's writing. I listened to the audio version of this book and got a lot of strange looks at stop lights as I laughed so hard that I cried while listening in the car. *Mad Love* wasn't quite as good as *Fat Chance*, but I still enjoyed it and want to read more by this author.

Obsidian says

I seriously love Nick Spalding. There have been only one book that was a miss for me so far. The other ones have been hilarious though. In "Mad Love" Spalding takes a look at a man (Adam) and woman (Jessica) who agree to get married via a dating website (Sociality). With the promise of a new flat that they can call their own and a split of thousands of pounds Adam and Jessica are trying their best to give their marriage a go. But they both realize that when one tends to fib (lie people) on their dating profile, that Sociality's algorithm may be wrong about what a perfect match they should be.

Adam works as a video game journalist. I was going to say something about ethics in gaming, but that is bringing bad memories up for me, so let me say that Adam is not an ass. He is currently living in a place with a lot of flatmates and a cross eyed rat, so I can see why he would leap on being married to Jessica when he finds out about her. The beginning depicting Adam waking up and going to a video game con was hilarious. I just cracked up. Spalding always does a great job with the guy POV in these books.

Jessica is an American living in London trying to get her masters in Nutrition (I am to lazy to look that up to make sure that is accurate). She is also working at a strip club as a bartender. Once again, Jessica's POV had me laughing at so many times in this book.

When Adam and Jessica agree to their marriage and realize it means that Sociality's owner is going to be up in their faces for the next several months, you realize that both of them are trying to put their best face forward until it turns into a War of the Roses thing that the book did a great job with.

The only misstep I will say that happens, that really is what besides the ending made me knock a star from this book, is that Spalding gives us insight into why Adam was so focused on staying married to Jessica. I maybe rolled my eyes a bit. It felt like it came out of nowhere since there are no hints to this during Adam's POV that Spalding could have at least hinted at so we could see what secret Adam was keeping.

The writing was great. Spalding does a great job of depicting relationships (see *Love From Both Sides*) and he has a great voice for both male and female characters. He chooses to tell the story from both Adam and Jessica's POV with each chapter beginning with a question and answer they responded to on the Sociality website. I laughed so hard many times I started howling. There are just some scenes I don't want to spoil for you. But let me just say, the scene with them getting married. It was inspired.

The book setting switches between London and Jessica's birthplace of California. Spalding does a great job of depicting where Jessica grew up to the point I want to visit there sometime.

The ending was a bit eh to me though. I thought it was just too over the top and not realistic.

