



He Loves Lucy

Susan Donovan

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Marketing exec Lucy Cunningham is thrilled when her firm lands The Palm Club account. The campaign concept for Miami's hottest fitness club was Lucy's idea: take one fitness-challenged woman, put her in front of TV cameras, and into the hands of the club's top personal trainer, Theo Redmond. And there's a big cash reward for each pound shed. It seems like a brilliant idea-until Lucy gets picked to be the guinea pig. It's obvious she needs to drop the pounds, but the idea of letting it all hang out in front of some Malibu Ken jock has her choking on her Milk Duds before she even begins!

After one meeting, Theo knows Lucy will be his toughest client and one of the most unforgettable women he'll ever meet. Smart-mouthed and stubborn, it's clear she isn't fond of marching to anyone's drumbeat but her own. But she shocks Theo by rising to the challenge like a pro. And he finds his heart in jeopardy long before Lucy starts to slim down and turn heads.

As Lucy sweats her way into a whole new life, things start to heat up between her and Theo. But trust doesn't come easy for either of them. They've both been burned by romance in the past. Now Lucy and Theo are about to discover that appearances can be deceiving-and in the end, true love lies somewhere between pizza and Pilates...

He Loves Lucy Details

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From Reader Review He Loves Lucy for online ebook

Buscadora says

I can see how this is a fun and lighthearted read. The overweight to beauty plot is just not for me. The heroine is too insecure and it's not enough a plot to keep me interested. I went for it anyway, because I saw a list with this book ranked for its witty dialogue. I didn't get any witty dialogue from this book. The heroine is self deprecating in a funny way, but I didn't get any witty banter. I found it all to be over the top from the sneaky boss to the model as a best friend. Theo is a gorgeous personal trainer who is the sole caretaker for his Down Syndrome brother and paying his way through med school. It's a bit much. As for Lucy, she's OK but I get annoyed by the insecure, overweight heroines. I should have passed on this one. And Theo saying that a size 14 and 175 lbs is "average". Now that's totally over the top.

Jaclyn says

I don't know what I didn't like about this book, but I did not put it down with that happy feeling that I wished there were more and was so happy to have read this story. Right off the bat I will say that for me the romance scenes were a bit crass and that was a bit of a turn off for me. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for a good romance scene, but her terminology made the scenes ugly to me, not romantic and exciting. I may be revealing myself as overly prude, but I abhor the use of the p-word.

The story was also extremely formulaic: boy is beautiful and perfect, girl starts out fat with low self-esteem, girl loses weight, they fall in love but it has nothing to do with how her body looks, it's her inner strength and beauty; the weight loss is just a bonus.

Maybe I've read too many romances lately and have become jaded and picky. Maybe now that I'm reading more classics and novels with some meat these all seem formulaic to me. I don't know exactly what it is that I didn't like b/c this seems like exactly the kind of story I used to love, but this one didn't do it for me.

Diane ~Firefly~ says

I was surprised that I liked this book. Basing a story on losing 100 pounds in a year could easily go badly, but the characters stayed pretty realistic. They each had their own baggage to get over to grow and had some good supporting characters. Her boss was a bit over the top though.

Kimmy says

I can merely, or at most, partially empathize with the book being hailed as another one of "the rise of the underdogs". More specifically, "the rise of the temper of the underdogs". Or even more accurately, the plot can be summarized as "the rise of the temper and the ego and the ass-ness of the underdogs". Frankly, I think "the rise of the asses/should be bitchy prom queen and popular cheerleader in pretend underdog's clothing into (what else) bitchy prom queen and popular cheerleader" sums up the book best.

I am feeling a bit bad-tempered and daring today. Please forgive my language and meanness, which will be

exhibited throughout the review, which shall be entitled "I Despise Lucy".

Smart-mouthed? Stubborn? Stoic? Tough? Unforgettable? More like dumb, clingy, needy, weak and one-dimensional. Lucy is totally overrated. Or should I say underrated. Underrated in terms of her ego. Just because you initially were an underdog doesn't mean that you get to parade around and expecting every guy to attend to your petty desires. Ironical, but I feel that nowadays underdoggity is celebrated because underdogs evoke a sense of empathy and support of the commons. But Lucy herself does not inspire any form of, well, model inspiration whatsoever.

And I absolutely loathe how Lucy becomes a celebrity just because she loses weight. How unrealistic is that? Sure, maybe one would check up on Lucy's progress every month when her show airs, but other than that, how can anyone remember Lucy beyond that, let alone celebrate her? Frankly, (please forgive this very snarky evaluation of her if you don't happen to agree with me), Lucy reminds me of Kim Kardashian. Why? Because she is just like her, celebrated for no talent at all.

Dear author, please don't use all the flowery adjectives to describe Lucy's qualities in the blurb. Please let the readers discover for themselves what a (supposedly) smart-mouthed, stubborn, stoic, tough and unforgettable person Lucy is. This means of trying to convince readers of Lucy's qualities even before readers start the book, betrays an insecurity of the author that Lucy may be inadequately portrayed in the book, who hopes we can have a positive impression of Lucy so we may come to like the book just as readers may have been unwittingly doped into liking Lucy.

Well, it didn't work.

I hope my evil temper does not infect those who read this review. Honestly, I can go on and on about how much I dislike Theo because of his unwarranted sappiness, and the predictability of the romance. But what annoyed me the most is Lucy's character. I would be more ok if the title went Theo Loves Her. Or better yet, He Loves Her. Boring and weird, yes, but at least not irksome. But then again, given that the romance in He Loves Lucy is so flat, I'm not even sure if love is what you'll call the feeling between Lucy and Theo. Hmm. He Lusts After Her, anyone? Hell yeah. A much, much more precise title.

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

2 Stars - Maybe. A big DID NOT FINISH for me.

I was looking for light and fluffy and have almost completely exhausted my "go to" authors; Gibson, Shalvis, James, etc. I've heard quite a bit about this author; fairly good reviews, my daughter reads and likes her ... The book blurbs never really attracted me, but what the hell, I'll give it a go. Yuck. The boredom factor got to me. It was only a little over 200 pages, but by the 60th page, nothing much had happened and I had to let it go. Just yuck. And the worst part, I took up my Sunday figuring it out!!

Not my cuppa, but others seem to like her. May be me, but either way, I'm outa' here .. thank you very much =>

You may be happy reading this one, but I was just bored!

Sandy ? says

****2.5 Milk Duds Stars****

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Bonita historia, entretenida, y algo romántica.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Can a romance book get any better than Susan Donovan's HE LOVES LUCY? I think not! From true-to-life characters, deep emotion, witty dialogue, and red-hot sexual tension, this book has the one thing that contemporary romances should have-everything!

Lucy Cunningham is a marketing executive for the advertising firm of Sherrod & Thoms. And she's hit upon the absolutely perfect idea for a gimmick for the Palm Club of Miami Beach, Florida-bring in an overweight woman, throw her into the capable hands of a personal trainer, vow to lose one hundred pounds in a year, and let the television show WakeUp Miami detail each achievement and setback. It was an excellent idea, until the powers-that-be decided that Lucy-and her two hundred and thirty some pounds-be the human guinea pig in this marketing campaign.

Threatened by the fact that she'll have to give up Milk Duds, extra-cheese pizza, and butter brickle ice cream, Lucy is overwhelmed by the task ahead of her. Sure, ever since the debacle of being the slump buster for Pitt State's football team, she's been eating herself into oblivion, and something obviously needs to change. But working with a Ken look-a-like named Theodore Redmond was never part of the deal!

From the first time Theo is forced to perform CPR on a candy-choking, overweight loudmouth by the name of Lucy, he's smitten by her courageous attitude and brave strength in the face of adversity. As for Lucy, being in the presence of Theo's male perfection is taking a toll on her already fragile hormones.

As Stephan Sherrod, her boss, comes close to having a mental breakdown over Lucy's sudden stardom and weight loss; as Theo's rebuffed coworker Lola DiPaolo attempts to bring down the Palm Club; as Lucy's brother, Dan, falls in lust with her new model friend, Gia Altamonte; as Lucy's sister, Mary Fran, goes through a marital crisis, you just know that HE LOVES LUCY is heading toward one heck of an ending!

Susan Donovan has taken a premise that might have failed, and turned it into a funny, poignant, truly romantic story. I love romance books that feature real-sized characters, and Lucy is definitely that. I have to admit that I was at first worried about Theo's feelings for Lucy-was he only going to fall head-over-heels once Lucy was a stick-thin version of her former self? As I learned, there was nothing to fear! At the end of the story, Lucy is still not a beanpole, and Theo shows that behind his gorgeous exterior lies a heart of gold.

Theo is the kind of hero I love the best, a mix of alpha male. Theo dropped out of medical school to care for his brother Buddy. Sixteen years old and born with Downs Syndrome, Buddy, is the kind of brother anyone would want. An athlete in the Special Olympics, his antics and no-holds-barred advice to his older brother

are not to be missed.

The supporting cast of characters only adds to the charm of Lucy and Theo's story. An excellent book by an excellent author, HE LOVES LUCY goes onto my keeper shelf, in the to-be-read-again category.

Colleen says

I don't think I have ever laughed so hard while reading a book. It was hilarious throughout the entire book. I loved Lucy's sarcasm and quick wit - even when she was large. I completely related with her self esteem issues when it came to her body. I think anyone who has ever been overweight (whether it be 20lbs or a 100lbs) would be able to relate to what she was going through. Watching her relationship with Theo change was definitely a pleasure to read. I wish Ms. Donovan would write a story about one of the secondary characters so maybe we could get a glimpse of Theo and Lucy now. I really can't say enough about this book! I will most likely go out and buy it (I borrowed it from the library) so I can have it on standby when I have a really bad day.

Lisa says

I can't say I really liked this book. Something about Lucy just irritated me til the point I wanted to start popping Benadryl. She was very... shallow. I expected a little more depth from someone who'd been so completely traumatized and she didn't live up to my expectations.

Theo was also missing something. He wasn't very charming and seemed to have more emotional baggage than Lucy. The only aspect I enjoyed was his relationship with his brother, though, it was really just another thing to add to his 'perfect' list.

Overall, I found myself skimming the book so I wouldn't have to listen to Lucy's whining and Theo's boring inner monologue.

Tammy says

From the author's website:

"Lucy Cunningham is a smart-mouthed couch potato hooked on Milk Duds. Theo Redmond is a hottie personal trainer to the stars. When they team up for a makeover publicity stunt that could make them both rich, they learn that nobody's perfect, beauty is more than skin deep, and true loves lies somewhere between pizza and Pilates."

Lucy is full of sass and sizzle. She is my kinda girl. I couldn't help but admire her when she agreed to do monthly weigh-ins on a live morning TV show. I admired her even more when she put on a swimsuit in front of Theo so that he could measure and track her true body-fat index. Lucy is not your typical chick lit heroine - a size 12 who needs to lose a couple of pounds. No, Lucy is a size 22. A swimsuit is not exactly her best friend. Snaps to the author for giving us a true, plus-sized heroine with a can-do attitude and genuine self-esteem issues! I felt myself relating to this character over and over again.

Lucy's goal is to give up the Milk Duds, cheese pizzas and Butter Brickle ice cream and exercise like crazy until she reaches a healthy size. Earning a thousand dollars for every pound that she loses is her incentive. Her ultimate plan is to leave her psycho boss and open her own marketing firm with her share of the money.

Theo melts more than pounds. *Oh my!* It is so easy to see why Lucy fell in love with Theo. The man is a super buff, totally tan exercising machine who is adored by all. He has a great personality. Lucy's first impression of Theo, however, is not a good one and leaves her nicknaming him "Trainer Ken". Others call him "Theo-dorable". But there is so much more to Theo than the stereo-typical dumb jock persona. He is a drop-out med school student, struggling to raise his 16-year-old brother, Buddy, after their parent's death. (Buddy has Down's Syndrome. Theo coaches him in the Special Olympics in addition to his job as a personal trainer.) If Theo can help Lucy achieve her weight-loss goal, he plans to take his share of the winnings and re-enroll in medical school.

I have to say that I probably enjoyed Buddy's character more than any other character in this book. He was so sweet and innocent, yet still acted like your average teenager. Wouldn't it be awesome to see Buddy get his own story? I'm not sure that any romance author has ever undertaken a story like that before ...

And big snaps (again!) to the author on her male dialogue. The man-to-man dialogue that I usually read leaves me scratching my head and wondering what the heck the author was thinking. Do most romance authors even spend time around real men? This author knew what she was doing.

My only gripe about this book was Lucy's big hang-up, also a point of conflict between her and Theo. Lucy suffered public humiliation back in her college days because of her weight. Lucy held onto that and couldn't get over it, which didn't quite jive with me. She was supposed to be a smart, sassy character who didn't care what people thought of her. She had a witty comeback for every smart ass comment thrown her direction. Yet she hangs onto a nasty joke that happened almost 11 years prior? The result was that Lucy blew hot and cold with Theo. Annoying as hell! Some of the secondary characters were pretty much useless too, but didn't affect my overall opinion of this book.

Fani *loves angst* says

Unexpectedly good and with more depth than I thought there would be.

FlibBityFLoob says

I had a lot of mixed feelings about this one. On one hand, I loved the character of Theo and his flirty behavior when motivating Lucy. On the other hand, I found the entire story to be very unrealistic. Lucy was losing weight way too fast, and I missed some of the realism that could come with the tale. Yes, I wanted a happy ending, but I wanted a more realistic one. It was a bit too sappy for me in the end. I think it would have been cool if she stalled at 165 pounds or something like that...

★ Belle The Bibliophile ★ says

The reason why I picked up this book was because I was told that the heroine's a plain jane and it's very up my alley. I love plain heroines and quite frankly I'm sick of attractive white heroines with blue eyes, and blond hair. I've been reading for almost 10 years now and it just got old.

However, I hate reading this kind of trope where it took the heroine changing her look in order for the Hero to pay attention to her. I know, I know. I should have expected it from the plot but the Hero only started noticing her after she lost a bit of weight and even then the only thing he cared about was her looks.

It's so incredibly shallow. It feels fake. Not at all authentic. If the heroine stayed an overweight woman, that golden boy would have never gave a shit. So thanks, but no thanks.

Adrienne says

I'm giving this 5 as it was a nice sweet romantic story. Theo and Lucys' relationship blossoms and develops over a period of 12 months so everything makes sense and nothing about their relationship was forced as they went from Personal trainer and client, to friends, to lovers.

In brief, Lucy works for an advertising agency and after hitting on the marketing idea of losing weight, getting fit and at the same time promoting Palm Club gym she meets up with Theo-dorable a good looking, kind guy who's not really who Lucy thinks he is.....there's a lot more to Theo than meets the eye. As Lucy progresses with her training regime Theo works his way into her heart but Lucy has a secret so she's kind of wary of Theo and wanting to fall in love with him all at the same time. As time goes on Lucy falls hard and deep for Theo for whom the feeling is reciprocated. There's some 'misunderstandings' to liven the tale up and a lovely HEA plus some super secondary characters who are all just wonderful, so if you're looking for a nice romance with no angst this may well be for you:)

Shawna says

5+ stars – Contemporary Romance

WOW...there just aren't sufficient words to express how much I *looved* this book! This is one of those books where everything just clicked and came alive for me and makes 5 stars seem wholly inadequate. I loved absolutely *everything* about this: the heartwarming emotion, the laugh out loud, sometimes sarcastic humor, the fantastic, relatable characters, the witty, honest dialogue, and the inspirational life lessons imparted. It made me fall off the couch with laughter one minute and then wipe my eyes with tears the next.

Lucy is such an adorable, genuine, funny heroine, and I felt like I was struggling right along with her on her journey of personal discovery, emotional healing, self acceptance, and love. And *OMG*, Theo, there just aren't enough adjectives or superlatives to describe how utterly delicious he is...both inside and out! He's without a doubt one of the most heart-stoppingly sexy, sweet, caring, attentive, honorable, sensitive, tender, swoon-worthy, and husband-worthy heroes ever! I just flat-out *loved* him! I found myself rooting for Lucy

and Theo's romantic relationship, individual growth and contentment, and HEA like a bubbly, sappy cheerleader.

Most women cope with self-esteem issues of some kind in their lives, and it seems like we waste so much time and effort hoping and striving for unrealistic, unattainable perfection. Lucy's insecurities and personal battles are poignant and realistic, and **He Loves Lucy** is a delightful, touching, sweet, and romantic story that will have you smiling, cheering, laughing, and crying (especially if you're mushy like me)! *Big 5 stars!*
