



# Emma Hearts LA

*Keris Stainton*

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## **Emma Hearts LA** Keris Stainton

Emma's not sure that LA's for her, but when she accompanies her sister Bex to an audition, a chance meeting with a teen TV star starts to change her new sunshine lifestyle for the better... But what about Oscar, so far her only friend in LA, who's turning out NOT to be the idiot she thought he was?

Soon Emma begins to find herself torn between two boys and reconsidering her entire future.

Maybe LA's not that bad after all.

*Sunshine, romance and Hollywood dreams make for a gorgeous, glam beach read from Stainton.  
(Bookseller)*

## **Emma Hearts LA Details**

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Author : Keris Stainton

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## **From Reader Review Emma Hearts LA for online ebook**

### **Dalimar says**

Ni modo,no puedo comenzar una serie y no leer el libro siguiente.Aunque el primero no me haya gustado mucho.Ya dire como me va con este...

Bueno...ya finalizado el libro puedo decir que Stainton no pasara a la historia como una de mis escritoras preferidas.En realidad es que los argumentos de sus libros comienzan bien,pero luego tienen un final un tanto abrupto.Al menos en este libro,los personajes eran normales,contrario al anterior con padre gay,madre enamorada de un hombre que podria ser su hijo y un protagonista que brillo por su ausencia en la mayor parte de su historia.

Eso si,el personaje de Oscar fue muy lindo.Me gusto,Emma es una chica madura para su edad.Pero me parece que aqui es donde tenemos el problema con la autora.Es que quiere traer un gran problema donde no lo hay y mas para las edades de los protagonistas que lo representan.Ademas una gran parte del libro tenia como "problema" la atraccion que Emma siente hacia su mejor amigo desde la infancia y la estrella juvenil del momento y asi de golpe elimina a Alex y sigue el libro como si nada...

Lo que si tienen encanto en la pluma de Keris Stainton,es la manera de describir los lugares donde estan sus personajes.Lo describe de una manera maravillosa,que nos transporta al sitio como si en realidad los estuvieramos viendo.

Al parecer su idea de publicar un libro sobre tematica gay con Bex la hermana de Emma fue rechazado por la editorial,de lo contrario me veria en la obligacion de leerlo tambien.Ya que sufro de un sindrome el cual no me permite dejar de leer una Saga,por peor que sea esta.Jajaja

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### **Serendipity Reviews says**

I may ban Keris Stainton from writing any more books set in America. Every time she writes a new one, I find myself yearning to travel to another state. I hadn't really even heard of Venice Beach in Los Angeles before reading this book, now I am constantly searching the internet for information about it, begging my husband to take me there.

I really loved this book! I love the way the author captures the essence of a destination through the eyes of a Brit! You feel the same excitement that Emma and Bex do, on exploring the sights of L.A. Keris has a way of making the book feel as though it is happening right now. The story has references to famous people who presently feature in the news and you feel like you are swapping holiday stories with your gal pal from the last month.

As soon as Emma arrives in LA, her life begins to make sense. It seems that for some time she has been drifting, unsure of the path her future should take. Yet something about LA, changes the way Emma views her life and she begins to realise what she wants from her future. I think Keris really captured the difficulties faced by many teenagers leaving school, who really don't know what they want to do with their future. Keris shows teenagers that it is OK to take your time thinking about your future. Keris Stainton just gets teenagers!

I know a lot of bloggers fell in love with Oscar, the geeky love interest, but I have to admit to having a soft spot for Alex! \*ducks as everyone throws pillows\* I can't help it I love the hot looking actor types!!! I don't do dorky guys! I felt quite sorry for Alex, as he was still coming to terms with the negative aspects of his fame. You could tell he wanted to be able to just hang out and chill like Emma and her friends too.

I loved that Jessie made an appearance in this book. I really enjoyed reading Jessie Hearts NY last year, and it was fantastic to meet up with such a lovely character again and find out how life in New York is treating her. It really gave her story closure.

I did get extremely excited when I realised there was a minor character mentioned called Vivienne! That is so rare. I have only ever seen Vivian's and Vivien's in fiction. So I was as happy as a kitten to see my name there. I'm sad I know!

The story is a simple but beautiful love story, set in a fairy tale setting which left me sighing with happiness. Definitely a beach read to escort the summer to our front door. My daughters are desperate to read it now and there may just be a fight in my house!

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### **Amber says**

I knew I would love this book as soon as I saw it. Firstly, Keris Stainton's other books 'Della Says: OMG!' and 'Jessie Hearts NYC' are both fabulous and I thoroughly enjoyed them. Plus, I have always loved LA - I've never been, but it just sounds like an amazing place and now I've read this book, I want to go there even more!

In this story, teenage girl Emma moves to LA when her mum gets offered a new job. Emma doesn't really want to go, but gives it a try for her mum and sister's sake. When she arrives in LA, she is reunited with childhood friend Oscar, and he shows her everything the area has to offer. But then she has to accompany her sister Bex to a casting for a TV show, and she meets Alex - a famous TV actor - and she has to choose what she really wants from life.

This is an ideal summer read, perfect to take with you on holiday! It's such a fun and exciting story. Emma was also in Jessie Hearts NYC, so it was nice to catch up with her and find out what has been going on in her life in this book. It was a bit like catching up with an old friend. It's lovely to read about the close relationship she has with her mother and younger sister. Emma's witty narration made it easier to relate to her, and I loved drama-queen sister Bex - she was so determined to get what she wanted it was inspiring, and she had real depth as a character.

Both love interests were awesome, but I'm definitely more a fan of Oscar. He's funny, interesting, loveable and a total geek! I didn't really like Alex that much. It was nice that he offered to help Emma's sister Bex learn her lines etc, but it seemed all he wanted from Emma was the publicity - 'Who's the new girl, Alex?'.

I read Emma Hearts LA the day I got it, and it left me feeling cheerful and sad. Cheerful, because it's an amazing book, but sad because I really didn't want it to end! It's a very fun book to read, but I recommend you read Jessie Hearts NYC before starting on this one. I think all readers aged 12+ would enjoy this. 5/5!

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### **Danielle Nichol says**

This is one of the best 'chick flick' books I have read in a long time. I love the story line and the different aspects all linked in together. I also think it had great character development and I can't wait to read more of Keris' books!

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### **Kirsty says**

This is less a review and more a fan girl waffle on about why I loved this book.

I loved Emma. I knew I liked Emma when I read Jessie but I really really loved Emma in this book. She is the sort of girl I would have loved to have as a best friend when I was a teenager. She's cool and funny without being bitchy and nasty or to the completely other extreme without being completely useless. I love that she is a cracking role model to girls of that age.

I loved Oscar and his quirky geeky ways. Again he is totally the boy I wanted to fall for at age 15 and therefore had I read this book when I was a young adult I know for a fact I would have fallen completely in love with him after a page or two. I loved the relationship that was built up between him and Emma.

I loved the view this book had on celebrities. I liked seeing what fame did to the life of an ordinary person and how it changed their whole world and how that change was completely out of their control to the point where they couldn't simply pop out for coffee without being followed. Again I loved the message this book had when Emma had to make a decision between the two boys.

What I also love about this book is that Emma and her sister, to all intents and purposes, are just normal kids. You often see books where teenagers from divorced families are awful spoiled and attention seeking brats whereas in reality I think this is often far from the truth. I liked seeing how Emma just got on with her life (albeit with a bit of a chip on her shoulder about her father) but that it didn't give her an excuse to be horrible to people.

The feel of this book is perfect for a summery read lying on the beach especially when you get the LA vibe as Emma first visits the place.

All in all a book I really enjoyed. I can't put my finger on one thing that make it fantastic but trust me it is. It'll leave you with a warm and gorgeous feeling inside (a lovely YA contemp glow if you will) and keep you hooked from the first to the last page.

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### **Sophie says**

Keris Stainton's novels are always fun, romantic and leave me with a smile on my face and *Emma Hearts LA* did all of that and more.

One of the first things that I noticed about *Emma Hearts LA* was how current and completely up to date it is. Keris managed to get a reference to the Ryan Gosling 'Hey Girl...' Tumblrs into the novel which actually made me laugh. There's something about the internet being out in the real world that always jolts me, in a good way, of course! There were also mentions to *The Big Bang Theory* and *How I Met Your Mother* which everyone seems to love at the moment, and which I haven't yet seen any of...

I loved Emma as a heroine. She's cool and confident and funny but still has the tentative approach to boys and relationships and a very endearing vulnerability of most teenage girls that made her instantly likable and relatable. She was also unclear of her feelings and when she did work out what they are she didn't quite know what to do with them which I instantly connected with.

Emma isn't the only awesome character in *Emma Hearts LA*, however. There is a cameo from Jessie and her mum, Natalie, which was brilliant as I always love having the chance to catch up with characters from earlier books. There's the extremely gorgeous Alex who turns Emma's legs to jelly and pretty much a dream guy, and then there's Oscar. Oscar who has a strange fashion sense, an obsession with space, talks to ducks and is completely adorable. He's smart, funny and beyond cute and I feel head over heels for him.

As well as the aww-inducing love story, *Emma Hearts LA* broaches the repercussions of a divorce and the blame laid on each parent and the change in the parent-child relationships in a subtle and sensitive way. I also loved the way Keris presented the relationship between Emma and Bex – it's the type of relationship that me and my sister can only manage when I'm at university 150 miles away. When we're together we drive each other insane so I loved that Emma and Bex are friends.

I loved *Emma Hearts LA* – it's by far my favourite of Keris's novels so far – and I can't wait to read whatever she delivers next. Preferably soon?

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### **SJH (A Dream of Books) says**

Leaving behind the bright lights and buzz of New York City, Keris Stainton's latest offering is set in the sunnier climes of Los Angeles, home of the stars. When Emma's mother gets a fabulous job offer, Emma and her younger sister Bex move with her to start a new life in LA. Once there, she reconnects with her childhood friend Oscar who has undergone quite a lot of growing up since she saw him last. However, with handsome movie stars around every corner, Emma has to make a big decision about who and what she wants.

While I was reading this book I couldn't help but feel envious of Emma getting the opportunity to start fresh with a completely new beginning. Although she's more dubious about moving to the other side of the world than Bex, who throws herself wholeheartedly into a new lifestyle, she gradually finds herself embracing the new and learns to open herself up to exciting, new experiences.

I loved the idea of being able to reach for your dreams, however impossible they may seem and having the courage to follow your heart. Yes, you may fail at times but until you try you'll never know. One of my own dreams is to one day visit New York but after finishing this book I'm adding Los Angeles to the list too!

I thought that Keris Stainton perfectly captured everything about Emma's new home, from the awesome food to the sights and sounds of the city, such as Grauman's Theatre and the Hollywood Walk of Fame. There were so many amazing places and they were all so wonderfully described that I really felt I was living vicariously through Emma.

As well as Emma, there are lots of other fab characters in the story, including the adorable Oscar, who is the perfect mix of cute and nerdy (the latter in a good way!) and Emma's sister Bex who she has a very close relationship with.

'Emma Hearts LA' is an amazing book and the perfect light, summery, fun read. It's a book with a heart of gold and a wonderful read.

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### Becky says

*Emma's just arrived in Los Angeles, a million miles away from all her friends, and any chance of a boyfriend. Unless you count the geeky Oscar- which she doesn't. Not at first, anyway. Teen heartthrob ALEX might have potential too. If she can get him away from the eyes of the paparazzi, that is.*

I picked this book up from the library after hearing amazing things about it. I am so glad I did.

At first I wasn't sure what to think of it as it seemed to have the typical teen romance plot: girl moves away from home where she meets a boy. I'm glad I carried on reading it.

Emma's a character you can relate and sympathise with straight away. I mean, who would like to move a million miles away from their home?

And Oscar.... Who doesn't like him? Although he's a bit geeky (not that I can say much! I have a badge to prove it!) he is a character you just have to love. I love how Keris Stainton makes Emma's memories of him really geeky and shy! (view spoiler)

Bex had to be my favourite character though. She's like a bundle of energy and reminds me of my seven year old neighbour!

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a contemporary romance.

5/5

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### Beth Kemp says

There are so many great things about this book, I'm not sure I can capture them all in one review. Most importantly, it's a hugely enjoyable read, as evidenced by it being the first book my jaded 13 yr old has finished in weeks.

Emma's witty narration is a joy, making it so easy to engage with and root for her. Other characters are also brilliantly realised. I especially like the astrophysicist Mum, loving but also deeply caught up in her work, and even the acting sister Bex has depth as a person (it would be so easy - but ultimately unsatisfying - to slip into stereotypes of scattiness for such a character). Oscar, her old and geeky friend from home is a gem with his tomato-red hair and general nerdiness.

The romance plot is ultimately important, but it is not 'all there is' to this book by a long stretch. Emma struggles with her parents' divorce, with the move to another country, and with some identity issues, all while noticing boys around her and figuring out what she wants. Her responses to all these things are believable and genuine, and tackled with a gentle humour.

What I really appreciate is that this book is a fun and light read without being 'lightweight' in the negative sense at all. It offers glamorous romantic escapism for teen girls whilst avoiding the reinforcement of rather

dubious behaviour that you sometimes see offered to this age group (romanticised controlling boys and passive girls for example). I hope that doesn't make it sound dull and 'worthy' - it's anything but, and my point is that Keris proves that you don't have to promote unhealthy relationships to produce a book that feels light and enjoyable.

I'd strongly recommend this to fans of contemporary YA.

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### **Jessica (Jess Hearts Books) says**

I loved Jessie Hearts NYC so when I heard that Keris was writing a companion novel featuring Jessie's best friend Emma I was beyond excited. Keris is one of the loveliest authors and always makes time to talk to her fans on Twitter, her books are fun, romantic, quick reads that make perfect summer stories. I read Emma Hearts LA on a sunny Sunday afternoon in one sitting and closed the book with the cheesiest grin on my face, Emma Hearts LA is total feel good reading and left me in a cheerful mood for the rest of the day.

I have to say that as much as I loved Jessie Hearts NYC I loved Emma even more! It's funny because I've always considered myself to be a New York kinda gal ( I LOVE big cities!) but Emma Hearts LA was just so much more me and I connected to the story more because of that. Emma was a really great protagonist, unlike her little sister who dreams of becoming the next big Hollywood teen star, Emma is less than thrilled at the prospect of living in LA when her mum decides to move them out there. Emma feels like she'll have nothing in common with the stars and wannabes who live there and she's sad to be leaving her old life behind even if it does mean being in the same country as her BFF Jessie. Her mum and dad have recently split up and Emma's relationship with her dad is messy because of it and moving across the world from him is sure to only increase that tension. Reluctantly Emma moves with her family to LA and leaves behind life as she knew it, well, almost, because waiting in LA is old family friend Michael and his teenage son Oscar her geeky childhood friend. Except Oscar's kinda grown into his geekyness and owns it making him kind of hot to Emma's surprise. As Oscar shows Emma that life in LA isn't all that bad Emma starts to fall in love with this way of life. But when the latest Hollywood heartthrob Alex shows an interest in her Emma will have to decide which boy will win over her heart.

One of the main things I love about Keris's books is that she has this way of writing which really makes you feel like you're there. Like in Jessie Hearts NYC where I got to experience New York through Jessie in this book I got to experience LA through Emma. Emma's house on the canal sounded absolutely beautiful and the ocean front walk would totally be my local hangout. I closed this book feeling like I'd been on a trip to LA myself and I love the total escapism you get with Keris's books.

Once again I loved the characters in this book, Emma, Bex, Alex and Emma's mum were all great characters and I loved that Jessie was in this book too and that we got to catch up with her. But my ultimate favourite character had to be Oscar. Oscar is the kind of guy I personally go for. He's dorky, not afraid to be different, is comfortable in his own skin, caring and has a big heart of gold. I love stories where childhood friends blossom into something more so Keris really ticked all the right boxes with Oscar and he quickly became my latest book boy crush.

Overall I loved everything about Emma Hearts LA. If you like books that completely sweep you away to somewhere sunny and exotic, have sweet summer romances, and swoony book boys this is the book for you. Emma Hearts LA is like the perfect holiday, fun filled, care free, hot and romantic, and over too soon. This is summer reading at its best.



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## Amanda G. (Nellie and Co. says)

Everybody comes to a time in their life when you've read enough vampires to make you protective of your neck, and where you've read enough sad stories to have you drinking gallons of water just to replenish your water levels, but we never ever get tired of chick-lit, and that's exactly what this book is. It may not be Shakespeare, and it's certainly not the best piece of work I've ever read, but as chick-lit goes, this light-hearted, quick read, escape away is exactly what I was looking for. This book delivered.

I had read a previous book by Stainton, *Jessie Hearts NYC*, and I was over the moon to find out that the Emma in that story is the exact same Emma in this one; we didn't really get to grips with Emma's character much in *Jessie's* story, so I knew that when I was the right mood, this book would be wonderful, and I was right. To start with, Emma's character is much funnier in this edition in comparison to the first; whether that's down to the fact that she has the spotlight here, or whether Stainton hadn't developed Emma's character much in the beginning, who knows; I loved her. I found her sense of humour and characteristics to be fantastic and I felt that she really brought a sarcastic flare to the world of 'Hollywood'. As the book continued, Emma constantly grew as a character and she became much more confident in herself, her feelings and what she's passionate at, drawing. I could really relate and connect with Emma through her art, because I used to draw and sketch a lot when I was 16 too; I understood how much the pressure can get to you, and I understood why she stopped.

The 'love triangle' implied in the synopsis though isn't much of a love triangle at all, and I actually preferred that; I would have hated a full out brawl between the two guys involved because they were both honest, considerate and genuinely cared for Emma as a person, which really makes a change in young adult books, rather than having an obvious bad guy and an obvious good guy and I appreciated this. I also appreciated that Stainton was able to write a romance in a different direction to that of *Jessie's* story; where in *Jessie's* story, she met Finn in New York, Emma and Oscar met in England and found each other again in LA when circumstances brought them together. I found myself instantly comfortable with Oscar as a character, I found him full of humour, intelligence and charisma that is sometimes missing in other characters in young adult; he was a breath of fresh air. I did have a problem with the fact that Stainton appears to focus on divorce as her basis for divided parents rather than other subjects such as death or abandonment, however, she did make the parents aspect different in this story than with *Jessie Hearts NYC*, which I appreciated; a different parent was involved, different jobs and circumstances were also lovely, and it was lovely to find that *Jessie* joined the characters in this story within the last quarter because it really brought Emma out of herself, made her more confident and finally brought Emma and Oscar together.

In comparison to *Jessie Hearts NYC*, I was able to focus and pick up on the scenes and surroundings better which I found fantastic; it really made the whole experience much better for me as a reader because I was never lost or confused, I actually want to visit LA now, just because of this book. Stainton also puts a lot of effort into her books, you can tell just by reading the scenes of the states these books are set in, she really takes her time and makes sure that you can appreciate and enjoy the story just as much as the characters do, and it was a lovely reading experience. I did find the problems with Emma and her father to be a little repetitive, but once again, I could easily relate to those problems, and I could understand how her relationship with her father affected other areas of her life; I feel like I learnt a large number of lessons while reading this book.

I loved Stainton's easy writing style once again, which again, isn't the strongest I've seen, and found myself

speeding through this book, laughing out loud and generally smiling like a gorm, so I can't fault her on that. I loved how she developed her characters and gave me a romance I could really root for, much more realistic than in *Jessie Hearts NYC* and much more subtle and caring. I appreciated that Stainton also wanted to address a different message in this book; the message that we're all stars in our own right, that we all shine differently, that we shouldn't let someone try to put out our shine, and that we should follow our dreams. Yes, this book is cheesy, and yes, this book could be seriously be slated by some people because it's not 'strong or mind-blowing', but sometimes, just like everyone, I like myself a bit of predictable, happy and positive chick-lit, and that's exactly what this book is. I think I've found myself a turn to author in Keris Stainton.

3.5 Stars.

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### **Stephanie (Stepping out of the Page) says**

I'm not quite sure why, but I never did get around to reading *Della Says OMG* or *Jessie Hearts NYC*, even though I purchased them both and they're sitting on my bookshelves (somewhere!), but I know I've made a silly decision to neglect them for so long. After reading Keris Stainton's latest, *Emma Hearts LA*, I only find myself wanting to read more of her books - as soon as possible!

As soon as I read a couple of pages of this book, I knew that I would enjoy it and that is just such a good feeling! I instantly loved Stainton's writing - it was simple, pleasant to read and it flowed really well. I loved the whole idea behind the book - Emma and her family moving to LA and trying to move forward with their lives. It didn't try to be anything 'deep' and it wasn't full of action and drama - it was just a lovely story about Emma and her adaptation to a new city and home. Quite simply, it is a perfect, relaxing read - just what what you need for summer!

I absolutely loved all of the characters that we were introduced to in this book. Our main character, Emma, just seems so real and felt like a friend that I would love to have. I absolutely loved her personality and, in particular, her slightly-snarky but fun attitude. It was great to see her interact with her family, seeing how their past family life was affecting her. I thought her relationship with her sister was especially lovely to read about. Although, as aforementioned, I haven't yet read *Jessie Hearts NYC*, I loved hearing the connections that Emma has to Jessie, her best friend. Their friendship was genuine and their banter was great. I am definitely looking forward to visiting NYC with them both and discovering more about Jessie and her life.

For me, the real star of this book was Oscar. Oscar is geeky. Oscar wears Harry Potter shirts and pretended to live in the 'cupboard under the stairs' when he was younger. Oscar has bright red hair. Oscar, most importantly, is extremely caring and such a fantastic fan. Oscar is, in a nutshell, is basically my perfect guy. There is a sort-of love triangle when Emma meets a famous, obviously gorgeous, actor, but to be honest, I think there is only one way that this book will turn out and it's blindingly obvious to most people (apart from Emma) and I am totally glad about that. You always seem to know where this book is going, but for me that wasn't a problem.

Keris seems to be very up to date and knows what teenagers/young adults want. There are a few great references to popular culture within this story and it seems authentic - unfortunately, I find a lot of authors try to be too 'cool' (or insist in putting what they think is cool with teenagers into their books), but Keris doesn't have to do this and yet is able to make a connection which really pays off. I learnt so much about Emma's new environment in Los Angeles through her experiences and thoughts, rather than having to sit

through overly-descriptive scenes, which I was really grateful for.

To be honest, I can't really fault this book. There isn't really anything 'shocking' that happens, or any big twists or turns, which I'm usually a big fan of. However, it was just nice to sit back and see what did happen, happen. It was really nice to, for once, have a feel-good book and a nice happy ending. For those of you who haven't already sorted out their summer reading, be sure to put this one on the list!

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### **Donna {Book Passion for Life} says**

*Emma Hearts LA* is my first book by author Keris Stainton, yep you heard me, I haven't even read Keris's other book *Jessie Hearts LA*. So, I went into *Emma Hearts LA* not really knowing what to expect but let me tell you, this is the ideal summer read.

This story follows a teenage girl named Emma, who is moving to LA where her mother has been offered a new job. However Emma doesn't really want to go but will give it a go for her mother and sister. When she arrives in LA, Emma reunites a friendship with an old childhood friend named Oscar and it's then she sees everything LA has to offer her – and possibly a relationship with Oscar. But when her sister gets an audition and Emma has the luxury of accompanying her – it is there she meets a famous TV star, and soon she has to choose between the two boys....along with what she wants from the future.

I really enjoyed this book. It was a fun and lovable story – one that is actually more complex than I would have thought. I loved Emma as a character and because we see her trying to get over her parent's divorce, it gave a lot more insight to her as a character. It's not easy for her but she deals with it the best she can. Not only that but we see the relationship she has with her mother and sister and there such a close family, it's lovely to read about.

Now both of the love interests we're fantastic and honestly, it was a hard choice but I have to say, I'm totally Team Oscar. He's a total geek but you know what, geek's are totally in now and Oscar was portrayed brilliantly. He's sweet, interesting and loving and he's just so much fun. He's definitely the perfect choice for Emma, in my opinion.

Overall, *Emma Hearts LA* was a very enjoyable, captivating and fun-loving book. I'd probably suggest you to read *Jessie Hearts NYC* first, if you are to pick up this authors work but definately one not to miss.

*A huge thank you to Hachette UK for giving me the opportunity to review this book.*

**Don't forget to stop by the blog; <http://bookpassionforlife.blogspot.co...> on July 15th for a guest post from the author.**

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### **Beth Bonini says**

This engaging YA novel has a good measure of fairy tale in it -- a move from Manchester to a somewhat idealised Venice Beach, CA, and not one but two love interests -- but with some interesting "darker" bits to ground it. Emma, the protagonist, is a character that many will identify with. She's not overly confident; she doesn't like change; and she still hasn't forgiven her father from leaving their family for a new partner. Emma has also has a snarky, sarcastic side that will readily identify her as English. The dialogue is very good; the

author has an assured writing style that is very readable. The characters are well-developed for this genre of novel and the character of Oscar was particularly charming and loveable. Highly recommended for readers who want something enjoyable and "feel good" to read. YA tends to be pretty dark and intense these days, and there is definitely a place for Stainton's lighter (but not fluffy) storylines.

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## **Emma says**

There is so much more to this book than the synopsis suggests. Emma moves to LA with her mother and sister following her parents break-up. Her mother has the most fantastic job offer that can't be turned down, no ordinary job mind you, Emma's mother is an astro-physicist. The detail and research Keris has put into astro-physics really shone through the narrative adding depth and detail to the story.

The comparison of life in Britain to life in LA was thought provoking, I think I may now want to go and live in LA [ : D ] Not only for the weather but for the way of life and the belief that anything is possible, oh and the food.

Emma is having a hard time adjusting to her parents break-up and her father being in a new relationship. The move to LA gives Emma the opportunity for a lot of soul searching and developing self-awareness not only of herself but also understanding her reactions to events and criticism. It was lovely to follow. Keris has the unnerving knack of writing in exactly the way I think, which makes her characters so relatable to me. Emma is surprisingly mature for her age, she works her way logically through her problems, she is self-aware and open minded, a loyal friend and a terrific sister. I loved the close relationship she had with her family.

Emma's move to LA was like watching the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle slot into place, everything just fit perfectly. Proving that life can take a completely different route to the one you were expecting but these changes may in fact be the best thing that could happen to you. The way in which the breakdown of a marriage can be viewed as 'for the best' was profoundly portrayed; it is better to be happy and apart than together and miserable. The way parents' emotions are reflected by their children was insightful, if you're happy their happy type of thing.

I cannot tell you how much I adored Oscar, he is such a quirky character. Geeky but totally comfortable in his own skin, love love love him. The inclusion of Jessie from *Jessie Hearts NYC* (review [HERE](#)) really added to the story, it was nice to have the updates on the relationships from that book included in this one. The portrayal of fame and how scary it can be to have the paparazzi follow you everywhere, making relationships difficult really made me think about how lonely it must be not having an opportunity to relax and just be yourself. The decision to seek fame is something that needs careful consideration as it isn't just about the talent but how much of normalcy you are willing to give up in order to achieve it. The behind the scenes look at the 'industry' was insightful.

I have to say that Keris has done it again, she brings wonderfully evolved characters and their settings to life while producing warm fuzzy feelings at the end of it. This book should be on a list of the perfect books to read on holiday.

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