



Alix & Valerie

Ingrid Diaz

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Alix Morris has spent the past seven years of her life nurturing an unrequited love for her soon-to-be-married best friend. The pain from this silent longing has settled within her like a faithful companion and she's loathe to let it go. Two nights before the wedding, she agrees to an impromptu outing to a hip night club with a friend. There she meets wise-cracking Valerie Skye who unloosens some of those painful ties. But Valerie has some secrets of her own to overcome. Can Alix and Valerie untangle their pasts and hope the fate that brought them together isn't fickle?

Alix & Valerie Details

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From Reader Review Alix & Valerie for online ebook

Megzz says

I would maybe rate it 3.5.

This book is not nearly as good as Diaz' more recent one (The Blind Side of Love). Alix & Valerie is very inconsistent. Some scenes are very sweet and funny and I found myself smiling big, some others made me almost cringe. The writing doesn't flow as much. I don't know how many years passed between this book and The Blind Side of Love but the evolution in Diaz' writing is obvious. I'm so glad I read Alix & Valerie AFTER The Blind Side Of Love otherwise I would have probably never known the pleasure I felt while reading the latter.

But it's not just in the writing, Alix & Valerie is a lot more cliché, romance-wise, despite the interesting plot and turns of events. I also found myself skipping some chapters, especially towards the end, just because I felt like the story was dragging unnecessarily. During the angsty part, there was a lot of repetitive dialogues and issues. During the happy-ever part, there wasn't a lot left to look forward to reading. The story also bordered on cheesy. Especially the very end.

But what I struggled the most with had to be the characters. I didn't like the secondary characters at all. I didn't think they brought much to the story and I didn't find them very interesting. I love being able to imagine myself falling in love with the characters of a love story, and I have to say the dorky side of Alix bothered me a bit. When other times I would find this an endearing trait, Alix just left me a bit frustrated in her naiveté.

Still, Diaz is better than a lot of writers in the lesbian genre. She manages to write stories that feel real, and even if the love story in this book didn't feel to me as romantic as I expected, I can't say it was entirely badly done. Valerie is gorgeous and mysterious and incredibly charming and she totally saved the story for me. Their romance is sweet (albeit a bit too "teen" to my liking) and I guess the surprising plot kept me interested.

M-e-i-l-y says

What a wonderful book! I liked all the characters so much and the story was so exciting. I kind of wished there was a part 2 because I loved it so much, I didn't want it to end!

Jane Doesn't says

This began as something decent and devolved from there. The first half was fine, although it did flag somewhat at its halfway point and feel protracted onwards... but the second half was simply all over the place with odd plot twists, turns, and character assassinations (a fair number of personae become less than

likeable or even creditable).

Amanda says

To be quite honest, I have never been able to identify with lesbian characters in books as much as I have with the ones in this book. It is a romantic story packed with funny and exciting situations as well as familiar experiences. This is the book that convinced me to stop hating reading and that I should read more books -- and that was before it was even published. I love it.

Anna Blackburn says

I gave this a 4/5 but in this genre, I rarely give a 5. I consider *Annie on My Mind* a top read and anything by Rita Mae Brown to be the scum left at the bottom of the barrel. Based on that scale, *Alix and Valerie* was way above the bottom, but still below the top.

I thought the characters were very well-written, likable people, once I was able to look past the '90's lesbian dress-code. (Keep going! You'll be glad you did!) The sarcastic banter was brilliant and helped keep the love story from wandering off into the typical gooey mush-zone. The supporting "cast" was even original without taking away from the main players.

I couldn't score this an "Annie" because, to be honest, the plot went a tad bonkers. But, as someone who grew up watching soaps, I was able to overlook the more ridiculous points. The writing and characterizations made up for the dramatics. I'd definitely recommend it.

Heidi says

In the first part of the book you fall in love, in the second part of the book you find yourself constantly saying "really?!", as it's kind of farfetched.

The overall book is a delight to read and I just couldn't put it down.

Rachel Simone says

The writing in this book wasn't very good. It was told from two perspectives and the characters were too similar and I would often forget which one I was reading and would have to go back to the beginning of the chapter to see who it was. There were some twists in the plot that kept me reading, but ultimately, not worth it.

Pin says

A very nice new-adult contemporary romance with a twist. I very much recommend it to anyone who enjoys

tender love stories.

tj88 says

There's something about the way the author writes that captures my interest, big time. I'm pretty sure I'll read whatever she writes from now on. That's why even though this story is no where as good as 'The blind side of love', I still find myself enjoy it and did finish in one sitting. There were holes in the plot, sometimes things got a bit too cliched, predictable and a few twists are not really convincing or could be outright surreal.. but well i'm biased so it was still a good story to me.

Linh Nguyen says

2.5 stars

Ok, part 1 of this book is quite good, all real and cute and fun and honest. Then the plot turns into something weird, I found it extremely hard to connect with Valerie's voice and her fiction-like story, which almost seems to be written by a completely different author. It certainly would have earned 4 stars from me without all the unnecessary complication. What a pity.

elisabeth says

I'd like to preface this book with the fact that I did not mind paying 10 dollars for it, because The Blind Side of Love was so good, and free, that I wanted to financially support the author somehow. So I bought this book.

This book is very clearly a debut novel, and probably should have been a trunk novel ngl. It explored many of the same themes of TBSoL, but while TBSoL explores the themes of mistaken identity, lying to your friends, and being true to yourself in mature and fascinating ways, this book simply feels juvenile. All the characters feel like cheap cardboard cut outs, none of the characters have clear intentions, the plot falls apart very easily at the slightest nudge, and (view spoiler)

Kate says

So I've just re-read Alix and Valerie for the second time. I've read so many books and particularly ones with f/f romance since my first read of this that I couldn't really remember the story properly.

I enjoyed how the book looks at the story from both Alix and Valerie's perspective, I feel like that was important considering the twist. You can see both of their feelings and also their motivations for sometimes questionable decisions. I kind of felt once or twice that Alix was accepting some of the secrets Valerie told her way too easily but then that could just be me putting myself in her place. There's a lot of sweet and funny scenes involving both girls and also Alix and her friends. I'd recommend giving it a read if you're looking for a story about two young women falling in love with some unexpected and surprising issues getting in their way.

I love Ingrid Diaz's writing, I've read TBSOL more times than is probably sane to admit. So I'm gonna plug it here too, give both of these books a read, support an author with talent who deserves your support.

Rinu says

It was like reading a fanfiction. Silly plotline, unnecessary drama, characters trying so hard to be cool or nice or wise. I rolled my eyes a lot during reading :).

I would say I didn't like it except that it was amusing in its odd way. Probably a first book which makes me thinking about writing fanfiction myself, lol.

Kristy says

A step (or two) above the majority of current lesbian fiction out there. Captivating, funny, and amazingly genuine story -- I read it in a day as I couldn't put it down.

Carole says

This book was a surprise to me. It's chick-lit. This really delightfully written, insightful (if somewhat long) novel, available in both paperback and e-book format, would probably be on the 'summer romance read' shelves of major chain bookstores were it not about two characters who just happen to be lesbian. Going in, I expected erotica, but it truly is a romance between two very unlikely young women who go through the throes of forming a mature relationship.

Alix says: "Starting a relationship, in my opinion, seems like a complicated process. I mean, what marks the start of a relationship? A kiss? Does a particular type of kiss signal the start of a particular kind of relationship? Or is a kiss just a prelude of things to come?"

Written first in Alix's point of view, then in Valerie's, then in a back-and-forth style in the last section, the author Ingrid Diaz cleverly lets you see the emotions and motivations of both characters. Things are not always smooth. This is Alix's first real relationship, although she has been 'in love' with her straight best friend for seven years. Valerie is not who she seems to be.

As Valerie says: "The way I look at things, we're bound by decisions. Good choices built upon bad choices built upon good choices. Except that in my case, unfortunately, I had bad choices stacked atop an endless line of more bad choices that were in the process of collapsing all around me. How very ironic my life had turned out to be."

What seems to be constant from Alix and Valerie's first meeting is the potential for love. My only quibble is that I felt the last section, with its quick point-of-view shifts was a little confusing and that the ending was not as strong as the rest of the book. I also noticed a few too many typos that should have been caught before publication. Diaz writes in a addictively light-hearted style involving and intertwining colorful secondary characters. This was a great read; it made me smile! I really do think you will enjoy Alix & Valerie.

