



Charlotte Street

Danny Wallace , Simona Viciani (Translator)

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Jason Priestley (not that one) has just seen her. They shared an incredible, brief, fleeting moment of deep possibility, somewhere halfway down Charlotte Street.

And then, just like that, she was gone - accidentally leaving him holding her old-fashioned, disposable camera, chock full of undeveloped photos...

And now Jason - ex-teacher, ex-boyfriend, part-time writer and reluctant hero - faces a dilemma. Should he try and track The Girl down? What if she's The One? But that would mean using the only clues he has, which lie untouched in this tatty disposable...

It's funny how things can develop...

Charlotte Street Details

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Author : Danny Wallace , Simona Viciani (Translator)

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From Reader Review Charlotte Street for online ebook

Vikki VanSickle says

This book was a novel version of a romantic comedy, but one of the good British ones, with a dry-witted, sheepish, bumbling narrator and an awesome ensemble cast (think Notting Hill). Danny Wallace is a funny writer, and though Jason (the narrator) makes oafish mistakes and can be a bit of a drunken lout, he is never mean-spirited and ultimately his desire to reinvent himself and do right is quite winning. Think of him as a male version of Bridget Jones as played by Mark Ruffalo with a British accent. This book reaffirmed my desire to go to London and made me take a closer look at the Metro on my daily commute. It's composed of relatively short sections and a lot of dialogue, which makes for quick and easy reading. I didn't love the blog posts from mysterious S, which took away from Jason's story and quite frankly could be skipped and the book will still be logical. Fans of Nick Hornby, women looking on an insider's perspective on the 30 something year old man's brain, or readers who want something fun, uplifting, but not too saccharine will enjoy CHARLOTTE STREET.

Alec says

Charlotte Street, by Danny Wallace, was the next book in a couple of my ongoing literary themes. For one, it was the most recent of the "books I picked out randomly from a bookstore" subset -- my most cherished pastime. Second, as it turns out, this was but another in a long line of "angsty twentysomething male charmingly tries to put his life together" novels which I hold so dear. That series, of course, contains such gems as Twentysomething (creatively titled), Mammals: A Novel, The Beautiful and Damned (possibly the least flattering list in which Fitzgerald has ever been included) and pretty much everything Nick Hornby has ever written. I have enjoyed them all, to varying degrees, and this was no exception. Actually, it was an exception. The protagonist in Charlotte Street was actually thirtysomething -- a fact that gave me great piece of mind. Perhaps the protagonists in these novels will simply age with me. How very comforting...yet also appalling. Get it together, fictional characters.

This book had a lot of attributes I really enjoyed. Danny Wallace writes with tremendous voice and, especially at the start of the book, is quite literally laugh-out-loud funny. There was one point on a United Flight from St. Louis where I had to put the book down and compose myself for fear my laughter convulsions would wake my sleeping wildebeast of a seat neighbor. Thankfully, the crisis was averted and the beast slept on. There were also many traits that kept Charlotte Street in the pedestrian world of three stars. After a very strong first half, the plot failed to keep my attention for the home stretch and throughout the book I had trouble understanding why many characters behaved the way they did (perhaps it's an English thing). But my main complaint about Charlotte street was this: I didn't like the main character, Jason Priestly.

Apart from the "shares a name with a celebrity" gimmick, something about this guy just rubbed me the wrong way. Sure, objectively he made a lot of mistakes and hurt people along the way but I'm someone who actively roots for the murderous Walter White in Breaking Bad. Clearly, moral transgressions are not a deal breaker for me in the protagonist department. I think my main irritation was that Jason Priestly is just such a whiny, pansy of a man. Now listen, I am not claiming to be a shining example of modern masculinity. I ask my landlord to change light bulbs, I'd call my abilities to drive a stick shift "non-existent" and I have been told by more than one female that I have "really soft hands." John Wayne, I am not. But come on, Jason Priestly! I can't respect a man in his 30s who constantly whines about how bad his luck is and what a

depressing situation he's in. Want to know a great way to have bad luck with women? Complain about your life all the time! Alright...I'm not sure I'm getting through to him. I tried.

Since I did actually enjoy the book on the whole, I'd like to point out one other aspect which I thought was a tremendous positive. As the cover of the book says, Charlotte Street is "A heartwarming everyday tale of boy stalks girl." Basically, Jason has a chance encounter with this mystery woman and spends most of the book trying to track her down. As a plot device, I loved it. I thought the author did a fantastic job of showcasing how such a random crush on what's essentially a stranger can totally brighten your life. We've all been there. The cute girl on the elevator, the new co-worker you haven't met yet, a random McDon...err, Starbucks barista: for that brief window they can put a bounce in your step and make waking up in the morning the easiest thing in the world. Even when you're Jason "I'm an annoying, aging hipster" Priestly.

Overall, I'd call Charlotte Street an enjoyable, if flawed, example of easy-to-read fiction. I think this is appropriate given my next book will likely be *A Man Called Intrepid*, which promises to be an enjoyable example of exhausting-to-read nonfiction.

Donna says

Disclaimer: I read this book when the Melbourne winter decided to grace us with two windless and sunshiny days, all synched up with the weekend. Meanwhile I was lying in bed with a head cold.

I discovered this book on the 'Highly Recommended' shelf at my library and who doesn't like 'a heartwarming everyday tale of boy stalks girl'?

A few chapters in, I was reminded of Nick Horby's *High Fidelity*, but with fewer insights. I really couldn't get into this book. Blame my grumpiness or the fact that Jason Priestley (haha, get it?) is a bit of an annoying character who bumbles his way about the place, doesn't know what he wants, does a half baked job at work and gets the girl in the end, all in the space of 100 pages too many.

I'm too old for this. I must have turned into a grumpy old woman, given the very glowing reviews here. Do people like Jason exist? If they do, why do people want to read about such bores?

(I'll come back and review/edit this once I'm off the drugs and feeling better.)

The Travelling Book says

Una scrittura arguta ed elegante. (Quasi) un giallo alla scoperta dell'amore e di se stessi.

Laura Armstrong says

I think if I hadn't been reading this for a book club I may have struggled to finish. Wallace took far to long to get things going, 'things' got going 250 or so pages in, - by this point I worry the author may have lost quite a few readers...There were some amusing touches along the way and I quite liked the premise but I'm not sure this is as top notch as the author would hope it to be.

Ryan Sweeney says

Danny Wallace, is better known for his non-fiction books. In fact, Danny Wallace wrote one of my favorite books of all time... actually... that's not quite right, Danny Wallace wrote half of one of my favorite books of all time with his then-flatmate Dave Gorman. In case you're interested that book was called 'Are You Dave Gorman' and it chronicled a drunken bet between Dave and Danny which stated that Dave would never be able to find 54 people called Dave Gorman. Possibly the funniest book I've ever read.

Since the release of 'Are You Dave Gorman?', both he and co-author Dave have become famous for their range of non-fiction 'wacky-adventure books' and sporadic television appearances. However, it was Danny who really hit the big time when one of his later books 'Yes man!' was adapted into a film starring Jim Carrey - which strangely had almost nothing to do with the book upon which it was based. Regardless, both are incredible writers and I'd highly recommend any of their books to anyone.

Where was I going with this?

Oh right, yeah. So, I am a fan of Danny Wallace, but his last book, "Friends like these" was slightly disappointing (read: not as good as his others) and I was worried how he would turn his hand at fiction. I saw the book on a shelf, decided it was worth the risk, and it paid off. Easily the best book I've read all year, and certainly one of the funniest.

'Charlotte Street' tells the story of a man named Jason Priestley (no, not the star of Beverly hills 90210) who has reached a bit of a slump in his life. One day he has a fleeting moment with a pretty young woman whilst helping her with her bags and into a taxi. By accident, he ends up with her disposable camera and no way to contact her to give it back. He becomes smitten, perhaps borderline obsessed with "The Girl", and thanks to the actions of his flatmate and good friend Dev, he embarks on a quest to return the pictures to their owner which lies somewhere between stalking and hopelessly romantic.

I don't want to reveal any more than that, so as not to spoil a fantastic read but I just could not put this book down, I think I managed a couple of short breaks while I made a cup of tea, but aside from that I was addicted. If you've read any of his previous books, you can really see their influence in this one, and it makes it all the better.

Head out and buy it now; you won't be disappointed.

'A magical slice of book heaven.' - Ryan Sweeney

Thais says

No Danny, no, non ci siamo, mi dispiace. Yes Man mi era piaciuto, quando ho visto questo nuovo libro non mi attiravano né titolo né copertina ma si sa, non si possono giudicare così i romanzi, e del resto a volte si ha

bisogno di leggere qualcosa di leggero e coinvolgente. Così, quando amazon l'ha messo in offerta kindle a 1,99€, non ci ho pensato su troppo e l'ho preso.

Una delusione totale. Lento, noioso, non succede praticamente nulla. La fantomatica Ragazza è solo un pretesto per far sfogare le lagni di Jason, il protagonista. I personaggi mi sono sembrati quasi tutti artificiosi, irreali. Pensavo fosse un romanzo da leggere in un soffio, per distrarsi, per farsi coinvolgere da una storia appassionante, ma non è stato così: non è riuscito nemmeno a farmi venire la curiosità di vedere come sarebbe andata a finire la storia.

Non gli do una stellina solo perché a tratti mi ha fatta sorridere, ma neanche poi troppo.

Una noia mortale e un libro semi-inutile che credo dimenticherò presto.

Ellie says

There was a girl struggling with the door of a cab and her packages. And I don't know why, but I asked if I could help. And she smiled at me. This incredible smile. And suddenly I felt all manly and confident, like a handyman who knows just which nail to buy, and now I'm holding some of her bags, and she's saying "thank you" and then...there's that moment. And it felt like a beginning. But the cabbie was impatient and I suppose we were just too British to say anything else...

Jason Priestly (no, not that one) is left standing on the corner of Charlotte Street holding a disposable camera. The Girl has left it behind but it's too late to hand it back and he doesn't know who she is. His flatmate and best mate, Dev, thinks they should get the film developed and look for clues to her identity. Jason thinks they're bordering on stalking. Yet, there's a link, a tenuous one at best, and they team up with ex-pupil, Matt, to uncover the pattern in the photos.

Jason's had a rough time of things lately. The prologue is rather dark and may leave you feeling, just for a moment, that this isn't the humorous book you were expecting. Whilst it does have its serious side, it's full of Danny's trademark, charming humour. Just like the funny parts are funny because they are grounded in reality, the characters are incredibly real and that includes their faults. Humour can often be a mask to hide behind.

It's one of those books that captures the current day of normal people like you and me. They may get a bit drunk and say stupid things on Facebook when their ex is happy and engaged. They might create fantasies out of people they bump into on the street and may never see again. Yet there's that hope that they might. They might not be all that great at their jobs but muddle through anyway. There's a hint of recession but nothing overwhelming to the plot, just enough to place it in the now.

“You have twelve exposures,” he said. “Twelve moments to capture. It's finite. So every time you capture one in that little box, you've got one less to spare. By the time you get to that last one, you better be sure that moment is special, because what if the next one comes along and you've got to let it go?”

What a terrible thing, I thought, to let a moment go.

“With a disposable, you want to complete your little story. End of an ending. Or a new beginning. A dot-dot-dot to take you to the next roll.”

As a photographer who has moved from film to digital, I loved the little photography metaphors. Photographs have become so less special in the digital age, yet there are still thousands who love that finite quality of a roll of film. I also love how the story of The Girl unravels through the photographs.

Danny's first foray into fiction has been a huge success. I did at times picture Jason as Danny himself, which is difficult when a writer has done so much autobiographical writing, yet as the story develops Jason becomes his own person. The characterisation is spot on and I just wanted to keep reading about their lives, but alas, all good things must come to an end.

Natalie E. Ramm says

Jason Priestly (not the one from that sitcom that I'm too young to remember) is in a rough spot. He and his girlfriend have recently broken up for reasons unknown; he's living with his socially challenged friend Dev in an apartment Dev's dad owns; he has recently quit teaching to write mostly negative reviews for a free paper that no one reads; and has generally lost his luster. But when he sees this woman drop her bags on Charlotte Street he has an urge to help her. As he picks up her bags she smiles at him. A big, bright, life-altering smile. And then she's gone. He's left with just her disposable camera, which becomes a set of clues. This is a story of boy stalks girl to find true love.

Told in the first person, Charlotte Street takes us on Jason's journey to pick himself up after some serious mistakes and try to find some meaning in life. This isn't exactly a love story, but a quest for love story. It's a bit depressing but in a funny English way. Jason's blunderings and misfortunes are humorous, and his conversations with Dev had me rolling. Dev is this unintentionally funny video game store owner who is in love with this foreign waitress and wholly supportive of Jason stalking his mystery girl.

Charlotte Street has many plot twists and turns that kept me turning pages. However, I didn't love the blog posts scattered throughout, and I thought the ending was a little too Hollywood in the way it wrapped up everyone's lives. But I did like that it was a happy ending after so much sadness and anxiety in Jason's life. Danny Wallace's writing is clever and culturally informed. He manages to craft many characters that I empathized with, which I think can be difficult when using first person POV (because you tend to empathize mostly with the character telling the story).

I really enjoyed this book! If you want a darkly funny British love quest, this is for you!

Maddalena says

Libro tutto sommato piacevole. Adoro lo scrittore... Scrive rivolgendosi direttamente al lettore come se fossero amici. La storia in sé è carina anche se già letta. Penso sia migliore il percorso che fa il protagonista, il suo cambiamento interiore, il diventare adulto.

Λ?να Θωμ?ρεη says

2 ? 3 αστερ?α ... ιδο? η απορ?α... (2,5 αστεεεεεεερια)

Το βιβλ?ο μιλ?ει για ?ναν Τζ?ισον που ε?ναι χωρισμ?νος, πληγωμ?νος, ?χει παρατ?σει την θ?ση καθηγητ? σε Γυμν?σιο, και δουλε?ει ως εξωτερικ?ς συνεργ?της σε μια δωρε?ν Μ?τρο Εφημερ?α. Συγκατοικε? με τον κολλητ? του τον Ντεβ και γενικ? η ζω? κυλ?ει με αυτ? το τρ?πο.

Και ?λα αλλ?ζουν μια μ?ρα στην οδ? Σ?ρλοτ ?ταν συναντ?ει την "Κοπ?λα" και αυτ? η συν?ντηση του αφ?νει αναμνηστικ? την φωτογραφικ? της μηχαν?.

Ε λοιπ?ν αυτ?ς και η κοπ?λα πολ? μας τυρ?ννησε....

Αν και στα πρ?τα κεφ?λαια βαρ?θηκα και απογοητε?τικα στην συν?χεια κπς ?κανε την ?κπληξη και απ?κτησε περισσ?τερο ενδιαφ?ρων... ξαν? β?λτωσε λ?γο στην συν?χεια που για "Κοπ?λα" ?κουγες και κοπ?λα δεν ?βλεπες αλλ? μετ? του ?δωσε και κατ?λαβε..

Αλλ? στην ουσ?α ?ταν καλ? βιβλ?ο...

Σου γεννο?σε αρκετ? αισθ?ματα... πχ.... σχεδ?ν ?λη την ?ρα ?θελα να σκοτ?σω τον Τζ?ισον.... ? στω να π?ρω το κεφ?λι του και το χτυπ?σω στο το?χο... (τ?ρα που το σκ?φτομαι μπορε? να ?χω αυτ? την γν?μη επειδ? ε?μαι γυνα?κα :P) λ?γο των επιλογ?ν του, λ?γο των λαθ?ν του, το ?τι ?ταν λ?γο εγωιστικ?ς μπ?σταρδος αλλ? ο Συγγραφ?ας προσπαθο?σε να το κρ?ψει....

2,5 αστ?ρια απ? μ?να!!!!

Aimee says

I am an anglophile at heart so I jumped at the chance to read this book and I am so glad that I did. Danny Wallace has written a book that is filled with British humor, quirky characters, and an interesting story that kept me reading.

There were so many things I loved about this book. The idea of Jason helping this stranger, being attracted to her, and then finding he still has a connection to her through a disposable camera was brilliant. It was a great fun to read about Jason and his best friend Dev as they try to solve the mystery of who this woman is through her pictures.

The characters were great, I loved how Wallace used little details about each character to make them unique and at times really funny. My favorite character was Dev, He was such a good friend to Jason in his time of need and he added so much humor to the book.

Along with the story this book gives a great look into the city of London. I have never been so I really appreciated all of the descriptions of London that were inculded in the book. I felt like I was there right along with Jason and Dev making their way around the city.

What impressed me the most was the fact that the story was about Jason and how he was really in a difficult time in his life, but the story was never morose or angry. There was always just enough hope added to Jason's story to keep it fun to read. I really enjoyed watching Jason change from the depressed guy at the beginning of the book into the man who is willing to take charge of his life and make things happen at the end.

I would highly recommend this book to any reader, it is a funny story with strong characters, a nice setting, and a perfect ending. I am sure this one is going to make my top ten list for this year.

Reader, I Read It says

Sometimes a book comes along where a reviewer has little else to say apart from those three magic words....just read it.

For Charlotte Street, Wallace's debut novel, is one of those books which will hold universal appeal, cause enough embarrassment laughing out loud on your public transport of choice and will ultimately tug at the heart strings.

Jason Priestley accidentally is left holding a disposable camera belonging to a girl he helps, with bags as she clammers into a taxi, on Charlotte Street. With little other direction in his life and the idea that maybe this girl could be THE girl, he is encouraged to find her with the help of his best friend, Dev. It is only when the photos are developed that Jason notices he has been captured in one of them; and so the mystery thickens.

As Jason's life erupts into chaos, from the ex-girlfriend and a drunken evening spent on Facebook, to the career writing dodgy reviews for a London paper, the girl on Charlotte Street resembles one thing he can make happen. All he needs is some detective work and only a bit of stalking, well maybe more stalking than detecting.

This is just a celebration of life as it is of London; so if you are a Londoner, an ex-Londoner or a wannabe Londoner you will love exploring the city with these characters.

Charlotte Street is perfect for anyone who would like to invest a few hours into a good read with belly laughs and a great dollop of realism. So what more can I say other than...just read it.

Marina Maidou says

?ταν ξεκ?νησα το βιβλ?ο αυτ?, με ξ?νισε στην αρχ? η κοσμαντ?ληψη του ?ρωα, που συναντ? τυχα?α μια κοπ?λα, την οπο?α ερωτε?εται αλλ? δεν προλαβα?νει να την προσεγγ?σει και αργ?τερα ξεκιν? μια Οδ?σσεια προσπαθ?ντας να τη βρει με θεμιτ? ? κι αθ?μιτα μ?σα. Το ξαν?πιασα πρ?σφατα και τελικ?, ?λα ?ταν υπ?ροχα. Ο τρελ?ς ?ρωας που κ?νει ?να σωρ? τρελαμ?ρες παρ?α με ?ναν ακ?μα πιο ανεξ?λεγκτο φ?λο του ταμ?νος στον σκοπ? να βρει Το Κορ?τσι της Οδο? Σ?ρλοτ. Μ?σα απ? αυτ?, η φρ?σκια ματ? του Λονδ?νου, πολυπολιτισμικο?, ?γριου, υποβαθμισμ?νου και λαμπερο? μαζ?. Οι εξελ?ξεις απροσδ?κητες, το κε?μενο ρ?ει, αλλ? σου δ?νει την ευκαιρ?α να

ατεν?ζεις το τοπ?ο των υπ?λοιπων χαρακτ?ρων και καταστ?σεων. Πολ?-πολ? ενδιαφ?ρον και γλυκ? κομμ?; τι χωρ?ς να γ?νεται καθ?λου, μα καθ?λου γλυκερ?!

When I started this book, I was astonished with hero's weird worldview, who accidentally meets a girl and falls in love with her, but because he hasn't enough time to reach out her, he begins later an Odyssey to find her using fair and unfair ways. Recently I got it again to read it and everything was great. The weird hero does a lot of follies along with an even more uncontrollable friend, as a votary in order to find the Charlotte Street Girl. Through all this madness there is a fresh look of London, which is multicultural, wild, degraded and brilliant at the same time. The plot has unexpected developments, the story flows while it gives you a chance to gaze the panorama of the other characters and situations. A very, very interesting and sweet book but without being corny at all!

Hester Robinson-spoon says

Disappointingly boring
