



Love Walked into The Lantern

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Summer Taft is a twenty-seven-year-old billionaire, who founded a tech startup with her brother while she was still in college. As that company's CEO, she feels stuck and underappreciated. She also has to take care of the company while her brother goes off exploring the world, leaving her holding the bag. The company recently opened an office in Chicago, where Summer has met some new friends. As Summer decides to uproot her life and make the move to Chicago, she meets Lena.

Lena Tanner has had no luck in her love life after divorcing her husband of several years before, after finally admitting to herself that she was gay. Lena had been exploring and having fun in the new life she'd made for herself. But now she's ready to find the one and settle down. After a blind date gone wrong, she ends up at The Lantern where she spots her group of expanding friends and a newcomer.

Lena had never been brave in her personal life. And Summer has difficulty making decisions, small and large. The two women settle into a quick friendship that turns more flirtatious, but is either ready to dive right into something new that could be lasting?

Love Walked into The Lantern Details

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From Reader Review Love Walked into The Lantern for online ebook

vacatedboat says

I liked this book, so stay with me for a minute...

I had a harder time getting into this one than I have with previous Pyland books. There is an overabundance of information that isn't really relevant to the story jam packed in the first few chapters. There are also a lot of characters within the first few pages that we're bombarded with and it feels a bit crowded/overwhelming. I'm going to recommend reading these books in order, as each character from the previous 3 books are mentioned and/or present within the first chapter and there is absolutely no easing into it. You're expected to know who they are (so that's 7 total characters you have to be familiar with before even moving on to chapter 2). Even as someone that has read the full series, I felt a little overwhelmed, but that could just be me.

Once you make it through this initial bombardment, however, this really becomes the story of Lena and Summer. I found myself enjoying it quite quickly despite my initial reluctance. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to get invested in these characters, but as I continued on I found myself happy to be reading about their development towards one another.

If Lena was a character in a previous book (this was written like I should have a clue who she is), I don't remember her, but Summer was a tech billionaire that was introduced in book 3 through Charlie. After a disastrous blind date, Lena meets up with her friends for a drink and Summer happens to be in attendance. As the night carries on, the group of friends slowly disperse, eventually leaving Lena and Summer to get to know one another. They agree to be each others wing-woman, so that they can both support one another in their individual attempts to find a partner. Of course, they're both immediately attracted to one another, but neither are willing to just come right out and say so.

So, the good...Pyland is really wonderful at creating likable characters and creating partnerships between two people who really seem to have a strong, viable connection. I felt the conversations started off a bit odd here, but maybe that's just a reflection of that awkward first meeting because Pyland quickly finds her stride and Lena and Summer come together in a way that is really very sweet. There are minor communication issues scattered throughout, but nothing so extreme that it felt like miscommunication was a trope. Lena and Summer talk and quickly work through their issues. They are both actually self-aware, which is not something I'm accustomed to reading. This is written in 3rd person from both of their POVs, so while in their thoughts, at separate times, we experience them acknowledging their own bad behavior (one jumping to conclusions and pulling away, one being passive aggressive).

One thing that I think some may have an issue with is the insta-love type story between Lena and Summer. I was ok with it for some reason and perhaps that's because they are both strong, independent, caring women who communicate. They do not jump into bed, they do not immediately profess their love for one another, (view spoiler). These two are sweet and I believed in their connection completely.

For any Pyland fans that expect her steam to be through the roof, I'm going to say that the same is true here. However, the steam does not come along until around the 80% mark. It took forever to get there, but it was certainly worth it because it lasts for pages, and pages, and pages...and pages once it finally happens.

I enjoyed this more than book two and zero, but not as much as book one. Pyland has another book coming out called 'The Fire,' and I will be reading it because overall I enjoy her writing style even if it isn't perfect.

Stephanie Ladue says

I have seriously enjoyed Nicole Pyland's books. It is a breath of fresh air with all these other "ok" and "good" lesbian fiction/romance books. The Chicago series is a must-read. They follow a group of Sapphic women in Chicago. It is kind of like Melissa Brayden's Loft series where all the MC's of each book are all friends and connected in some way. I really loved her first book of the series, Fresh Start. It really hit me in a way very few F/F books do. All her books, honestly, have no slow or boring parts because her writing style is on-point for me that I don't care if her characters are just doing laundry and bantering for 400 pages!

Anyway, sorry off track! This particular novel was about Lena Tanner and Summer Taft. I absolutely adored this couple. They had so much palpable chemistry that it was believable, for me, when they were already professing certain words to each other. Lena is a newly out lesbian who is a kickass VP for O'Shea grocery stores, but she has no clue what to do when confronted with an attractive woman. This was showcased in the previous book, Just Tell Her, when she was a potential dating partner for one of the women in that book. She is known for not knowing how act or instigate things with women.

Her opposite, Summer Taft is a bisexual woman who is pretty famous for doing a technology start-up with her brother when she was 20. She is more out-going in the ladies department, but also very indecisive. So of course they are meant to be!

I enjoyed this so much. One of the many reasons why I love Pyland's books is because she actually writes her romances so that we can see them be a couple instead of a whole novel's worth of angst and will-they-won't-they drama. They have so much affection and development between her characters that it feels real and organic. I love every kiss or make-out scene and every lazy-cuddly adorable scene. I would read her characters just going grocery shopping and being cute as fuck and be ecstatic.

Summer and Lena start out friends who hang out a few times and they both have a strong attraction towards the other but none of them wanting to admit to it quite yet. But then we get to see them be all cute and coupley. Nothing major really occurs, nothing devastating (thank glob). Summer's father's health and her job as a CEO of her and her brother's company does get in the way of their new romance and they deal with the trials and tribulations of that.

As usual, the sex scenes were steamy and awesome.

Summer and Lena are just so adorable. The fluff is alive and well. Ok I am done. Sorry. The feels were sort of all over the place, but it was that good, friends.

Love Walked Into the Lantern will be available July 12.

I received an ARC in exchange of an honest review.

Natalie says

Gotta admit, this story really took me by surprise. Mainly because I wasn't a particular fan of neither Lena

nor Summer in Just Tell Her. I just don't have it in me to like characters that interfere with the main couple of the book very much. However, since I really liked all Nicole's books so far, I decided to give this one a go and see how these two very different characters could work. I guess I also like a good challenge, when you question yourself if the story is for you but you are still willing to try and see how the author made it work, if they did. Surprisingly enough, they work together very well. In fact, they seem to fit perfectly with each other. There is something about Nicole's characters, that when she writes them, you never question why the MCs in the story like each other. You can see it between the lines and in the way they interact with each other. Summer and Lena just balance each other out, effortlessly and tastefully. And the participation of the rest of the Chicago series crew in their storyline was a big bonus as well. Kudos to Nicole Pyland for creating such an amazing series of books.

AC says

Another entertaining book from Nicole Pyland, the third of her Chicago series, continues with characters who feel like friends and family. Pyland's characters are well developed and her ability to weave a story draws you into their lives. She has a talent for creating a visual, not just of her characters, but of places, and scenes. For me, her characters come to life within the easy banter she develops between the cast of friends. She infuses the story with a balance of witty conversations and slow burning romance.

I also like the fact that the author includes women who exemplify the diversity within the Lesbian community. This is a fantastic read on its own, but as a part of the series, it is more enjoyable. . I hope that there are more stories to come in the Chicago series, as these women embark on new adventures in their lives.

Jessica Roberson says

Loved it

I love this series and enjoyed the continuation of the story of this group of friends. Once again Pyland wrote a sweet story with likeable new characters. I appreciate that this book didn't have too much angst or a drawn out conflict in it. At one point I thought a misunderstanding and a lack of communication was going to send this new relationship off the rails and I dreaded having to read through that stage of the story, but the conflict was quickly resolved through honest communication. I was so relieved!

Beachgirl1969 says

Another winner

This has been a fun series set in Chicago. I finished book two and rolled right into The Lantern eagerly. I really liked book two but, I loved loved book three. It's funny how Charlie played a role in Lena and Summers lives. Their epic chemistry that faced many obstacles was definitely worth the wait. Ill be thinking about this one long after the last page.

CLo says

I really like this series

I'm pretty sure I have said this before but I really this series and I really do hope it continues maybe with Van or even just with an update on the four couples. This one is about Lena and Summer. Their relationship is pretty quick in starting and honestly never slows down. There is no real drama and obstacles that the couple has to overcome but its sweet and sometimes sweet is what one needs. It's a good addition to the series and fans of the series should enjoy it. An easy 4.5 stars

Alex says

Another enjoyable read

Once again I read your book in a couple of days, work and life keeps me from doing it in one. Actually my favorite books all seem to take place in Chicago (incidentally it is where my mother was born) and at some point I would like to visit.

Maze says

I think this one in the Chicago series is by far my least favorite. The writing style is no different from the other books, however, I just could not connect with the characters. Summer and Lena lacked the type of chemistry that the other couples had. And Summer was a bit too full of herself for my taste. But it was great to catch up with everyone else, especially Charlie and Hailey.

Jude says

The Chicago Series

I have to say, I have thoroughly enjoyed this series by Nicole Pyland. I love the way the characters in each book are woven into each other's lives. They feel like real friends not just characters in a book! Well done!

Allison says

Gut Punch

I don't know how she does it. Nicole Pyland has quickly become one of my favorite authors. This love happened very fast but at the same time like Summer's Dad said, "It hits you in the gut like a punch." I loved these two together which is saying a lot because I did not really like them in the last book, but that was when I thought they were getting in the way of Hailey & Charlie. Anyway, another great story from Nicole and I'm already preordering her next book. Now if only I could get that punch to the gut.;

Annette says

I really loved this series!! I could definitely see a couple more books developing from some of the newer characters introduced in books 2 and 3 but I also understand that it would have to end somewhere.

I enjoyed the characters. I was hooked from the beginning. I don't tend to enjoy books if they don't start off quickly or at least grab my attention in some kind of fashion within the first couple chapters. I don't have this problem with any of the books in this series.

I have downloaded another one of her stand alone books and will start that shortly as well.

Marty Preslar says

Slow burning love at first sight?

With book three of the Chicago Series (which is really the fourth book when you included "Fresh Start" , which is book zero) Nicole Pyland accomplishes a seemingly impossible feat: writing a "slow burn" romance and "love at first sight" romance simultaneously, about the same two characters, and she makes it work...

Wonderfully! I expect there may be some naysayers decrying the "instalove" involved in a love at first sight story, but as someone who has experienced the phenomenon, and is still married to her nearly 30 years later, I don't have any issues with that. I loved both characters. I adored the way they were both connected to the "Chicago Series" group through Charlie. (When both characters were introduced in the previous volume in the series as potential love interests for Charlie, before her situation was resolved.) And I found the chemistry between Summer and Lena to be amazing! Highly recommended!

I received an ARC of this book.

charles clayson says

?EPIC?

Not too sound like a cliché. But like the coinciding prior e-books. This #1 was so EPIC!

Eugenia Anton says

I started the Chicago series with Fresh Start, Hannah and Ali's story. I loved it. I was thrilled that the author continued the story lines with a circle of friends they made when they relocated to Chicago. I particularly enjoyed the last one, Love Walked into the Lantern. I didn't want it to end and I'm sorry the series ended. I look forward to this author's next book. I highly recommend them.
