

# Love and Liability

*Katie Oliver*

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## **Love and Liability** Katie Oliver

Sometimes your sensibilities make absolutely no sense!

Holly James is looking for her big break. A young journalist for BritTEEN magazine, she is dying to write about something more meaningful than pop stars and nail varnish. So when she spots a homeless teenager outside the office, she feels compelled to tell her story. But her evil boss Sasha has other ideas...

Holly is sent to interview a city solicitor she has never heard of. But Alex Barrington turns out to be the very opposite of fusty and boring and Holly's interest struggles to stay strictly professional!

With Sasha sabotaging her every move, and her story about teens on the street leading her into London's dark underworld, Holly is chasing both love and success at the same time. But happy endings like that only happen in books don't they...?

## **Love and Liability Details**


Date : Published February 3rd 2014

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Author : Katie Oliver

Format : ebook

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Love and Liability for online ebook

## Samantha Tonge says

Teen journalist Holly James can't know the trouble she'll get into, when she decides to help homeless teenager, Zoe. In fact, Holly's good heart leads to her losing her job and her life being put in danger. It's just as well that she's got good friends - and hot men - looking out for her, such as Will, James and Alex. Katie Oliver manages to combine very light-hearted chick lit with serious issues, such as homelessness and prostitution. This compelling read had me racing to the end, with several subplots to be concluded. If you like shades of light and dark in your chick lit, then this is the romance for you!

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## Cibelle says

It's a catch up book. Nice written but a little sexist.

The main character is constantly put down by her romantic pair. Instead she end up with the one that values her she keep on the one that seems a favor of him "love" her.

I bit disappointed for this outcome but well conducted the story.

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## DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Love and Liability - Dating Mr. Darcy Book 2

Author: Katie Oliver

Publisher: Harlequin UK Limited

Published: 2-3-2014

ISBN: 9781472083968

E-Book: B00HWZ442Q

Pages: 400

Genre: Romance

Tags: Suspense

Overall Rating: Very Good

Sensual Level: Mild

Reviewed For: NetGalley

Reviewer: DelAnne

Holly James is the daughter of a wealthy family who desires to make her own way in the world. Unfortunately she finds that is easier said than done. So determined and convinced that she is sure of herself and her future, but in truth like most of us she has to roll with the punches life throws at us. She has obtained a job at the teen magazine BrittTEEN. A magazine for the modern teen telling about fashion, culture and such. Holly decides to do an article about a homeless teen running from someone from her past that is hunting her. She has a boyfriend who seems grand, but she isn't sure she can trust his true motives. Worried about keeping her job and paying her rent Holly learns the importance of looking beyond what she has known all her life. Like all of us at some point, she asks her father to help with her rent. She also leaves her life of comfort to look at the darker side of London's Underworld. In her naivety she believes with just a few snacks and good intentions she can change the world.

I was expecting a light-hearted romance and what I received was a story of a heroine who with grit, determination and occasionally a bit of humor grows into a woman with the confidence to go after what she wants and fight for it. She makes choices that shape her. Romance might be the main plot, but there are many subplots to be found throughout the story. Pick up a copy for yourself and enjoy Katie Oliver's romance story with its many turns and twist that keep you wondering in what direction the story will take next.

If you enjoy this story as much as I did and want to experience more of Katie Oliver's work then look for book one *Prada and Prejudice* and book three *Mansfield Lark*. Having never read Katie Oliver before reading *Love and Liability*, I look forward to seeing if they are as intriguing as book 2 was. Check out *Love and Liability* for yourself.

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## **Agi says**

*Love and Liability* is the second book by Katie Oliver that I had a pleasure to read and this one was even better than the first one. It was much more ambitious read, with some very important and serious topics mentioned.

Katie brings back some of the characters that we have already get to know in *Prada and Prejudice*, but it is absolutely a stand - alone book, not a sequel to the first one. The main character here is Holly James, a young and ambitious girl working for a teen magazine. she wants to be independent so much but unfortunately with her salary in the magazine and a car going down much too often it's not so easy and so, as a result, she often runs to her father for help. But she tries, really. Holly's boss, Sasha Davis, hates her and wants to sabotage her career at the magazine doesn't matter what. Holly wants also to writes about much more serious things as make - up or boy - bands and starts to work on an article about homeless teens in London.

Meet Zoe. She is the homeless runaway that Holly writes about. Zoe had her reasons to run away from home: her father, a well - known chef was interested only in his TV career, and her mother has bagged herself a friend who is the main reason of her action. Can't say more, don't want to spoil the read for you!

The things get very complicated, with somebody sabotaging Holly's work so good that she gets the sack, with somebody very dangerous looking for Zoe, with boyfriends interested only in their job and with constantly being broken. The plot is very complex and there is a lot of action.

I didn't understand why so many people in the book hated Holly. Yes, she comes from a rich family but it doesn't mean she is a moody missus. Yes, she often asks her father to fix her financial problems but on the other hand she is working, she is struggling to pay her rent and she tries hard to be independent. So why so many judged her only on her background and loathed her just because?

Holly was a funny character, with her never - closing mouth, she was like a chatter - box first saying what she thinks and only then thinking about what she said. She made me often laugh with her never - ending banter and comments. Holly has this "something" in her that made me like her from the very beginning.

Zoe is another very significant character in the book and her problems and reasons why she ran away from home were the important part of the book. Katie Oliver is writing here not only about homelessness, but also about trafficking and I must admit, this sub - plot found me shocked. Trafficking is something that makes me always shiver, that makes me furious and also helpless and I can't believe that in the 21st century such problem exist. The author shows us here how easy it is for homeless, lonely girls to fall into the trap.

We have also some male characters in the book as well, and of course the one that was outstanding was Alex. At the beginning I had some problems with him, and especially with his three names, oh my, there was a moment that I just couldn't get if Alex is Henry or Hank or someone other. Yes, he was a workaholic but hello Holly, give him a chance, girl, stop nagging:) Alex was funny, he was clever and despite being a solicitor he had a great sense of humour, and the scenes with him and Holly's father were short but one of the best ever!

After seeing a cover of Love and Liability I was expecting something similar in tone to Prada and Prejudice, but I like this book much more. The plot was much more ambitious, the characters BRILLIANTLY written and complex, the plot engaging and interesting. Some of the issues were very important and am sure not light to write about, But Katie Oliver wrote the book in a fantastic, easy way, and even when we were reading about runaways or trafficking, which was in a way sad and upsetting, she has found a way to sooth it with her exceptional sense of humour. Although a exemplary chick - lit/rom - com this book was not a typical fluffy, brainless read. I have enjoyed it very, very much.

I received a copy of this book from author in exchange for a review.

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## **Rebecca says**

Wahoo! I have no idea why but after reading Love and Liability by Katie Oliver, I feel strangely refreshed and ready to take on the day ahead of me! Love and Liability was a comfortable, easy-going, down-to earth read. Katie Oliver touched upon some pretty tough issues within the story, bringing real problems up to the surface, making not only incredibly interesting and informative, but also real and quite upsetting. Thankfully, due to Katie's fun, fresh and comical style of writing, I managed to really enjoy the story of Holly James.

First of all, the cover. It's very feminine, and she definitely hasn't overdone it. It's simple and depicts the majority of what this book is about - bitchy women who work in an office with designer handbags, phones constantly stuck to their faces and high heeled shoes.

Holly James is the main character in Love and Liability, although the narrative is changed constantly throughout the story, which kept it upbeat and very entertaining. There's nothing better than getting a look at a story from all sides, is there? I really like the character of Holly; she made me laugh constantly with her comments that she can't seem to keep inside of her mouth! I also got the feeling that she really wanted people to like her, kinda' like she was constantly seeking approval. Working at BritTEEN magazine really doesn't pay well, and Holly desperately wants/needs that promotion. With a few enemies on the inside, it seems to be taking longer than she expected. Brought up in a well-to-do family, she's never really had to struggle for anything. When things go wrong with car, her dad fixes it. If she can't pay her rent on time, her dad lends her the money. This would normally annoy me BUT, in Holly's case it doesn't. Even though she has help from her family, she is desperate to do things on her own, without her father's help. Which is why she is dying to gain a promotion and pay her way through her life. Holly is a wonderful character, one that I'm sure you will love just as much as I did.

Another character that really stood out to me in Love and Liability was the character of Zoe, who is the homeless young woman that Holly notices sitting on a bench outside of the offices. Holly becomes intrigued with Zoe and desperately wants to interview Zoe for an article about homelessness. Zoe is on the run. She changed her hair, her appearance and she doesn't want to be noticed by a single soul. So, why on earth would

she agree to be stuck on a full-page spread in BritTEEN magazine, where people everywhere will get a glimpse of her face? After much cajoling and begging from Holly, in the end, Zoe agrees to take part in the interview. On one condition - in any photos that are taken, Zoe's face is pixelated. If anyone is to spot Zoe in that magazine, they'll locate her straight away and there will be trouble like you wouldn't believe. Zoe came across as a complete bad-ass to me, with her piercings, and short black cropped hair. She really doesn't like Holly in the beginning, but as Holly continues to drop by and see her, she begins to grow on Zoe, and very slowly, a lovely little trust develops between them both. Trust me when I say that not everything is as it seems with Zoe - she has a few secrets hidden up her sleeve.

Another character that I would like to touch upon is Sasha Davis. Sasha is Holly's boss at BritTEEN magazine, and ever since she began working there, Holly has believed that Sasha has had it in for her. The impression I got from Sasha was that she has no time for nonsense whatsoever, and that includes anything to do with the male species too. She's brisk, sharp, snappy and straight down to business. She is always in a designer suit, she always looks fierce, and she really does have a problem with Holly James. As things in Sasha's personal life slowly begin to spiral into control, Holly, being the nice person that she is, attempts to help Sasha out. But things go pear-shaped and it doesn't turn out quite the way Holly had planned. I didn't really like Sasha at the beginning; I found her to be a tight-lipped bitch who really needed to go and get laid. But she begins to soften up as the end nears, and I guess she's alright really.

My favourite character out of Katie Oliver's wonderful array in Love and Liability has to be Alex, aka Henry Alexander Barrington. He was awesome, he truly was. Holly is sent to interview Alex for an article in BritTEEN at the beginning of the story. On her way to him, she's imagining a fat, over-privileged, stuffy old man. But when she arrives, she is presently surprised. Alex is gorgeous! Fumbling over her words, she ends up getting herself thrown out of his office. After their first meeting, I knew something was bound to happen between them. I thought Alex was a pretty cool guy; he was funny, sarcastic and rather attractive too. And let's be honest, who doesn't love an attractive man in a smart suit? ;)

The plot of Love and Liability was brilliant! There's lots of ups and downs in the book that result in its entertainment value. I wanted to laugh, gasp, and then laugh some more. I loved it! It was fun, flirty, dramatic in a comical way and I'd definitely recommend this to anyone who loves a good rom-com/chick-lit read. Think Bridget Jones meets The Devil wears Prada ;)

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### 🔪 Stacey "The One Night Biter" says

Really good has everything you could want, sabotage, runaways, girl meets boy, has fight breakup after fight go on to live HEA. Good read

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### Marina says

Original review is posted on **This Chick Reads Book Blog**:

<http://thischickreads.wordpress.com/2...>

\*Copy provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*

Holly James wants to be on her own. Coming from a wealthy family, she decides to leave and get a job. But being independent is not that easy at all. Chasing her dream to be a journalist, Holly gets a job at BritTEEN, a teenage magazine for celebrities. It's a very low paid journalist job, but bills need to be paid. Interviewing the financial solicitor, she meets the man behind the suite. Henry Barrington is very down-to-earth young man and the sparkles are in the air.

Making her dream come true, Holly writes a report for homeless people. She meets Zoe, girl at same age as hers, who lives on the street. What Holly doesn't know, is that Zoe is running away from someone, in order to save her own life. She is on the streets for a reason.

I enjoyed reading this book. On one side, there is Holly's story, her struggles with adult life, finding the love, chasing her dreams, coping with lousy coworkers who sabotage her work. But she always has her family who loves her and supports her. On the other side is Zoe, or Poppy, who runs for her life and has to deal with much bigger problems. Two very different characters who start a beautiful friendship.

I must say I didn't like Henry, or Alex, much as a male character. This book is part of Dating Mr.Darcy Series, and he is far away from Mr.Darcy (according to me). He doesn't seem like a very strong person to me. He looks gorgeous, does some amazing things, but some are quite annoying. But that's just me.

Overall, I enjoyed this read full of romance and action. There is so much love in the air, but also mixed with mystery, action, hiding and lots of chasing after the bad guys. It's also very emotional at times. It's a chick lit story with a dark side. Pink mixed with blue. Totally recommended.

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## **Amy says**

To say that I am shocked that this book has received more than two stars by anyone who has read it is an understatement indeed.

About five pages into this book, I started to think it sounded familiar. Then I realized that I'd read another of Katie Oliver's books, Prada and Prejudice, which I ... um ... did not quite enjoy. I wish I could say that my opinion of this one was better, but, well. It isn't.

The basic story is fine. Holly James, daughter of a well-to-do family, is a junior writer for a teen-gearred magazine in London and has been assigned to interview Alex Barrington, an up and coming - and single! - solicitor. They meet, sparks fly, and a romance blooms.

Problems ensue from there.

For starters, Holly professes to LOVE her job at BritTEEN, yet she would rather write about the plight of teenage victims of homelessness. She wants to befriend a young homeless girl she passes every day, yet she is so out of touch with homelessness that she thinks bringing a rucksack full of snacks with her when she spends a few days shadowing the girl is a solid idea. She loves Alex, yet she thinks he is inconsiderate, possibly cheating on her, and more concerned with winning an election than keeping promises. She is attracted to a restaurant owner, yet she claims she doesn't care about him, yet she really does. One of the characters has a sister who is bipolar, and sometimes I felt like this book was, too.

It reads as if Katie Oliver started writing it, put it away for a few months, and came back to it having

forgotten what she already wrote. Some scenes directly contradict others, and no one is consistent. For instance, an American photographer Holly knows through work falls for a brittle magazine editor. They have an argument, but she tells him she can overlook their differences. Two scenes later, the photographer tells Holly that the editor is furious with him and that their differences are insurmountable.

Alex and Holly say terrible things to each other. In fact, they don't seem compatible at all. Yet they supposedly love each other? The one character Holly does seem to click with is someone she happily forgoes, even though he rescues her time and again when Alex is nowhere to be seen.

It is nonsensical, and I'm not sure who to blame. Katie Oliver? She writes her stories and submits them to a publisher. So her editor, maybe? Someone has to read this before it's published, right? And someone else SURELY notices the vast number of contradictions in this book!

We won't even get into how much of this is a basic retelling of Oliver's first book. The two have so much in common that it's easy to get them confused: heroines who are daughters of wealthy men and who routinely borrow from Dear Old Dad to make ends meet, raucously humorous mishaps a la Bridget Jones, cold and apparently unapproachable love interests, and a threatening force who poses great danger.

I don't even know why I'm giving this two stars. I guess it's because some of the characters are likable. Or maybe it's because I know there is a good book in there somewhere, but the problem is that it doesn't know how to find itself.

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## **Swati says**

Holly James is a fierce, independent girl who wants to stand on her own feet without any support from her super rich father but unfortunately she can't bear to pay the rent without her father's money. Full with bright ideas and confidence, Holly is determined to earn respectable place and decent salary in the teen magazine but only if it was that easy. Holly's boss hates her and could go to any length to sabotage her career. While trying to make ends meet and saving herself from getting sack, Holly decided to write a brilliant feature for the magazines about a homeless teen in London, Zoe, which could actually get her the much needed promotion. Zoe is not some ordinary homeless teen in London; she is the daughter of one of the biggest chefs of the country and was running away from a man who tried to rape her and now hunting her like a hungry shark. Even after writing a ground-breaking article, Holly managed to get herself fired from the job. Now Holly is determined to expose the one responsible for her destroyed career. This is such a quick and fantastic read that I couldn't stop myself from turning pages. Katie's writing is fresh, witty and so charming. The way she has brought together the large range of characters is amazing. Rather that was the best part about this book, despite of having a large army of characters; every character has its own identity and stands out of the crowd.

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## **Susan Buchanan says**



Chicklit with a darker edge - gripping!

I had already bought the first in the Dating Mr Darcy series, Prada and Prejudice and rated it 5 stars, so I immediately started reading Love and Liability as soon as I had finished the first. My rating is 4.5 stars for Love and Liability. This isn't just chicklit - it's so much more. Half way through I was really enjoying it, although not quite as much as Prada and Prejudice, and then, wham! The novel took a much darker turn, which I absolutely loved. It honestly had me on the edge of my seat and I found myself trying to find time to be able to read it, even though I was really busy. I loved to hate the Erik character and so sorely hoped he would get his comeuppance. I had a soft spot for Will - in fact there were quite a few fanciable males in the story! There was the same brilliant humour in the book that there had been in the first, not to mention a similar hot love interest, in the shape of Henry (Alex) Barrington. Mmmm. Backstabbing flatmates, making poor decisions and hilarious Bridget Jones-esque moments for the heroine, Holly, whom we met briefly in the first book were only some of the great reasons to enjoy this novel. I particularly liked the serious theme of homelessness throughout the novel. Once again the novel was action-packed in a way that most chicklit novels aren't, full of great sub-plots for many of the characters. Much darker than the first novel and all the better for it. My one criticism would be I felt one of the sub-plots, to do with HIV, was dealt with too fleetingly. I could imagine all the places the author had depicted and have a clear picture in my head of Chef Russo and chef Louis! And Jamie Gordon wasn't to be sneezed at either, in the love stakes! A very likeable heroine, in the shape of Holly, Love and Liability paves the way for a new breed of chicklit novel, with a bit more oomph. Katie Oliver is shaping up to be an author worthy of everyone's notice. I can't wait to start the third Dating Mr Darcy series novel today.

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### **Gemma says**

Love and Liability is an improvement on Prada and Prejudice, but for me it still had some minor flaws. The author has some excellent plot ideas that just doesn't reach its full potential. I do like her characters and am interested in what the next book will be like it. If the improvement in writing keeps continuing I'm positive that she will be a force to be reckoned with

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### **Robyn Koshel says**

Love and Liability is the second book in the Dating Mr. Darcy series by Katie Oliver. This book features Holly James, previously mentioned in Prada and Prejudice. The book starts off when Holly is due to interview "Henry Barrington" for BriTeen again. She is expecting an old duffer, but he is really Alex, the gorgeous.

Holly bumbles things at first, and the whole first encounter is adorable. Later disaster strikes as Holly's job is being sabotaged. Her relationship with Alex heats up along the way. She manages to salvage every thing when she meets Zoe.

Although Love and Liability can be comedic at times, there is a more serious under current in Zoe's story line. The mystery of Erik's merchandise is dark and gritty; which highlights an important subject matter with realism.

It just gets better and better as the series continues. The gaffs are funnier and the men get more delicious.

Katie Oliver out did herself and I am preparing myself to be blown away by the next book in the series, Mansfield Lark.

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### **Parisan says**

This was slightly better than the first one simply because Holly was a little less annoying. The whole Alex/Jamie storyline was boring though. Alex was obnoxious while Jamie was adorable. In the first book Jamie had a girlfriend that isn't even mentioned in this book. Also the whole repeating constantly that Holly and Jamie aren't related makes no sense. OF COURSE THEY AREN'T RELATED. Even without throwing in the stupid adoption which also makes no sense since in the first book Jamie and Rhys's mom is described as flighty, slutty, and poor...so how and why would she have adopted Jamie? Even if she had given birth to Jamie, Holly and Jamie still wouldn't be related as Holly's dad was ONLY Rhys's dad, not Jamie's. This was beyond annoying and very stupid.

The human trafficking storyline was interesting but should have been developed more so.

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### **Marivi Sanz says**

I wanted to like this book, but it fell short. There were some inconsistencies in the story (for example, Alex is presented as the youngest son, and on the next page he's referred to as the oldest). I didn't like many of the characters, as I couldn't relate to any of them, but that didn't keep me from reading the book and more or less liking the story. I didn't feel any kind of chemistry between Holly and Alex, and at some point, I expected her to end up with Jamie. Holly got on my nerves many times with her bad choices; I couldn't believe that Alex loved her; Sasha is a bitch and I couldn't feel any kind of sympathy for her; it was the same with Kate or even Marcus Russo. Zoe was the only character I was interested in.

Mixing posh rich girls with homelessness and prostitution was promising, but in the end, the book didn't deliver its whole potential, IMHO.

Overall this is a nice read, but it didn't hook me in as much as I wanted it to.

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### **Rachel Gilbey says**

Holly James is a journalist working for BritTeen magazine. She notices a homeless teenager regularly outside her office building and tries to befriend her and ultimately write an article about Zoe, the homeless girl.

Zoe was a bit reluctant to trust Holly but eventually agrees. I loved the story between Zoe and Holly and all the dramas that went along with working for a teenage magazine.

Then there is the romance side of the book. Holly is sent to interview Alex Barrington, a solicitor, with no warning and no knowledge who he is. There is also Jamie Gordon her best friend, who has clear chemistry with Holly.

There is yet again a whole host of characters, and some that are recurring from the first book by Katie Oliver. Always nice when minor characters as well as major ones recur.

I am barely touching the surface of the storylines in this book, as there are numerous and all equally fantastic. I would call this edgy-chick lit, and I found the whole book completely unputdownable. I don't think I can express just how much I enjoyed this book and how much I am enjoying reading Katie Olivers stories.

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