



Desire

Louise Bagshawe

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Lisa Costello is leading a charmed life – until she wakes up the morning after her glamorous Thailand wedding to find her new husband Josh dead in their bed, the murder weapon in her hand. She remembers learning at the wedding that Josh had been unfaithful, but she certainly doesn't remember killing him. As Lisa flees the scene for Europe, ex-FBI trainee Sam Murray is on her trail. Catching up with her, he's quickly convinced she's been set up, and they start to work out which of movie producer Josh's many enemies could be behind the hit. It's a race against time to unearth the truth and keep Lisa out of jail – or gunned down by the professional assassin tailing them. And the danger only adds to the excitement of the passion brewing between them...

Desire Details

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Author : Louise Bagshawe

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From Reader Review Desire for online ebook

Claire Rumens-harper says

Unstoppable

This has to be one of the best books I've read.
Well written, filled with suspense, betrayal and fear!
5 stars just doesn't seem enough!

Krista says

I took this book out because I was trying to figure out if it was a book I read back in high school (I was wrong but I found out what book it really was at the end so it worked out). I loved Lisa, I found her to be a very strong character in the beginning. She was smart and fast and did what she needed too. That started to fade away a bit once she and Sam got together. She was still smart and took care of herself but slowly started to fold into him. I liked Sam for most of the book (the "taken her when she was half asleep" made me say nay to him in the end)

3.5/5

Ipek Kalender says

The book is a good combination of romance and thriller.
At first I was not sure if I'd like it, however I loved it.

Chloe says

Lisa Costello is leading a charmed life – until she wakes up the morning after her glamorous Thailand wedding to find her new husband Josh dead in their bed, the murder weapon in her hand. She remembers learning at the wedding that Josh had been unfaithful, but she certainly doesn't remember killing him. As Lisa flees the scene for Europe, ex-FBI trainee Sam Murray is on her trail. Catching up with her, he's quickly convinced she's been set up, and they start to work out which of movie producer Josh's many enemies could be behind the hit. It's a race against time to unearth the truth and keep Lisa out of jail – or gunned down by the professional assassin tailing them. And the danger only adds to the excitement of the passion brewing between them...

I've been a huge fan of Louise Bagshawe's books for a long, long time. It was actually her books that got me into Chick Lit quite a few years ago, so you can say I owe my obsession with the genre to her a little bit! Louise has recently taken a bit of a shift in the direction of her books, and perhaps she is all the better for it. Her latest two books, *Passion*, and now this one, *Desire*, have been a little darker and grittier than her previous releases and I must say that I really loved this one far more than I was expecting, and I just couldn't

put it down!

Desire begins with a fairly shocking beginning, with the introduction of a mystery assassin and the storyline leading up to the murder of Josh. I love that from the beginning, the audience is in on who the murderer is, whether we know the assassin's identity or not, but this just makes it more exciting because you want everyone else in the book to know too, and therefore I just wanted to keep reading and finding out whether it would dawn on people what is going on. The pace of the book is very quick, with a lot happening very fast, and this continues right the way through the book.

The characters are all fantastic, especially the leading lady Lisa. She is a British character in amongst an American setting so she stands out immediately and that's important to the people reading the book as she is the one that requires our sympathy, and you have to want it to work out right for her. She is very likeable, and I enjoy her character development throughout the book. She starts off as a bit of a bimbo trapped in a world she doesn't understand, but as the story moves on, so does Lisa as a character and I really enjoyed this. Bagshawe has also written a great relationship with Sam, the American journalist who tries to help Lisa, and he's also very likeable, and a bit of a "hero" character!

As well as following these characters, the book moves across several different countries as well, and I really enjoyed this aspect of it. Bagshawe really translates each of these places onto paper really well, and I had no difficulty in imagining them in my mind when I was reading which made it all the more exciting. There were some great action scenes in there, which weren't too over the top and fitted well into the whole book. There are two big dramatic scenes which went really well in the book right near the end, and I was literally on the edge of my seat reading them, it was really well done and I couldn't believe how much I loved them!

I was a little worried about a chick lit book about an assassination because the two don't really go hand in hand but for this book it definitely works! Bagshawe definitely has a real talent for writing and I think that if this is the direction she is going to take her books in from now on, then it's going to be very successful because I can't think of anything else like it out there at the moment! The characters were all well written and believable, the plot was fast paced and exciting, and the book as a whole was just great. I loved it, and cannot recommend it enough, particularly if you like something a bit different from your normal chick lit! Fabulous!

Amanda says

In Desire Louise Bagshawe brings us the story of Lisa Costello, a British girl who finds herself on the run the day after her wedding when she wakes next to the bridegroom's corpse. Knowing that she didn't kill him, Lisa has to use all her guile to stay ahead of the FBI, the press and the hitman who has been hired to finish off the loose end. One of her pursuers is Sam Murray – ex FBI turned private investigator turned press hack. As he gets closer to his target, he and Lisa begin to realise that danger equals passion.

Leaving aside the rather over-the-top premise, this was a pacy and exciting tale with some strong and memorable characters. Lisa was a sympathetic heroine, although at times I did marvel about how much she knew regarding false passports and hiding herself from the FBI. In fact, the FBI appear to be bumbling fools, which aids the story but doesn't help lend any realism to Desire.

I both loved and loathed the character of Sam Murray – on the one hand he was passionate and strong and capable, all the facets you want to see in a leading man in this sort of novel. However, there were a number

of highly dubious characteristics that he demonstrated, such as a highly controlling nature with Lisa and a propensity for treating women badly. I therefore found it a little difficult to appreciate Lisa's strong desire for him.

Louise Bagshawe has an entertaining voice, and writes page-turning prose. It took me less than a day to read through this engaging novel – I found that I was gripped trying to work out who was behind the murder and I enjoyed reading about Lisa's attempts to stay one step in front of those pursuing her.

One factor I particularly loved about the novel was seeing the very different locations in which the story took place – Bagshawe effectively drew a picture of each city that Lisa spent time in: presenting the bustling anonymity of Hong Kong, the laid-back warmth of Rome, the neutral sense of Lichtenstein with equal aplomb. I also appreciated her wonderful descriptions of the Mediterranean food that Lisa and Sam had – although this did make me feel very hungry!

One negative point for me was actually the title – I found it interchangeable with so many other books of this nature. In fact, while writing this review I called the book *Passion* (which I believe is another of Bagshawe's novels). With a less than scintillating title and a rather generic cover, I feel this book may suffer from not being picked up by the casual reader.

This is not a novel that will ever be listed for the Booker Prize or garner much critical praise, but it was a fun story told in an enjoyable fashion. This was the first novel by Louise Bagshawe that I picked up, but you can rest assured it won't be the last. For a summer holiday or for a peaceful evening with a glass of wine, this is the perfect reading material – *Desire is light* and fast-paced and very readable.

Borislava Kratunkova says

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Jayne says

With the plot this could have been brilliant but what a let down. It was neither chick lit or thriller just a clump in the middle. In the end the whole thing felt silly and not well thought out. Disappointment

Bhavya says

1.5 stars

It was one of the books which start out good, not *great*, but good enough...and then go into a hole there is no salvation from.

So yeah, here's to wasted potential.

June Jones says

This should be rated as a thriller, very exciting middle and end, bit slow at beginning.

Simone says

I found this book ok but a Jackie Collins-esqe....Hollywood tacky

Shannon says

I used to be a fan of Louise Bagshawe, and for those that are, I think you will enjoy this book as it is certainly aligned with all her others, possessing the classic Bagshawe novel characteristics; strong female lead; masculine love interest; slimey evil guy; and of course the conspirator who is often predictable, though I'm not sure it's intended to be a huge surprise as I believe Bagshawe targets smart women who feel a part of them could be emulated through the main character, and therefore would clue on fairly early to who the real baddy is.

Which leaves me to conclude: it is a classic book from Bagshawe and if you have read her novels before, you will know exactly what to expect. It's enjoyable, but a bit like opening a Christmas present when you already know what it is.

Sukanya Roy says

Good book

Tania says

It was a bit stupid. I hate books where the characters just automatically fall in love.

Leah says

Lisa Costello is leading what you might call a charmed life up until she wakes up the morning after her lavish Thai wedding to find her husband dead in bed beside her and no recollection of what happened the night before. All Lisa does remember is seeing her husband Josh being unfaithful to her and realising just what a sham her wedding actually is. Realising that things are looking increasingly bad for her she does the only thing she can think of and she flees. Ex FBI-man Sam Murray is quickly on Lisa's trail though and as Lisa ends up in Europe, Sam isn't far behind her believing that Lisa could indeed be innocent. The two eventually join forces and it soon becomes a race against time to unearth the truth particularly since there's a disgruntled assassin on their trail...

I've become quite a fan of Louise Bagshawe in the past few years. I really enjoyed Sparkles and thought it was a very well thought out and absorbing read. I then read Tuesday's Child which I just plain old loved before finally getting my hands on her last release Passion which was touted as a James Bond for girls. I thought Passion was just as absorbing as Sparkles and I loved how much of a thriller it was. Chick lit books rarely have thrills and assassin chases so it's fair to say that Louise Bagshawe proves a welcome distraction. I was obviously thrilled to receive a proof of Louise's newest book Desire and I finally succumbed to reading it.

Most of Bagshawe's novels revolve around a similar style plot – a strong female heroine ends up in a difficult situation of sorts and ends up needing to have a man by her side to help her through it. But all of her plots differ – Sparkles was about the diamond industry, Tuesday's Girl was more chick lit than usual and Passion was James Bond for girls. Therein lies my problem with Desire – it's not dissimilar to Passion. In both Passion and Desire you have Melissa and Lisa respectively finding themselves on the run from an assassin and having the help of a man to guide them through it. Will in Melissa's case and Sam in Lisa's case. Although Lisa is also on the run from the law it just seems that Louise Bagshawe has trotted out the exact same plot from her previous book.

Much like Passion, Desire begins by introducing us to our assassin and the client who hired him (although we don't find out who the client is until much later) before bringing us back to Lisa's story and her wedding in Thailand. After Lisa discovers her husband being unfaithful before her very eyes, Lisa then wakes up the very next morning to find her husband dead. The reader of course is well aware that Lisa didn't do it but thankfully the unravelling of the plot is still worth reading. What I think is done well in Desire is the descriptions of all of the countries Lisa – and later Sam – find themselves in. Lisa is a Brit living in America but there's not much time spent in America and the book flits from Thailand to Hong Kong to Europe and I very much felt like I was there with Lisa and Sam. I also liked the initial chase between Lisa and Sam as Sam tries his hardest to track Lisa down until it becomes apparent that Lisa actually needs Sam to help her prove her innocence. From then on they make a very good team.

I quite liked Lisa. She's, as I said, a Brit girl living in America looking to make her life better and then Josh comes along and literally sweeps her off her feet. We learn how their relationship came along and we learn how it all came to the sticky conclusion of Josh's murder and I thought it was a shame Lisa had to put up with so much. I also liked how her survival instinct came rushing up to her once she discovered Josh's dead body. Enjoyed might be the wrong word for someone running away from a crime scene and evading the cops but I liked how smart Lisa really was in knowing that she had to get away to be in with a chance of surviving. I also liked Sam, he seemed very much in the mould of Will from Passion, but he was still a likeable character despite the similarities. I liked the way he managed to track Lisa down and I thought he was wasted as a celebrity journalist as his tracking instincts were fab.

Louise Bagshawe's writing is as good as always but as I was reading I just couldn't help comparing it to Passion. There are subtle differences – particularly why both Melissa and Lisa end up on the run – but bar that the similarities are seemingly endless. I had my suspicions about who it was that had hired the assassin right at the beginning of Desire and it turns out I wasn't too wide of the mark so when it was eventually revealed I didn't feel too shocked as I kind of saw it coming. There are lots of action scenes throughout the book which I thoroughly enjoyed though. There's nothing like a chick lit action scene and Bagshawe excels at writing the action scenes. I could feel the tension between Lisa, Sam and the chasing assassin.

Overall I thought Desire was an OK read. It loses by being so similar to Passion and I agree with the review I read on Amazon – it was as if Louise had changed a few points of the plot as well as the characters and title name and came up with Desire. Had I not already read Passion then I would have thought this was

an outstanding and original read. As it is, I thought it was far too same-y. My advice would be to read either Passion or Desire and personally I'd pick Passion having read them both.

Emiliya says

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