



Misfortune Cookie

Michele Gorman

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Would you move 6,000 miles to be with the love of your life?

Hannah did. Unfortunately her plan isn't going terribly well. What was supposed to be a move to Hong Kong to start a wonderful new life with Sam is turning into a move to Hong Kong to spend occasional weekends with Sam, when he can get away from an unanticipated work assignment on the opposite side of the South China Sea. Now Hannah can't help but wonder if she's made the biggest mistake of her life.

REVIEWS

“Light, funny, and thoroughly entertaining, Misfortune Cookie is a book that I can absolutely recommend. It was well-written and well-edited and it offered me a fascinating glimpse into what life in Hong Kong would be like for an outsider living there.” The Book Chick

“Fans of Sex in the City, the Shopaholic series, and Lindsay Kelk’s I Heart Series will appreciate Gorman’s novel and her easy to root for heroine and the hilarious situations she tends to find herself in.” Novel Escapes

Misfortune Cookie Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2012)

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Author : Michele Gorman

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From Reader Review Misfortune Cookie for online ebook

Angie says

Hannah seems, on the surface, to be a self absorbed ditz, which I have to admit in the beginning of the book completely irritated me beyond belief. Having not read the previous book first it took me a while to find all the redeeming qualities in her character. In this book, Hannah seems to be "growing" into a better person. I love the interaction between characters. I look forward to seeing what Hannah does in the next installment...cause honestly with that ending there HAS to be another one.

This book was very well written just like the previous one, and I'm sure all the ones to come. My most favorite part about this book was really in the writing. Michele has a way of describing the settings in this book of Hong Kong that make you believe you are right there seeing, feeling and smelling everything that is Hong Kong. This, coupled with the characters and interesting story make for a wonderful read for anyone.

Selena Paulsen says

Misfortune Cookie is the follow-up to Michelle Gorman's Chick Lit debut, Single in the City. Like its predecessor, this novel follows the international meanderings of somewhat ditzy protagonist, Hannah, her varied love interests, and her best friend, Stacy. While Chick Lit isn't typically a heavy genre, and Hannah isn't a "deep" girl, Misfortune Cookie is a cut above the typical novel of its type.

One of the beauties of the book is its less common setting in Hong Kong (rather than the standard Chick Lit locale of London). Gorman's descriptions of Hong Kong, its culture and people are not only fascinating, but also lovely. The respect and understanding that Hannah gains as she discovers both her new home and her somewhat new self are appealing and help hold our interest in a way that the same character development wouldn't in a less exotic locale. Hannah's glimpses into Hong Kong might not be earth shattering, just as her discoveries about herself aren't, but they are sweet and often lovely, and they honestly and accurately evoke what it feels like to be young and struggling to find yourself and your place in a very big world.

I enjoy Chick Lit, and it's not uncommon for me to find "laugh out loud" scenes in such books. Often, the genre contains positively humiliating events that make us cringe as well. However, it is not typical in my experience to find a Chick Lit novel that will make you cry. This one will. The authenticity of Hannah's broken heart brought tears to my eyes, and many memories to mind of my own struggles with finding love at her age. Gorman has nailed it, spot on, and while it doesn't detract at all from the overall lightheartedness of the novel, it does add a certain depth that isn't always present in the genre. Because of Gorman's ability to portray Hannah's struggles and development so realistically, as well as the detailed and engrossing descriptions of Hong Kong, I rate this novel higher than her previous work, and higher than the typical Chick Lit submission. Bravo Michelle, thanks for a nice trip.

SOS Aloha says

A Buddha is someone who finds freedom in good fortune and bad. - Bodhidharma

I requested to review MISFORTUNE COOKIE for its unique storyline - an “American in Hong Kong”. I am a “Haole in Hawaii” and have become fascinated with Asian culture. MISFORTUNE COOKIE is the second book about Hannah, a twenty something American seeking fulfillment in far flung places. The first book, SINGLE IN THE CITY, details why Hannah moved to London and how she coped with the culture shock. The second book, MISFORTUNE COOKIE, chronicles Hannah following her London boyfriend, Sam, to Hong Kong without a work visa or even a formal commitment. Even though I have not read the first book, the second book can be read as a standalone story. The author, Michele Gorman, reveals the back story in the first chapters:

(start quote from the book)

But she (Hannah’s mother) should know me well enough to understand that it’s no use trying to bully me into returning home. It’s not just that I’m stubborn. She fighting against an inviolable mother-daughter dynamic, a formula that has held though the ages:

$N(T+12) = L+S2$

Where a mother’s nagging across time zones is directly responsible for her daughter’s inability to listen, plus her exponential capacity for spiteful digging in of heels. It doesn’t take Pythagoras to work that one out.

(end quote)

Gorman has won over the Mathematician in me!

MISFORTUNE COOK opens with Hannah slurping noodles in Hong Kong. Although Sam is based in Hong Kong, he is “on assignment” to other parts of Asia. Hannah invited Stacie, her best friend and financial whiz, to join her in Hong Kong. They plan to share an apartment as Sam did not offer to cohabit.

As Sam continues to “go on assignment”, Hannah finds an apartment, lands her dream job, and meets new friends in the expat community. Despite Sam’s absence, Hannah finds her own footing in a very foreign culture.

MISFORTUNE COOKIE could be described as American version of Bridget Jones or Becky Bloomwood (from the Shopaholic series). I am reluctant to compare one author to another as each has distinctive styles. Yet these three heroines – Hannah, Bridget, and Becky – share the classic coming of age story. Gorman hits the mark with Hannah’s insecurities in her life – she has failed at several jobs and she holds on tight to Sam as a highlight of her life. Add the comedy of integrating into an exotic local and learning its guttural language – Gorman delivers a light hearted, emotional rendering, easy reading in the form of “chick lit.”

Gorman excels in capturing the magic of Hong Kong – its sights, sounds, smells, and residents. Gorman’s vividly describes the charismatic “old town” struggling to survive with the booming “new town”. I’m ready to book my flight to discover how Hannah found herself in the “fragrant harbor”.

I requested an electronic copy from the author for this review.

Tonya says

Oh Hannah how I love you! Hannah is one of my favorite leading ladies. She makes me laugh non-stop. She is clumsy, awkward at times and just generally like me. This is the second book where Hannah follows her boyfriend from London to Hong Kong. Sam doesn't ask her to move, but she does. Might be a bit easier that when she just up and moved from the US to London, not knowing anyone there, or even having a job lined up.

Once again Hannah didn't get a work permit but she stumbled upon the perfect job. A fashion designer's assistant assistant. Can Hannah keep from fowling up this one? When she moves to Hong Kong in the hopes of moving in with, falling in love with and marrying Sam, her dreams come crashing down on her when he tells her that he will be on location at another job, but will be able to visit every so often.

The only thing that cushions that blow is the fact that Hannah's best friend from the States, Stacy, is coming to Hong Kong too to work and therefore Hannnah now has an ally in Hong Kong.

Hannah learns a lot about herself, life and what she is all about while in Hong Kong. In fact it looks like Hong Kong was the best move ever for her. Things are great with Sam, or are they?

Read this book. You DON'T want to miss out. I am telling you, Michele is so awesome at writing. It went way too quick and I am sad. I need another Hannah fix SOON! Michele really leaves you dangling on this one with so many questions!!!

Andrea says

Oh how I love Hannah and her adventures!

Misfortune Cookie was an amazing book, it was not as funny as Single in the City, but it was totally worth my time.

This book picks up right where single in the city left us...Hannah was asked by her boyfriend to move to Hong Kong and she does! Things don't go out the way she expects them to at first...especially when it comes to her relationship with Sam. Along the way we not only get to know Hong Kong and various parts of China (once again just like the first book, the details of each place Hannah visited were amazing, so well described that it felt like you were there in person) but we also get to see Hannah grow ,mature and learn so many things about life, relationships and second chances.

Once again I must praise Gorman's ability to write such amazing stories...I was glued to this book.

I sure hope there's a third installment to this story because judging by the way it ended it seems like there might be space for more...I loooved the ending but it also raised some questions I would like to have the answers to.

All in all a perfect read. Totally worth it!!!

Tuesday says

For more of my reviews: <http://ravenous-reader-book-reviews.blogspot.com>

I think there are times in our adult, grown up lives where we don't want to remember that we had ever been desperately in love like with someone who didn't like love us back as much. I really think like hurts a little more than love sometimes, because once you get over the fact that he never really liked you as much as you loved him, that you realize it never was love at all. Then when you do find true, real love, you realize how dumb you were and kick yourself in the rump for wasting time on such a loser in the first place. But was it really a waste of time? Maybe not. Life starts out being a series of lessons, some more painful than others, some harder to learn than others, but lessons that end up benefiting us whether we want it to at the time or not. Reflection certainly has given me lessons that I learned a long time ago that I use today.

Misfortune Cookie was a book about life's lessons. Hannah, being the perfect poster child for me to get back into dart throwing, was the young lady who really needed to learn some life lessons. I will admit that while I could totally relate to many of her feelings and irrationalities, I didn't like her until toward the end of the book, and I fell in love with her, because she finally grew up!!!

I love that Misfortune Cookie was set in Hong Kong. Gorman painted me the perfect picture of what life was like for Hannah after moving from London to Hong Kong to follow a boy. I had a feel for what a city I honestly know nothing about was like to live in, and there was even a little bit of history set into her book.

Hannah was real. She could be any young woman who falls hard for a guy. She had the same feelings, the same worries, the same fears, and made the same silly decisions. Gorman did an excellent job of bringing a character to life, someone that most of us can relate to in some way, and she tied her up nicely and neatly with a bow into an enjoyable book that kept me entertained this past week.

When I start any book to review, I stay away from Amazon, Goodreads, and usually the author's blog or website, because I don't want to know anything about what anyone else thinks of the books I'm reading until after I read them. I think this is fair to myself and very fair to the author, because even though I'm not easily influenced by what other people think, I want to give each book the most fair review that I can. This may not be the best idea, especially when it comes to the author's website or blog. In preparing for this blog post, I found out that Misfortune Cookie is a sequel.

Misfortune Cookie is a sequel to a book called Single in the City. So, for those of ya'll who are going to get this book today, why don't you go ahead and pick up both books? You won't be disappointed by Gorman's writing style, and you'll get to enjoy some more of Hanna's crazy and exciting life!

Gaby says

The title and the cover art were both creative and pretty. Sadly, those are the only two things I liked about this book. Ultimately, this was not my kind of book in any way and I have no interest in other offerings from Gorman.

The protagonist is a whiny, needy, jealous, insecure, immature, bumbling idiot. She rambles on and on for pages about being alone in the city when she was supposed to be there with her boyfriend, who's a workaholic and doesn't visit as often as she needs him to. So she wanders aimlessly, second-guessing her choice to move to Hong Kong, likely irritating locals with her poor communication skills (language barrier notwithstanding). If I were her boyfriend, I wouldn't have put up with her for a second. She's pathetic. Who wants a clingy woman who has no self-confidence and ruins all the time you spend together by doubting, being snarky, and nagging? Some of the writing was witty, but there was no real action in this book until

much too far into it.

Spoiler:

Of course your "boyfriend" is going to see other women when you act like you want to break up with him and then verbally AGREE to it. I wanted so badly for her to find some spine and go after what she wanted. She just whined in her head and acted like a wallflower. A little self-confidence would have worked wonders for this headache-inducing protagonist.

Rose Cimarron says

[2012-04-29]Excellent book.

[2012-05-26]

Misfortune Cookie by Michele Gorman

I received this ebook from Michele Gorman to read and review. I read it quite quickly after receiving it, but real life has got in the way of me writing a full review any sooner, for which I apologise.

Misfortune Cookie is a fun read, falling clearly into the chicklit genre. It is a testament to Michele's writing ability that at the same time that she makes her main character, Hannah, a rather selfish and quite self-centred person, you still want to find out what happens to her and, despite her ways, you want things to turn out right for her.

I think this dichotomy may be because although Hannah displays lots of selfish behaviour, she can also be very kind, and rarely sets out to hurt or harm anyone. She is loyal to those she regards as friends.

One thing that 'made' this book for me was Michele's description of Hong Kong. I have never (yet!) visited Hong Kong, so Misfortune Cookie gave me a flavour of the city, its heat and humidity. Hong Kong was as much of a character in this book as any of the people.

Michele's writing style is engaging and thus easy to read. There was little repetition and the descriptions of places clear, crisp and atmospheric. Without being heavy-handed, there was never any doubt that we were anywhere but Hong Kong.

All in all, I thoroughly recommend this book – it is an excellent summer read. Ladies: download it to read in the sun!

A longer review appears on my blog

Katrin says

Loved it from beginning to end!

I've read "Single in the City" not long ago and loved the fact, that Michele Gorman decided to write a sequel. I was eagerly waiting (and voting), watching her homepage for updates.

I've never been to Hong Kong, but it wasn't hard to get a picture of the city the way Gorman described it. I could see myself wandering the streets with Hannah and Stacy!

Hannah has new adventures before her, job- and love wise. And while I found her in "Single in the City" really fun but also a bit on the clumsy side, I had a feeling of her growing up in Hong Kong. I love the way she changes in the course of the two books!

Thank you, Michele Gorman!

Lori says

I really enjoyed Michele's first book and this one was just as good. I need another installment because I need to know what happens next! I have never been to London or to Hong Kong and so I love seeing these worlds through Hannah's eyes. She seems like a very real character. I can relate to her and I enjoy her. I would like spend time with her and her friends. I also feel like I learned a little bit but that was secondary to the overall entertainment of reading this well-written, fun book.

Jenny Franklin says

I was sent an e-book copy of Misfortune Cookie by Michele Gorman. I did not know that this book was a follow up of Gormans Single in the City until I was looking it up afterwards. I never felt like I didn't know what was happening or going on, it was a nice quick read and I would like to go back and read Single in the City to see what I missed. I really liked the culture in this book, you got to know things about Hong Kong through the descriptions. I think this was a really fun book.

Jessica Stern says

Mixed review. The main character, Hannah, was a likeable enough ditz. I didn't feel she really developed enough over the course of the book - although we are told she grew, we don't actually see it. The Hong Kong setting provides some fun color, but isn't provided in a way that really adds to the story. Still, I liked it enough to keep reading to the end. Beach reading.

Full review is on my blog:

<http://desperadopenguin.blogspot.com/...>

Kelly says

Misfortune Cookie is the first book I have read by Michele Gorman. I would give a solid 3.5 to 4 stars. This is a fun chick lit book set in Hong Kong. I know next to nothing about Hong Kong except maybe where to find it on a map. This is the first book I have read set in this city too. Lately I have been reading more mysteries so this was fresh change of pace for me. This story is about Hannah, a great girl, someone a lot of us can relate to as she embarks on a new life in a new exotic city. This is a story about Hannah and her adventures along with her love life in Hong Kong. It is a well written book with great descriptions and insights to life in Hong Kong. It was a fun read.

Samantha March says

Misfortune Cookie the follow-up novel of Single in the City by Michele Gorman, and I actually liked it better than the first! Once again we become BFF's with Hannah, who decides to take a second leap of fate and move from London to Hong Kong to be with boyfriend Sam. It's a fortune cookie that helped her make the decision. Following your heart will pay off in the near future. Hannah is thrilled that her own best friend Stacy is also making the move with her. Hannah manages to secure a job in fashion that she loves with a totally cool boss, despite the little issue of her not having a work permit. She and Stacy make quick friends, and Hannah is blissfully happy with Sam. Kind of. At least, when he's not constantly traveling for his job and possibly cheating on her with a co-worker. Sam wouldn't do that to her, would he? He wanted her to move with him to Hong Kong – but he doesn't seem to be making any sort of commitment to Hannah. Did she really get this wrong? Did she move to Hong Kong only to fail at her relationship?

I had such a fun time reading Misfortune Cookie. It was great to catch up with Hannah again, and she is such a fun heroine. Enthusiastic about life, not afraid to take a chance, and always with a great attitude. The story moved along quickly, and actually finished this book in a day. The ending kind of had me like, "wait, what?" but I can tell it's definitely set up for a next book, so I understand the cliff-hanger. There was just one little thing that I want to point out – the use of characters calling Hannah "Han." It just happened a lot. I think half of them could have been cut out. But I think this book should go on your to-read list. Even if you haven't read the first, I think readers would still enjoy it, but I also suggest checking out Single in the City as well. I'll look forward to the next installment!

Jessica Sinn (Books and Trouble) says

This is a fun, fast read that is sure to entertain fans of Sophie Kinsella (Shopaholic series) and Helen Fielding (Bridget Jone's Diary). Hannah's hilarious inner dialogue and many awkward moments had me giggling throughout the book. If you're looking for something light and amusing, check this one out. Hop over to Chick Lit Cafe for the full review!

<http://loonachicklit.wordpress.com/20...>
