



LoveLife

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Life coach Elaine Raitt is educated, elegant, and dedicated to her profession. Blue-collar boi Joey Lang is too insecure to even approach her—that is until her well-meaning but meddling best friend Lisa decides to break the ice and makes Joey a life-coaching appointment with Elaine. A session meant to bring clarity only leaves them both feeling more confused about their purpose in life and love.

Will Joey be able to find the strength to chase the woman of her dreams, and even if she does, will Elaine be willing to risk the life she loves for the woman who could be the love of her life?

LoveLife Details

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From Reader Review LoveLife for online ebook

Heidi Gonzalez says

A well done lesbian romance. There is a formula to all romance novels gay or straight and this is no exception. Shy boi Joey meets the girl of her dreams in the coffee shop she works at and with the help of her meddling best friend makes a connection. Of course it doesn't go as planned and there is a big obstacle they have to overcome to be together. The characters are fun, Joey is adorable and Elaine turns out to need some life coaching of her own but what therapist doesn't? Isn't there a saying those that can't teach? Well that would be Elaine. While I do hate that so many lesbian novels just seem to be populated with lesbians and very few straight people or gay men, it still is a fun read. I do prefer a mix of friends and family, who aren't all gay but this seems to be something very few lesbian romance novels seem to do, either way it doesn't detract from the fun of the book. What girl doesn't want to fall in love at first sight only to find the woman of her dreams is just as messed up as she is?

Jou says

Read like a Self Help Book that's trying too Hard

This was rather disappointing-- I usually love Spangler's stories but this one just didn't feel like it was even written by the same author. I felt it dragged along, with a lot of unnecessary lines and long winded setting up of the characters' motives and thoughts that just weren't necessary. But hey, I finished it.

Topaz Terry says

I really struggled with reading LoveLife. I had a hard time understanding the motivation behind either main character's choices, and could not get excited about the "chemistry" between them. I did not find the coffee shop boi meets exec-turned life coach a very compelling set of circumstances. In particular the newly-dubbed life coaches rampant insecurities, and the coffee shop boi's seeming complete lack of personal drive. Others readers have been able to relate to these to women, so I chalk it up to not my kind of ladies.

Penny Wilder says

Penny's Rating: C-

When I read the description for this book, I was super excited. My first lesbian book review for Net Galley? Bring it. I tackled it enthusiastically, and overall, I am very sorry to say that I was disappointed. I do however think that where I found the story lacking has more to do with my own personal viewpoint the story itself. It is a well written story, it's just that the story embodies that whole Bridget Jones's Diary-ish whiny non-proactive woman thing, and that crap drives me batsh%#t. I'm also not so big on life coaching. I'm not going to get into that here, but that tainted my opinion as well. Again, if you like Bridget Jones's Diary, think life coaching is awesome, and like f/f romance stories, you'll probably think this is a great read, so take that

into consideration.

So, Joey has a huge crush on life coach Elaine. Instead of asking Elaine out, Joey allows her friend to set her up for a life coaching session with Elaine. When Elaine learns of Joey's crush, she refuses to end their professional relationship (which has consisted of two life coaching sessions at this point) in order to date Joey. I really thought it was silly that Elaine was so hung up on appearing professional. Really? You couldn't sever your professional ties with someone who hired you as an independent contractor? It's not like as a life coach she's licensed by the state or something. It's great that she has a strong code of professional ethics, but she uses her code as a shield to hide behind so she doesn't have to explore her feelings for Joey.

The story really ended up being about a life coach who sucks at living her own life. Oh sweet irony. Elaine spends the entire book doubting her instincts and her attraction to Joey, and Joey spends the whole book being awesome and loving Elaine. Aside from the fact that I spent the book waiting for the characters to get their stuff together, this book did have some very sweet moments, I was just too irritated to enjoy them.

I should also say, the lesson in this book is that you shouldn't be afraid to live, and you as a reader are supposed to be irritated with the way Elaine handles her attraction for Joey, and their whole relationship throughout the book. In fact, that is really the whole point. Don't be afraid to take a chance, don't be so worried about what other people think, and if you like someone, do something about it. Author Ms. Spangler makes her points loud and clear. Not her fault that I have no patience for the way she makes it.

Tara says

Like the others I've read by her, this was pretty adorable.

Bonnie says

Sweet story

Santa says

Repeating the name Joey 1000+ times in 254 pages is not OK, Elaine is nearly as abused at 700+.

The story was diverting and I would give the book another star without the problem mentioned above.

Leslie says

I really loved this book. I couldn't put it down.

Celine says

I was rather surprised when Bold Strokes Books invited me to read this title on Netgalley. I have reviewed one of their books before, *Me@you.com*, a contemporary LGBT young-adult novel. *LoveLife* is a contemporary lesbian romance novel, which seems a far stretch from my usual genres, but I decide to give it a try.

When the beautiful Elaine comes walking into her coffee shop, Joey is immediately drawn to her but she's too insecure to ask her out. After some meddling by her best friend Lisa she gets an appointment with the stunning life coach. But will this help them to get closer, or will the scheme ruin their chances of ever having a relationship?

I wasn't very much impressed by the premise of *LoveLife*. It seemed like such a cliché to me; the pretty young girl falling in love with the older graceful woman who she watches from afar. Add an obstacle to overcome (they are life coach & client) and you've got yourself a romance novel. Because of this I almost gave up on the book a few times.

Another thing that struck me as odd while reading the book is the share amount of lesbians in their town. Joey's best friend Lisa is a lesbian, Joey gets hit on by a number of girls, Elaine is conveniently gay. Wikipedia tells me that approximately 2.6% of US population is a lesbian. I have no idea, but it looked like all the lesbians in *LoveLife* had some kind of gay-radar that assured them the other person was into girls too.

The actual life coaching sessions were a miss for me. At one point it looks like Joey is fixed and a whole different person in *just four weeks*. If your problems can be fixed in a few weeks, then your problems are not that big to begin with.

The first half of the book had a "meh" feeling to it for me. Everything was just not as I would like it to be, everything was too easy and convenient. Only when I arrived to the second half of the book I started enjoying the story.

What saved *LoveLife* for me is Elaine. Later in the book you find out she's the damaged one in the story. As a life coach, she can't coach her own life. She has been in therapy for years, yet she isn't a happy person at all. Except from her professional life, everything is a big mess. Her faults made her human to me, and made me believe that she could fall in love with someone 14 years younger than her.

In the end I did enjoy *LoveLife*, but it took a long while coming.

Margaret L. Hedman says

Excellent!

I loved this book. I loved the story. So many life lessons. I loved the character of Joey. She's thoughtful, kind, smart and lacking in self confidence. I loved Elaine. Great story.

Rebekah Weatherspoon says

i did not think i would learn this much about life coaching in a romance novel. :)

Mishael Carr says

Left Wanting

This book is well written; kept my interest for the most part, yet, I at the end I am left with a feeling of wanting.

Wanting more passion (not necessarily sex), more interaction between the main characters that isn't of an analytical nature and more romance.

Such a lackluster book would be better served by a different title.

Three stars because of the quality of the writing.

Lex Kent says

To be totally honest, I did not think I would read a book about a life coach. Not a very exciting topic. But I love Rachel Spangler, and feel the need to give all of her books a shot. I am pleasantly surprised how much I connected to the book. I think it's a very personal connection, in fact some of this book hit way too close to home. And talk about making me emotional, I couldn't stop the water works thru most of this book.

I don't know if this book will connect with everyone. Some might find it a bit boring or not like the over-analyzing of emotions. But no matter what, you can read this and know Spangler is a very talented author. And for me, it all just worked, the right kind of book at the right time, and I'm glad I read this.

Alena says

This was a weird reading experience. I went from annoyed, to placated, to very annoyed, in between really liking parts of the story.

What initially drew me to the novel was the description of the main character as a boi. That sounded like it at least had the potential to break out of the lesfic mold. That hope didn't come true.

The novel falls into several romance novel cliches that make it boring and predictable. A lot of my annoyance my reading was pre-emptive, knowing how certain things would turn out due to genre constraints. There is instant one-sided love without knowing the other person, there's the sudden ending once they get together. In between there are instances in which you have to suspend disbelief and just carry on without analyzing things too closely. Unfortunately these involve the main conflict of the novel, the fact that the two main characters are part of a life coaching relationship, as in coach and coachee. How that relationship comes to be is the first instance of WTF. Which life coach would take on a client that was tricked into meeting her and then confesses to having a massive crush on her?

However, I found the characters to be really well-developed. The secondary ones as well, mostly. Some were

cut short due to the narrative POV that was chosen so that, e.g., the turn of the dramatic conversation between the sisters was a surprise to the reader as well. The POV puzzled me a couple of times. The story flows nicely, it only seems hurried sometimes. They both battle their own demons, but it turns out that the coach actually has a lot more me-problems and Joey turns out to be the stable, secure one. I liked that switch and that it was believable.

The end then made me mad again. It is the traditional romance ending. They get together and boom, over. It bugged me specifically here as the life coach's career is in upheaval due to her relationship with a former client. There is a short discussion with her own mentor about this, but no hints whatsoever how she will resolve that important aspect in her life. Now, of course these things are unimportant when you experience (post) coital bliss, but the novel feels incomplete without having that resolved. I was especially mad because it feels like this would have been a better story if it was not boxed in the romance format. So much more could have been explored, especially since the characters were well-developed and ready to be part of a great novel about the conflicts they experienced.

Amy says

This was a slow starter for me, but I'm glad I kept reading! Before I knew it I was attached to the characters and rooting them on. And oh my gosh – Joey is absolutely adorable. I could gobble her up! The setting was also really nice. Very good description of the city and the weather. Made me long for snow. Good read!
