



You Me Everything: A Richard & Judy Book Club selection 2018

Catherine Isaac

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You and me, we have history.

We have a child together.

We have kept secrets from each other for far too long.

This summer, in the beautiful hills of the Dordogne, it is time for everything to change.

You, Me, Everything is a heartfelt and unforgettable novel about the lengths we are prepared to go to for those we love.

You Me Everything: A Richard & Judy Book Club selection 2018 Details

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Author : Catherine Isaac

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From Reader Review You Me Everything: A Richard & Judy Book Club selection 2018 for online ebook

Stacey A. Prose and Palate says

This was a DNF for me.

Laura says

Book reviews on www.snazzybooks.com

Ohh, what a wonderfully written and emotional book - I didn't want to stop reading, despite the tears (I do cry easily but even so, this was a heartwrencher!).

Catherine Isaac's writing feels so like real life - in many ways but, at its heart, just in the way she portrays dialogue and actions - it all feels natural and so convincing. The situation - Jess trying to get her ex (and father of her child) to bond at last, whilst dealing with her own problems and those of her family too - I don't want to give too much away so will leave it at that - is one that no doubt many people have experienced, and it's all portrayed so realistically.

I also love the characters in this novel. Jess is lovely, strong and the kind of person who deals with things so well considering what she has to worry about - definitely an inspirational main character! In fact, the other characters are also so interesting to read about. I really like them all... even Adam, despite his MANY faults. You can see why Jess fell for him; I think everyone reading the novel might feel the same just a bit. However what I like most of all about this novel is that people and circumstances are never simple. There isn't an easy switch to solve everyone's problems, because that isn't real life. People don't always behave so well but that doesn't preclude them as bad people, just as other people might end up having to deal with more than their fair share of trouble, but unfortunately life is like that sometimes - not always fair.

You, Me, Everything conveys all of this without being overly depressing - there's certainly times when I felt upset and shed a tear (or two...or a hundred) but there were other times where I smiled. It addresses some really important issues and I loved Catherine Isaac's writing.

You, Me, Everything is a bit of a rollercoaster of emotions at times, but it's a brilliant read and I loved being along with them for the journey.

Many thanks to Simon & Schuster and Catherine Isaac for providing a copy of this book, on which I chose to write an honest and unbiased review.

Carmen says

Una historia aparentemente sencilla que nos demuestra de forma tierna y a veces divertida lo maravillosa y desgarradora que puede ser la vida. A partir de ese anhelo de una madre por seguir los deseos de su madre enferma, la novela nos permite acercarnos a una pareja que dejó de serlo hace 10 años, a sus desencuentros, a

su niño y el amor esperanzado por su padre, a la verdad de la vida, y a cómo debemos seguir avanzando. Sin ser un texto demasiado intimista, la autora consigue que la historia penetre en ti.

Narrada desde el presente, en primera persona, ELLA nos va dando las pinceladas necesarias según acuden a su mente sobre lo que es, lo que fue y cómo han llegado hasta donde están.

No pensaba que iba a ser de esta manera; que me iba a gustar tanto a pesar de su sencillez y aparente simpleza, que iba a empatizar tanto con los personajes y su forma de enfrentarse a las dificultades, y que iba a ser una novela tan tierna, con su toque triste y su toque, en cierta manera, romántico.

Opinión completa en el blog

Pauline says

You, Me, Everything by Catherine Isaac is a story about family and relationships. Jess is trying to cope with being a single mum to her ten year old son. She is also trying to cope with the fact that her mother is suffering from Huntington disease. Jess takes her son on holiday to France so that he can spend some time getting to know his father. This trip will be a learning curve for everyone. I would like to thank NetGalley and Simon and Schuster UK for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

Saarah Niña says

Underwhelming

This book fell a little short for me. Just, underwhelming considering I thought it might be like Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You* or just Moyes' writing. The only comparison? It's a love story. And, one I didn't enjoy very much. Nor, did I like the way the book was written- it was unnatural. The reader was told too much too soon. There was no anticipation, until near the end but everything else was immediately put out there. I had no curiosity for the story being told and so, it wasn't nearly as gripping as it could have been. This was also because the reader wasn't really given an opportunity to warm up to any of the characters, or connect with them.

This is a story about a love surviving against the odds. Jessica is a new mother, her boyfriend Adam failed to witness their first child's birth. He wasn't there when she needed him. Their relationship falls apart shortly after. Jessica's mother was there, Jess has come to rely on her, appreciate her more. Shortly after, her mother is diagnosed with Huntington's Disease. Ten Years Later: Jessica thinks she ought to reignite the relationship between her son and his father, for practical reasons. They're going to spend a holiday together. Things have changed: Adam has a girlfriend and his life is in France. In short: he's unavailable. But for how long?

This is a heart warming story, I sympathised completely with the family but where the author was striving to be funny, or make light of situations it didn't work. This story was much too serious for my taste. I also didn't like the choice Jess ultimately made, it didn't feel fully justified and it seemed like it was based on their intimacy. But begrudgingly, I could understand her desire to reunite her son with his father. It suggested responsibility but doing what she ultimately did felt out of character. It was unexplained, but the author knows the characters better.

Also disagree with the sentiment 'When you are surrounded by love, you have nothing to fear.' The book itself disagrees, you are fearful of heartbreak, loss, fate. The sentiment almost tempts fate, something I fiercely despise. I found a lot of the dialogue was guilty of the same crime. Telling someone it will all be okay, that they will have a good life- when life is by nature uncertain- is high on my list of pet-peeves.

Side note: the cover is rather genius.

I received this book through NetGalley.

Megan Prokott says

A French charcuterie of cheese ball and idealism.

Louise Wilson says

Set in the French Countryside Sick of his lies, cheating ways and complete lack of interest in fatherhood, Jess left her boyfriend, Adam, only months after she gave birth to their son. Adam moved to France to follow his dream, unencumbered by a series relationship and a child he never wanted. Ten years later, Susan, Jess's mother, lies in a nursing home, battling a debilitating disease. Susan forces Jess to recognise that William needs his father in his life.

Jess and William spend the summer at Chateau de Roussignol where Adam runs a beautiful hotel. She hopes that when Adam meets William, he will fall in love with his son. I did like this book, there was just something missing for me. I could not connect with the main characters. The devastating descriptions of the effects of Huntingtons Disease are very well written. Adams behaviour is a bit immature. I'm sure lots of readers will disagree with me and will really enjoy this book.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Simon & Schuster UK and the author Catherine Isaac for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Irena says

Review to come.

Sandie Bishop says

Wow! What a brilliantly written, lovely book. Everyone: you HAVE to read this if it's the only one you read this year. Just make sure you have the tissues handy though as it WILL make you laugh and cry throughout its pages.

Jo says

Oh My Heart! I just need to take a little breath before I write this review, because this book is just so incredibly gorgeous. It is such a beautiful book. It made me laugh, it made me cry, and I fell in love with all of the characters. I couldn't focus on anything else while I read this book, set in the beautiful Chateau de Roussignol, in the French countryside. It was all consuming.

It's a book about lost love, about paternal love, about the love between mother and daughter, and the love that runs through the veins of a family. It is a love story on so many different levels, and as you can probably tell, I loved it!

The novel begins with Jess giving birth to William. A baby that Adam was unprepared for, and whom he left behind not long after the birth. It was Jess's mother and father who supported her for the first ten years of William's life. Then fast forward ten years and we have the situation that is now. Jess wants her son to form a relationship with his father, and so she makes the decision to holiday in France, where Adam now lives and works.

During Jess and William's summer vacation to reconnect with Adam, their lives will change forever. That is all I will say. I don't want to give anything away.

This is such a delightful read. The writing is beautiful, lyrical and so very down to earth. The characters are real on the page, and Jess in particular completely resonated with me. I understood completely her motives for wanting her son to have a proper family, and to bond with his father. I also had a soft spot for William. As a mum to two boys, aged 11 and nearly 10, his mannerisms, language and emotions really touched me. I just wanted to put my arms around this little boy and tell him that everything would be OK.

I really did go through a whole range of emotions, while reading You Me Everything. This book is both heartbreaking, yet hopeful, romantic and practical. It's a book about the importance of family and how love evolves and is forever changing, but that it is always present. A beautiful story that I will read again and again. I highly recommend it. Enjoy!

With thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for the Advanced Reader Copy.

The Lady says

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F.F.

Kavita Kumar-Karthik says

Thank you NetGalley and Simon & Schuster for generously sharing the ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review

I chose to read this book because in the Advance praise section I had read,
Oh wow. Just wow. If you liked Me Before You, you'll love You, Me, Everything. Heartbreakingly beautiful'
Claire Mackintosh

And I am a sucker for heartbreak !! But, I was left disappointed after this book. When the story began, I instantly liked it. I was looking forward to read all about the heartbreak and pain ! I liked that Jess raised William single handedly. I loved Jess's family. Her ailing mother and her resilient father ! Their bond with William was so touching. It was heart-breaking to read about her mother's illness and how her father puts up a brave face in front of her ! In the beginning of the book, when Jess calls her mother during her labor and Adam is absent, and her mother says

"I've been in the car park since midnight. I didn't want to get stuck in the traffic ."

I fell in love with her !! And then we have Jess's dad, who is an accountant, who has taught the love of numbers to William and is more of a father to William than his biological father. Adorable !

So far it's been good. The scenery now changes to France where Adam currently renovates and manages some chateau. Jess and William have come to visit Adam on request of her ailing mother. Cue, Adam !! Adam is like 30 going 17. He is annoying, self-centered and at times even uncaring, which pissed me off specially when he put his girl friend's wishes before his son's wishes. We also get to meet Jess's friends. We have Natasha, who is hot-bigshot-single-ready-to-mingle kinda woman and we have Becky who is married to her childhood sweetheart and has 3 children who drive her insane. Things start getting a little slow here onward. We get glimpses of problems in Becky's marriage and how Natasha is falling for a man younger than her, who BTW also has to compete with another self-obsessed man. Too much drama ! And not relevant to the plot at that !

So, we get to see Adam taking some effort to spend more time with William. We have a jealous Simone (Adam's gf) who is trying to snag Adam's attention. Scenes where Adam lets down William and Jess has to make up lies to keep him from getting hurt are heart-breaking. Adam is still way to self-centered till this point. Enter, Charlie ! A very rich man who is living in the chateau and has eyes on Jess. She flirts with him and enjoys the attention. And then suddenly we have scenes where Adam is apparently disturbed with how close Jess is with Charlie ! Really ?? And to add to my woes, Jess is also reminiscing her golden days with Adam and her feelings for Adam are growing despite knowing his history. Seriously ? My mind cannot just accept that Adam now is willing to get together with Jess, so easily, after immediately dumping his current gf.. Everything feels so rushed !!

All in all, I think Jess's mom and dad had more chemistry and heart breaking love than Jess-Adam! I just did not feel the pain or heart break when it came to Adam. Yah, he has agreed to keep up his marriage in sickness and in health, but it seems he has got it too easily. I agree that Adam and Jess's misunderstanding from the labor night, showed a sweet side to Adam. But, that simply did not negate his other problems and actions. And though he realized in the end that he could have fought and stayed to make their relationship work, the fact of the matter is he took the easy way out then !!! Why is he having it so easy now ??

I wish Jess would have tried a relationship first with Adam, and not just jumped into marriage. I wish Adam could have overcome his insecurities and been a deserving father to William before they married. I wish Adam could have been included in the scenes of Jess's mom's final moments, something to assure us that he knows what he has signed up for.. It feels so incomplete !

Kathy - Books & Munches says

The one thing that definitely deserves to be mentioned first is how there are so many hard topics tackled in this novel. From illness to alcoholism to being a single parent to the pressure kids can have on a relationship - it's all there!

And all those topics made this book that more amazing to read because they are incorporated in a real, genuine way that made my skin crawl at times. You can feel the hardships all characters are dealing with - purposely not mentioning names because spoilers, doh!

I'm not even going to go further into the content of this story because I don't want to spoil a thing for you guys - except for this:

One thing I had to laugh about but, more like a stupid laugh, was William - Laura's son - who's absolutely addicted to his mom's iPad. I feel like this is something a lot of parents struggle with. Trying to keep the kids away from constantly staring at a screen one way or another and that was shown pretty brilliantly in *You, Me, Everything*.

I also really loved the short chapters - or at least they felt really short to me. I even jotted down that I was at chapter 37 when I was 33% in and that felt, to me, like I didn't even read that much but seeing the chapter number was... enlightening?

And maybe I should mention how I totally did not know this novel is quite lengthy but I didn't even notice that at all while reading. I only found out about that afterwards!

One thing that kind of annoyed me a bit, was Laura's naivety. She's a single parent, she brought William up all on her own - well, together with her parents - and yet she can still be so naive when it comes to certain things.. It did my head in at times. That's totally me and someone else reading *You, Me, Everything* might not be bothered by it at all though!

4 / 5!

Kathy

Larry H says

4.5 stars for this one.

What is it about books with pronouns in the title?

Me Before You, *Everything I Never Told You*, *The Geography of You and Me*, and now, Catherine Isaac's *You Me Everything*, all turned me into an emotional wreck when I was reading them. (I know there are countless other books which fit this bill, but these come to mind first.)

"Everyone's future is uncertain. Most of us don't think about the fact that we could be run over by a bus tomorrow. We plod through life, taking everything for granted."

Ever since he showed up late for the birth of their son, smelling of booze and with lipstick on his collar, Jess knew Adam wasn't for her. She should have listened to him when he told her he wasn't ready to be a father,

but he had told her he loved her, so she thought that would triumph over everything. But it didn't, and she was fine letting him go, even though the burden of being a single mother wasn't the easiest."

Adam has tried to be a good father to William, but it's never seemed to be his number one priority. And again, that hasn't really upset Jess too much—she, along with her parents, have raised a handsome, well-adjusted boy. But now that William is 10, she's realized that he needs to get to know his father better. Bowing to pressure from her mother, Jess and William are heading to the French countryside to spend the summer with Adam at the hotel he operates in a restored castle.

It doesn't take long for William to become utterly enamored with his father. Adam enjoys having William there with him, but he's still not ready to give up the rest of his life for his son. He has a new, beautiful, younger girlfriend, and he doesn't quite understand that when you make a promise to a 10-year-old, he expects you to keep it—you can't just reschedule in order to spend time with your girlfriend.

Even though Jess still bears some old hurts from her relationship with Adam, she is bound and determined for him and William to grow closer, but she isn't willing to tell anyone why this is so important to her. Jess has a fear she has been hiding from nearly everyone, and she can't tell the truth, for fear she might lose everyone she loves. And as her feelings for Adam grow more jumbled the more time they spend together, she knows she has to keep him at long distance, for everyone's sake.

"When life is tough, as it will be for all of us, you have a duty to yourself. To live without regrets."

You Me Everything is one of those poignant, heartwarming tearjerkers that might not break new ground, but it's tremendously compelling. I read 90 percent of the book yesterday in just a few hours, and woke up early this morning so I could finish. Even though the plot is familiar, I found all of the characters really engaging, so I was very invested in seeing their stories through.

Isaac makes her American debut with this book, and her storytelling is tremendously assured. She does a great job with imagery—you can almost picture the French countryside where the book takes place and experience the adventures that Jess, Adam, and William go on. I was hooked from start to finish.

You won't want this one to end. This will be one of those books you need to grab quickly for the beach, the plane, the hammock, or wherever you want to devour it.

See all of my reviews at itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com, or check out my list of the best books I read in 2017 at <https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2018/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2017.html>.

Grace J Reviewerlady says

I'm not quite sure exactly what I expected from this novel, but I got so much more than I ever thought. It will leave you worn out, exhausted - and desperately sorry that you've reached the final page.

This is usually where I give a brief outline of the book - without giving away more than the synopsis alludes to, but this time I don't want to expand on the blurb one little bit. This is a book about happiness, friendship, children, relationships, family, secrets and love. It begins as such a light read and along the way morphs into something very emotional and heart-wrenching. I've laughed, smiled and had tears in my eyes reading this one. Do I regret reading it? Not at all .. I'm only sorry that I'm not just beginning it right now. *You Me*

Everything is one AWESOME read, and a story which will stay with me for a long, long time. I was delighted to read in the acknowledgements that the film rights have been optioned. This is one movie I definitely want to watch!

My grateful thanks to publishers Simon & Schuster UK for providing my copy via NetGalley. This is my honest, original and unbiased review.
