



Bias Cut

Morgan Richter

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Burned out and bitter after a string of disappointments, Nicola Strozyk takes a short-term gig assisting Laurie Sparks, the design world's reigning enfant terrible. Barely in his twenties, Laurie has built himself an empire encompassing a chic Manhattan boutique and a role on an obnoxious reality series. Part worldly sophisticate and part cheerful scatterbrain, Laurie is beautiful and extravagant; at nearly twice his age, Nicola is jaded and resolutely unglamorous. When Laurie becomes obsessed with tracking down the origins of a mysterious coat, he and Nicola embark upon a champagne-fueled quest that takes them from the New York catwalks to glittery Hollywood parties and posh hotel suites in Paris. What begins as a lark takes an ominous turn when they start to unravel a decades-old mystery surrounding the murders of two young models. Nicola must protect Laurie from a pair of deadly threats: a mercurial fellow designer hell-bent on burying a dark secret, and an obsessive killer who has fixed his sights on nubile young Laurie.

Bias Cut Details

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From Reader Review Bias Cut for online ebook

Michelle says

Good book

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so that I really enjoyed reading this book very much so. Shelley MA

Pamoliverio says

I ranked this 3 stars but 3.5 would be a better fit. I purchased Bias Cut on Book Bub & didn't get to it for a while, but now I'm glad I did.

It's an enjoyable read that surprised me in its well plotted out story that I didn't expect. A great "summer read".

Pat Cline says

Unique story line. Keep s your interest, enjoyed.

Would recommend to my friend reader's.

Liked the style of writing, and fun to read, didn't want to lay down, glad I found.

janet havrilla says

Deceiving title

This turned out to be a really good read. Once I started I couldn't put it down. The author brings very vivid images to the table and you can't help but get lost in it.

Nicole says

I got this book when it was free on Amazon, but after the first twenty pages, I knew that I would have enjoyed it even if I'd purchased it (this is my highest praise). I really liked the relationship between Laurie and Nicola, and rooted for both of them. They each gave the other something that he or she was lacking, but not in an overly sappy way. Laurie helped Nicola feel present in her life and vital in his, while she provided him with the sort of non-maternal grounding that he desperately needed. I was drawn into the mystery in much the same way as Nicola; it wasn't initially clear to me why Laurie cared so much about who'd designed

the clothes, but seeing how things escalated upped my interest, quickly. The characters, more than the mystery, were what drew me to this story. If you're looking for a hard hitting, multi-faceted mystery, this probably isn't it. This book is more character-driven, and all the better for it. I would definitely read another book set in this world featuring Nicola and Laurie, and hope that we haven't seen the last of this duo.

Donna Murray says

If you need proof that Indie books can actually be better than many conventionally published books, try this one. In my view it was enjoyable in every way—solid plot, interesting background, but best of all an especially wonderful friendship between the two main characters. Of course it is a mystery, so that “biased” me somewhat, but look at it this way: I’ve read a ton of them!

R. Diskin Black says

This book was pure pleasure! A sordid tale of murder and mayhem in the fashion world, Richter with this clever story takes the reader from New York to Los Angeles to Paris to the desert of Nevada (a town called Decline!) and back to New York before its “please-don’t-end” last pages. The protagonist, Nicola, is a completely believable and immensely likeable modern 40-year-old woman who finds herself working for reality TV and fashion sensation, Laurie, an infuriating, selfish, fabulous 20-something diva. He would have won an early season of Project Runway, but he didn’t need that show to take the fashion world by storm. They stumble upon several murders that propel the story from fashion world exposé to vintage mystery thriller, and the ride for the reader is pure page-turning fun. Sure the murders are grim stuff (they always are), but at its heart this novel is a buddy story - the archetypal 40-is-the-new-30 really smart straight woman meets don’t-tell-me-not-to-wear-sequins-at-a-Nevada-truck-stop gay celebrity upstart. The only thing I might love more than this book is that Richter recently retold the story of these characters, but this time set in a post-apocalyptic America. That novel, “Lonely Satellite”, is next on my list to read.

Candy says

When the author sent me this book for review, I wasn't sure it was something I would be interested in. It is set in the fashion world. I'm a jeans and t-shirt kind of a girl. And not even a fancy t-shirt. Like the "free" ones you get when you do a 5k. Hanes is my friend. Haute couture is wasted on me. LOL

HOWEVER, it is also a chick-lit book with some mystery thrown in and I was feeling like reading some good chick lit, so I decided to give it a whirl, figuring that I would just toss it if I couldn't make it through with all the fashion nonsense. I'm really glad I gave this book a chance, for sure.

The writing and, in particular, the editing - are absolutely fabulous. This is an author that cares about her work product and it shows. I think a lot of folks think chick-lit is just fluff and I don't disagree, in general, but sometimes you just need a good piece of fiction. Not all books are War & Peace (thank goodness for that!) Ha!

The story itself is well laid out and well executed. Yeah, the ending was a bit of a disappointment for me. It

was definitely wrapped up too quickly, but I think it was also how it needed to end.

There's a bit of a fashion mystery in here. It rings oddly true, if a bit outlandish. But, I kind of believe that this kind of insanity happens within the industry. The mystery itself kept me guessing, I definitely never saw the actual ending coming, so well done, Ms. Richter.

Overall, recommended for chick-lit fans. A great breezy interesting read, pull up a beach chair and enjoy!

Judie says

Nicole, newly arrived in New York City after a career in research in Los Angeles, got a job researching fashions of the mid-1980s for Laurie, a young, flamboyant, easily-rattled fashion designer. When Nicole shows up for work wearing her roommate's raincoat, he is totally thrilled by it and sought more information about the designer.

They are able to trace it back to a store in LA that sells clothing used in movies and television shows and learn in what show it was worn, by whom, and who was credited as the designer. Laurie realized the workmanship was different from the named designer and decided to find out who really created it. His search takes him and Nicole to LA, Paris, Connecticut, and Nevada.

Two thirds through the book, we learn about the first murder victim. Others show up as well as they try to find the connection.

Morgan Richter tells a good tale in a well-written book. It's fast moving. The main characters do not have a romance as is evident from the beginning. There is no blood or gore. Most situations follow some logic.

However, I found a few negatives. Laurie was described too often as "little" or "pretty." It became an overused stereotype. His look, especially his clothing, was flamboyant. It didn't have to be drilled in.

Two characters are in an automobile accident in a desert and their car ends up on its side in a ditch. Since there was a break in part of the windshield, the entire window would have fallen apart harmlessly and they could have gotten out of the car more easily than crawling out one of the doors. Also, air bags deflate almost as soon as they inflate so they should not have created an obstacle for exiting the car.

All in all, I found the book a quick read and a nice diversion.

I got the e-book book as a freebie from Amazon.com.

Lea Setegn says

I LOVED THIS BOOK and read it in one sitting. However, I acknowledge that this could be an experience particular to women who are:

- * In their 40s.
- * Familiar with the fashion world.
- * Familiar with 1980s pop culture. (Typically goes hand-in-hand with being fortysomething these days.)
- * Conversant in the ways of gay men of a certain type. (Because, as cute as he is, Laurie is not a lot more than a type.)
- * Familiar with "raising" a twentysomething as a friend or mentor. (Been there, honey, and it looks a lot like this.)

I agree with other reviewers about the slow pace of the mystery at the beginning. I could have used a little

less of Nikola going back and forth about working for Laurie and a little more interaction between the two before they left for LA. But due to fulfilling every item on the list above, I ultimately loved the relationship that developed between them. The mystery was great - there were enough clues to play along, and enough twists to be surprised - and the ending felt real.

Perhaps this book only resonates with a certain kind of reader. I'm OK with that. It's not like there are a lot of books out there pitched to fortysomething women!

Rebecca says

The ideas in this book are pretty cool. The how they get into the mystery bit. However it just takes too long to get any tension and once you get there, it is back and forth between too fast and who cares. 52% before there is any death or danger.

Then there is another issue. There is more depth to the descriptions of clothing than the characterization. Especially odd when what little hint there is of the main person's character is that she doesn't care much about clothes. So why does she obsess so much about what the boy and everyone else is wearing?

The final thing might be a spoiler.

(view spoiler)

Kristeen Shuga says

I want to start off that I won this book from the Goodreads Giveaway.

In this novel, we meet flashy but chic Laurie Sparks with a clueless and carefree spirit who is renowned fashion designer. Along with him is his sidekick, Nicola of whom is blunt, motherly and has an issue with having to protect Laurie from the world. The story is off and running as they search for clues to help find out why a certain designer did not sew or design his third appearance of fashion week.

The story was well written and fast paced. I didn't think the story would be interesting at first, considering I rarely read murder mysteries. In fact, I finished this book in four hours from when I picked it up. It was so engrossing that I couldn't put it down until I finished it. The characters are well developed, the relationships interested me. The story was well rounded and was believable. I honestly wished it hadn't ended so quickly. I wanted to hear about what happened during the trial and what would Nicola do now other than the "non-art" part of his designing. Might be good for a second book, but I want more now! :D

gerri boyle says

Delightful read

You will fall in love with the two main characters. The story is interesting and finally, there's a hint of mystery to the book. I'd like to see more of Laurie Sparks and Nicola.

Jerilyn Marler says

I searched through the stack of books by my bed looking for something lighter than my usual murder mystery/international intrigue fare. I knew nothing about this author. We'd received the book as a gift from her uncle who is a friend of my husband's. I'm so glad I decided to give it a shot. Love Ms. Richter's writing, the delightful characterizations, the peek into the fashion world. It takes time to get to the mystery/suspense at the heart of the story, but I enjoyed hanging out with Nicola and Laurie so much that I didn't mind the pace. In fact, I thought it was refreshingly different. The dialog is insightful and often funny, which I value. It's a quick, satisfying read. I'll be reading her other books soon.

Dany Denise says**Great Read**

Romance, Mystery, Humor is it any wonder I couldn't put it down. Hopefully I can find more by this author.
