



Ready or Not?

Chris Manby

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Every bride is entitled to pre-wedding jitters, and what reasonable girl wouldn't think twice about marriage when her fiancé shaves off his eyebrows just in time for the photographs? But what if the bride-to-be is really freaked out by something else? Like, perhaps, the terrifying notion of happily-ever-after? With her ex-boyfriend back in the town, Heidi Savage is wondering whether she can really forsake all others—especially for the man waiting at the end of the aisle with no eyebrows.

Ready or Not? Details

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Sammi says

Okay so this book was a perfect, light, chick-lit summer read. And that's the best way to sum it up for me.

Blurb:

[i]Every bride is entitled to some pre-wedding jitters. And what girl wouldn't think twice about marriage when her fiance gets his eyebrows shaved off just in time to look hideous for photographs?

But what if it's not the ceremony that freaks you out but the happy ever after? Heidi Savage is wondering whether she can really forsake all the others for macho, beer-swelling Ed. And how can a couple who've never even been baby-sitters be ready to start a family of their own?

Will the answer come in the form of her ex-boyfriend Steven? Grown-up, gorgeous and good-with-children. Is Heidi's dilemma simple a case of right shoes, right dress, wrong husband?[/i]

Okay, so from the blurb I expected to be reading about this woman who is second-guessing her whole life with her fiance, and I guess that is the basis of the story - though for some reason it was not at all what I expected. It isn't as simple as the blurb and you get into a lot more detail about why she is feeling the feelings she is... and they are what make the book for me. The ending to me was unexpected - completely the opposite to what I thought was going to happen - but I must admit it did make me smile.

The upporting Characters of Kara and her son were wonderful, too. I loved them.

Overall, it was a very good book in it's own right. Though it is not one I'd re-read, I would recommend it for a sweet, romantic, sometimes funny summer read.

The only problem I had with this book, and why it didn't get a higher amount of starts for me was the fact that I could not easily sit down and read this book for hours on end - which is what I like in a good book. I happily read it, but I could easily put it down and I must admit, did get bored with at times.

But, like I said - I do not regret reading it, it was a fun journey.

Amy Westgarth says

Was attracted to this book mostly due to the wedding theme, in light of my own impending nuptials, and of course the 99p Kindle price tag.

This was a quite slow at times, considering it's straight-up Chick Lit which is usually a bright and breezy affair. But, saying that, it was also a completely inoffensive book with no real surprises in the plot – as to be expected in this genre. I was hovering between 2- and 3- stars throughout, but in light of the more serious themes touched on towards the end (and the ending itself) I'll be kind and say I liked it.

I'm fairly sure I read another Chris Manby a few years back, though I can't remember which. I'm not totally put off reading a third on the basis of this one. Who knows...

PrettyFlamingo says

Here's another one I have resurrected from my retro book pile and it was a very good read. I do like Chris(sie) Manby – she writes contemporary women's fiction that is relatable, doesn't feature irritatingly devastatingly annoying hunks that you really should resist, you know, because they are so annoying, but you can't ignore your hormones anyway enough ranting, back to the book.

Radio producer Heidi is about to marry Ed but she is irritated by his childish larking about with his mates, rugby antics, boozing and stupidity. Marriage means children, too, or so she thinks and she has serious doubts whether either of them are up to the task. Heidi's friend Kara is a single mum to a cute little boy called Forester who she spends some time with, and which provides the silly moments in the book, but the crunch really comes when Heidi's ex Steven appears on the radio show as a single dad. She starts to question whether she is with the right guy. Kara tells Heidi it is the "Friends Reunited syndrome" (now there is a blast from the past) and she has rose tinted glasses about the Steven relationship. It's amusing to see that after Heidi has been shopping in the Virgin Megastore (something else that no longer exists) she buys a dress to wear when she next sees Steven. She definitely is unsure what she wants! But she has a secret she has never told anyone, and certainly never told Steven and it is this that is the real reason for her doubting her right to be a mother. All the rest is just projection.

The focus seems, though, to be mainly on Kara, her son and her new love interest, and the dissembling she does in order to keep this going. It means that Heidi gets more time alongside the little boy and moves the story along but there is less emphasis on the central relationship in the book. As always though, all's well that ends well.

An enjoyable way of passing a day.

Melissa says

so far I am wondering when I am going to care about the protagonist. I'll finish the book, but she's a bit whiny for me. She's successful but unhappy; engaged but not sure if she wants to marry him. 1/3 of the way through the book and none of this is changing--complications have been introduced, but not enough to make me worry or care about her decisions.

Ariel says

It's a pretty riveting book on a girl who has signs of pre-wedding jitters. Kudos to Ms. Manby. Always loved her books. This wasn't her best work though. It was hard to empathize with Heidi the protagonist as she was getting uninterested in being married and made the silliest mistakes with her best friend's baby.

At many points in the book, I felt like rolling my eyes and saying, "Geez, what's her beef? What's wrong with this woman?" She seemed clueless herself and pretty self-absorbed for most part of the book.

It was only towards the end - a few passages shed illumination to her dark secret and coloured her perception about babies and all. But I felt the 'revelation' would be better placed earlier in the book and I could empathize with her better instead of being tempted to push the book aside in frustration.

Other than that, I loved that the main characters were three-dimensional and not the usual cardboard caricatures of good bloke of a boyfriend, the evil ex, the ditzy best friend, etc.

Kristin (Kritters Ramblings) says

Heidi has been engaged for a year and is in the last six months of planning her big day when work, friends and her relationship all hit a few speed bumps. A friend who is now a single mom, an ex reentering her life and a fiance who is sneaking around all make Heidi wonder whether this impending wedding is a good idea. If I had been in her shoes, I probably would have had the same crazy stress filled reaction.

An entertaining look at wedding planning and how it can affect a relationship. I also appreciated the real life aspect of talking about what happens after the big day because that is just as important as planning the big day. It was great to read about the same spats that each couple has while planning a major event.

Although, I felt justified in the spats that we have had, apart of the time I am not sure that this is quite the book to be reading while getting ready for a wedding. Full of secrets and exs reappearing, I didn't feel warm and gooey after reading it, but if I had read it at any other time I would have loved the story. I maybe would recommend it to those who are on their honeymoon and enjoying the after bliss of the day being in the past!

Catherine says

Enjoyable wedding-nerves/what-if tale with the inevitable misunderstandings leading to a happy ever after conclusion.

As in previous books I have read by this author, I felt the characterisation was less important than the sometimes farcical events, but as the book went on, the main characters rather suddenly revealed hidden depths, and I think more evidence could have been provided for these aspects which were hinted at before by rather repetitive motifs in how they were described.

Ellen says

This was the 1st Chris Manby book I read.

It was a very easy light read and didn't take me long to finish.

Not her best and I'm so glad I wasn't put off by reading more of her books as she is a great author.

Kristy Cunningham says

Better than I thought it would be. Easy read didn't end how I thought it would.

Lucy Ponton says

Easy read with a slightly foreseen plot but enjoyable nonetheless.

Carrieuoregon says

The explanation for the narrator's behavior came too late for me to forgive her.

Kristen says

A quick and easy read with a fun and whitty story-line. Heidi is engaged to Ed and is about to be married. At work, she runs into a former flame, Steven, who broke off their relationship several years earlier without any real reason. Heidi tries to ignore Steven, but everyone at her work adores him. Stressful situations along with frequent babysitting her best friend's baby, Ed's frequent rugby matches, and the return of Steven into her life, all accumulate and leave Heidi to wonder if she is making the right decision to marry Ed.

Zoe says

This was a lovely surprise of a book! Very light, very easy to read, fun and feel-good. "Chick-lit" is my guilty pleasure and this was a joy!

A typical plot - Heidi is engaged to Ed. With three months to go to the big day, the nerves overwhelm her at the same time a certain ex boyfriend makes an appearance. Who will she choose?

Chances are, if you're a fan of this genre, you've read many books like this one. But don't let that put you off - this was a treat. Four easy stars!

Na'ilah Ali says

Eh. I'm very glad I purchased this book at our Library's quarterly bookseller for \$1. I started reading it because I needed something light and easy after my plethora of heavy novels. This was a great palette cleanser, but it is by no means a great novel. It just was what it was, girl in her late 20s about to get married, wedding jitters etc. Nearly every character in this novel is intolerable. Heidi is annoying at best, Ed just seems pathetic for most of the novel until the very end, Kara is pushy, selfish and doesn't seem to have a care in the world.

Rebecca says

This book went on FOREVER! I don't know it's certain books that take forever to read. There was nothing wrong with this book, it just brought nothing new to the table and went on forever! Girl is going to get married, but starts doubting herself when her old and first love comes back into her life. She thinks future husband is cheating on her, so she cheats with the old boyfriend and then freaks when she finds out that he didn't. She doesn't tell future husband about this and proceeds with life, dropping the old boyfriend from her life. The moral of this book? Talk it out!

Grade: C-
