



Flabbergasted

Ray Blackston

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In Dallas life was normal, thinks stockbroker Jay Jarvis. But he's just been transferred to Greenville, South Carolina, and simultaneously dumped by his Texas girlfriend. Where does a guy go to meet girls in the Southern suburbs? The same place she finds clients, his realtor drawls: "Everyone here goes to church." So does Jay. And on his first visit, he gets sucked into the singles group-and the proverbial Weekend Beach Retreat, where against a backdrop of white sand and blue sea he meets: * lead-footed Darcy and her lime-green convertible * Nancy and the Numericals, who move en masse, dating books in tow * a brown-eyed missionary who catches his attention with a well-slung grape and provocative poem * Bible-thumping Stanley, who just wants a girl to help him with his suntan lotion * surfer-dude Ransom, the single men's group leader with high expectations-and a wife * a Perrier-swigging church janitor who loves to tell stories and play mid-week pranks on the pastor * and a crazy concoction of off-beat others! Life for Jay is never normal again as his perceptions of church, God, and what it means to follow him are turned upside down-an effect leaving this single stockbroker, and those around him, thoroughly Flabbergasted.

Flabbergasted Details

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Author : Ray Blackston

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From Reader Review Flabbergasted for online ebook

Cathy says

I absolutely loved this book. It's about single life in the southern churches. Fabulously entertaining. I'd recommend this to anyone looking for a good read.

Chelsea says

To defend why I picked this up off the random fiction shelf, look at the cover. What book could possibly look more fun and inviting? Then after reading the summary, I thought, why not? I always think that mormons have the corner on strange, inside cultural idiosyncrasies...so I wanted to see what other religions had that could compare. Anyway, it started off okay...really, their "singles retreat" was exactly like our Single Adult outings in college. Some people were there only to hook up, others were trying to maintain their sanctimonious-ness (?) at the expense of looking stupid, etc. But then the story really degenerated. It just didn't really go anywhere, didn't have a satisfying ending, and the romance that you thought was constantly building...wasn't. LAME! Not worth my time...I'm really glad that I literally started flipping pages and reading like 1 paragraph every 10 pages for the last 70 pages or so!

Joan says

I can't rate this book. It wasn't anything like I expected and I really dislike 'churchy-preachy' novels. There seemed to be very little tension in the story and in the end I stopped reading. Just not my sort of thing.

Jacci says

I read this book about ten years ago and thought it was hilarious! Recently I noticed that it was on the audible I share and decided to give it a listen. I didn't laugh out loud so much this time, perhaps I'm too far removed from the world of dating and that kind of Christianity, but now as an author I really appreciated Ray Blackston's writing. It is very well written, thoughtful with very distinct characters and a great plot. It dragged a bit in the middle for me but I believe any "single" Christian, or anyone twenty years from that life, will still find it delightful.

Jo says

I do not normally read Christian fiction as I normally find it very lame and pushing an agenda. However, I accidentally started this book and quite enjoyed it. It was a light hearted, easy to read story.

Liza says

I had read some good reviews of this book but I think they read another book and confused it with this one. I very rarely give up on a book but I gave up on this one halfway through the book. The characters seem very one dimensional to me. I don't see where this story is going. I see no reason why Jay is even remotely attracted to Allie, who just acts very odd from the get go. I find nothing endearing about her. What is with her weird behavior? I know plenty of people who have served as missionaries and act perfectly normal when they return. I just don't get how this book got so many good reviews. I am really disappointed, I really wanted to like this book.

Ap says

I think I've decided that I like female authors better than male authors when it comes to fiction. This book was ok, but listening to the romantic details from a man's point of view left me blah and wishing for more. I guess the word "details" is not the right word! But the part I did like was how he slowly came to accept Christ. That part of the story was very realistic and took the whole book to unfold.

Karen says

I expected this to be funnier. It was entertaining, just not quite as funny as I'd hoped. I've been in a singles group in a church so a lot of this was very familiar. The bit about church-hopping looking for dates was pretty dead-on. I know people who do this periodically (although most church-hop within a chosen religion, not across denominations as some did in the book). The ranking of churches was new to me though.

Allie was my favorite character, even if we didn't see a lot of her. Our society really is too wrapped up in our stuff. Not sure I want to sell it all and live in a hut on skinny stilts in an Ecuadorian rain forest, but I wouldn't mind a trip up the steps the ornithologists built. I've been seriously thinking of selling/donating/giving away most of my stuff and buying a winnie to travel around in. Now that I have a degree and passed my test for certification, there are lots of jobs out there all over the country. The possibilities are endless and I'm getting that itch to move on...

Valerie says

Flabbergasted, by Ray Blackston, is a breath of fresh air. I laughed and laughed. It's not often that I give 5 stars, but this one gets my 5 stars fair and square. Also it's not often I mail a book to someone, but I've got just the friend to mail this one to.

Jay is a young professional man recently relocated to South Carolina. To meet girls, he checks out the Presbyterian church and ends up on a singles trip. Packed with hilarity, Jay narrates the events, his spiritual questions, his observations, and of course his attraction to a particular young missionary.

This is a fresh book, a light read that covers significant theological ground. I highly recommend it.

Kathy Juveli Hauck says

I wish there was a warning label on Christian fiction. That way I wouldn't waste my time. Not that there's anything wrong with Christian fiction. It's just not my thing.

Also? This book is so simple, it could have been written by a monkey.

Jeffrey says

I probably didn't give this book a fair chance but put it down after only a couple of chapters. I would categorize it as a contemporary Christian romance with humorous overtones. However, do people REALLY act/behave like that? Again, I apologize for my peculiar sensibilities because it is probably a great read for most of you. However it was slow, plodding and boring to me.

Melody says

Being a lover of stories, I am often known to push through several chapters of a slow read in order to unearth a gem of a book. Pushing through this one, however, lasted far more than several chapters and proved to be much harder than I thought it would. I think the only thing that kept me actually continuing through to the end was the mystery of the main character's love interest and my own wanting to see the story resolve in some pleasant ending. I suppose it did after all, but it took me so long to get there that by the time the resolve actually happened I was only hanging on by my sheer determination to finish what had taken up so much of my time! Sheesh.

Keiki Hendrix says

Loved this book. I am from Greenville, South Carolina and loved the references to my own town. This is an hilarious book that will have you laughing through every page. And the most appealing part of this book is faith factor.

A must read.

Melissa says

Down to earth, realistic look at Jay, who joins a church singles group to meet women and ends up finding friends and meeting God.

Jaysta says

This book should not even be on my radar. It's so far out of my comfort zone that normally I wouldn't even give it a second look. (Except for the colors. They would catch my eye immediately.)

And yet I absolutely love it. And it's about nothing. Well, it has a plot, but it's nothing like the intense thrillers and suspense novels I normally go for. It's not the kind of thing that would keep me up at night wanting to read it because I just have to know what happens.

AND YET IT DOES. I just don't get it.

Full review over at: <https://jaystalee.wordpress.com/2018/...>
