



On a Beautiful Day

Lucy Diamond, Clare Wille (Narrator)

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Treasure every moment. Life can change in a heartbeat.

What the fans say: 'Wonderful characters and the stories are always great, with twists and turns' Gemma

It's a beautiful day in Manchester and four friends are meeting for a birthday lunch. But then they witness a shocking accident just metres away which acts as a catalyst for each of them.

For Laura, it's a wake-up call to heed the ticking of her biological clock. Sensible Jo finds herself throwing caution to the wind in a new relationship. Eve, who has been trying to ignore the worrying lump in her breast, feels helpless and out of control. And happy-go-lucky India is drawn to one of the victims of the accident, causing long-buried secrets to rise to the surface.

This is a novel about the startling and unexpected turns life can take. It's about luck – good and bad – and about finding bravery and resilience when your world is in turmoil. Above all, it's about friendship, togetherness and hope.

Praise for Lucy Diamond:

'A hugely satisfying read' *Heat*

'Full of emotion and insight - it really makes you think' Katie Fforde, bestselling author of *A Summer at Sea*

'Warm, witty and wise' *Daily Mail*

On a Beautiful Day Details

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From Reader Review On a Beautiful Day for online ebook

Fabulous Book Fiend says

I've listened to the last couple of Lucy Diamond releases as audio books and I think they work really well when told to you. Because she writes such uplifting stories about very real character, you really do feel like you're being read to as a real treat.

This book was excellent, I loved the characters, the structure and the setting. I also love the fact that the characters had their own story lines at the same time as having a joint storyline, I think this is possibly my favourite structure of a book. The fact that this book is multiple narrative does make it slightly less suited to audio because it makes it even so slightly harder to follow for some people. I really enjoyed the fact that these characters are so different though so I found the structure easy to follow and was always able to work out whose story line we were following.

Another thing I really liked about these characters is the fact that they have got their happy ending, they have all been or are married and this book follows them to find out what happens after the happily ever after. It is always refreshing to read a book from this genre that tackles that question. I think the fact that these women are all a little older and have all lived a life means that we get a slightly different perspective on the issues that they are facing than if they were in their twenties.

I found these characters very easy to like and could easily and quickly sympathise and empathise with them. The things that they face and that Lucy Diamond puts them through are really quite tough and each of them are facing different dilemmas about how to handle what they are facing. This book is definitely not a light and fluffy read, these women go through a lot, together and separately. But on the whole it is still really uplifting and left me with a smile on my face, continuing to think about my four new friends.

I really loved the structure, the characters and the plot of this book and I really think you would too. Whether you have read Lucy Diamond before or not, I think that you will definitely enjoy her latest offering.

Nicola Clough says

I love Lucy Diamonds books and couldn't wait to read this one and she didn't let me down at all this has to be her best by far I was hooked from the first page and so highly recommend anyone to read it as just an excellent book to curl up and enjoy and certainly makes you think and how life can change right in front of your eyes. It's emotional at times as they go through their difficulties and shows pure friendship and how they can pull together to support each other. Certainly makes you think and is a simply Devine read with wonderful characters and amazing story lines.

Four friends are having lunch for a birthday and before their eyes they witness a horrible accident just metres away from them and it makes them act all differently from then on. First you have Jo who her husband left and has just started a new relationship and wants to share it with them all does it work out for her but does it have difficulties especially with his daughter. Then you have Eve who wants to share with them but can't that she has a lump and is worried then she has a shock accident and surprisingly shares it with him and she feels out of control can she share with her family before it's too late. Then there is Laura who her biological clock is ticking and she's lost many babies can her husband support her or is it too much for him. Last you have India and she is drawn to one of the victims from the freak accident and she then has to face secrets that

she's had hidden for years.

Can all four friends sort their issues out and move forward or not you will have to read to find out and highly recommend you read it quickly has you hooked straight away.

Cressida McLaughlin says

Such a beautiful book. Heartbreaking in places, but ultimately uplifting. My first Lucy Diamond book but definitely not my last.

Tracey Anderson says

This was my first Lucy Diamond noble and I really enjoyed it. I liked how there were four separate storylines for each of the characters and that they all connected with each other. Every character was likeable although very different. Following these four close friends in the wake of a tragic accident and seeing the way it impacted each of them was an emotional rollercoaster ride. I hope to read more of this author.

Best Crime Books & More says

I have been reading Lucy Diamond for a few years and her books have always been books I remember, however this particular little beauty will stay with me for a while. Based around 4 friends Laura, India, Jo and Eve all of which we see their stories. It's an innocent introduction where the 4 friends meet for lunch. You get a decent background on each woman and where they are in their lives. However, they then witness a shocking accident which will affect all of the women differently.

There wasn't on standout character fr me, I loved them all. Each woman had their own set of problems and issues they were working through and the whole book just had that edge of realism which made you want the best for all the women involved. Although I didn't have a favourite the storyline featuring Eve was done so well and I am sure make many women realise that you cannot bury your head in the sand. Usually I would break down storylines a little more but with this book I really don't feel the need.

There are no patronisingly young and skinny women that are NOTHING like people I would know as a late 30's woman. The characters were so real they could be my own friends. I was thoroughly absorbed with this from start to finish and absolutely loved every page. One of the best Lucy Diamond books I have read, and certainly one I would highly recommend!

Meital Ben-Daniel says

On a Beautiful Day is a beautiful book about friendship between four women, who witness an accident close by. They escape the near-death ordeal only to find out that this scene takes each and every one of them in separate directions....

This is my first book of Lucy Diamond. I enjoyed her writing and couldn't wait to get back to my reading, right up till the end !

I loved it. Highly recommended for a good summer read!

Liz Barnsley says

On A Beautiful Day is a really excellent and beautifully written story of friendship through the ups – and in this case downs – of life.

One day a group of four friends witness a horrifying accident. How they cope in the aftermath of that, how it is the catalyst for life changes, how it changes their friendship, that is the basis for this novel and it is entirely compelling throughout.

Lucy Diamond creates wonderfully observed, layered characters who are entirely realistic and easy to engage with – we see how this event changes their perspectives and makes them look at the world in a new way – and into themselves and what in their lives needs fixing. The problems they face are all those which any of us might and this gives it a really addictive quality – you want to find out what happens to them all.

Right at the heart of On A Beautiful Day are these four women and their relationship, how they cope and help each other cope with everything that is thrown at them. It is sometimes melancholy, always uplifting, occasionally funny and leaves you with the feeling that there is, indeed, always the possibility of second chances.

I loved it.

Recommended.

michelle says

I have always wanted to read a Lucy Diamond book so. When I saw this on Net galley I was excited when my request was accepted.

On a beautiful day is about four friends Eve, India, Jo and Laura who meet up one day for a birthday Lunch in Manchester. When a horrific van accident, just barely misses them and crashes nearby and changes all their lives together.

The story continues and tells us what effects it had to each individual character. Eve who has been ignoring a lump in her breast, feeling confused and helpless finds the courage to go the doctor about it. Laura who husband has left her, desperately wants a baby. India who comes befriends someone from the accident and old secrets start to resurface and Jo starts a new relationship but can't quite bond with his daughter.

This is a beautifully written, emotional story about friendship and relationships between four friends in the good times and the bad and how good friends stick together. The story was very relatable and up to date. I loved every minute of it and as this is my first Lucy Diamond book I will look out for her others she has written.

Thank you Netgalley and Pan Macmillan for a copy of this book.

Kim says

Four friends witness a terrible accident whilst dining together. It affects them all in different ways and secrets they have been holding and fears all come to the surface.

Lucy Diamond always creates such believable, warm characters and you instantly get drawn into their friendship group. You feel for each of them- as they cope with busy family lives and the worries that come along with relationship issues.

You know that you are going to be guaranteed a lovely read from Lucy and I always look forward to a new book from her.

Claire Reeder says

It's been a while since I've read a Lucy Diamond book but On A Beautiful Day was an absolute treat.

It follows the lives of Jo, Laura, Eve and India - a group of friends from Manchester who face life's daily trials and tribulations. When a freak accident happens just yards away from them they are all affected in their own way be it facing a health scare or starting a new relationship.

I started this book on Saturday and finished it on Monday evening as I found it difficult to put down. You can really identify with the characters and the story unfolds beautifully.

I would rate this book 4.5 stars and definitely recommend it. Thank you to NetGalley, Pan Macmillan and the author for the chance to review.

Laurel says

I was given an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest and independent review.

A book about friendships, love, hard times and relationships. I liked the bond between the four friends which was realistic and well developed. Whilst I quite liked the storyline and was interested to see how each of the characters lives turned out, it lacked that little something which makes a book compelling.

3 stars

Rachel Gilbey says

Witnessing a freak accident was the catalyst for the four best friends, that leads to their lives changing drastically.

Jo decides to move in with her boyfriend, partly due to an electricity issue in her current flat and has to see if she can ever work out how to get along with his daughter Maisie.

Eve is concealing from everyone a lump she found on her breast, and starts to act erratically. She is the sort of person who doesn't like lose control over anything. Laura on the other hand finds her marriage isn't quite as strong as it should be, while her desire for a baby is getting stronger by the day.

Finally there is India, and this accident triggers all sorts of emotions in her, and lead to her being one of the most interesting characters, especially once you discover her secrets.

This is a story of friendship, relationships and how one moment can change your outlook on life forever. It is a lovingly written story and was the book focuses on all four women you really get to know them very well, in addition to the rest of their families. I really liked the various characters, and found myself thoroughly enjoying the whole book.

I am a huge fan of Lucy Diamond, and found this was certainly up to her normal standards, and found I was able to read it reasonably quickly, always being keen to get back to the book to see what the women would be up to next.

Really enjoyable story, where I was eager to see how everything turned out.

Thank you to Netgalley and MacMillan for this copy which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

Agi says

Yes, guys. I love stories about friends and I love Lucy Diamond's novels, so what could be better than a brand new Lucy Diamond book about four friends? Exactly! Lucy's novels are always so comforting, they are easy reads that make you laugh and cry and they are always a winner, you can be sure that Ms Diamond is going to deliver a book that'll fulfil all of your expectations. And it's the same with "On a Beautiful Day", just grab the book, your favourite blanket and a mug of hot chocolate with whipped cream and put a "Do Not Disturb" on your door.

So the story follows four friends, Eve, India, Jo and Laura and let me tell this right now how much I enjoyed this friendship - it was pure and genuine, there weren't any indiscretions between the women, they didn't conspired against each other like it often happens in books with such subject matter, no, it was a great, real friendship, with some secrets, of course, but when you read you'll quickly learn why some of the girls choose to keep the things secret, what was their keynote, and you'll going to understand them and fell for them immediately. On a beautiful day, when they meet to celebrate birthday of one of them, they witness a very horrific accident, where a car barely misses them and crashes in a shop nearby, leaving several people injured and dead. This accident makes them think and yes, it's going to change their lives significantly. I can't say that I had my favourite character because they were all just awesome, normal, real women, with everyday problems, so unique and their friendship was great. They had their own lives and troubles, their own stories, however the moments in the book when they were together worked so very well.

Eve has been ignoring a lump in her breast. She's scared to go to the doctor in case they're going to confirm her fears. Help comes in the most unexpected way. I wasn't so sure why Eve didn't want to open to her husband, to be honest, I understand she wanted to be strong and independent, she never wanted help from anybody but there are moments in our lives when we just should share our problems with the closest ones. Laura desperately wants a baby, however how is it going to happen when, after years of trying and disappointment, her husband has just left her? I think Laura's story, of course as important and touching as the other three, was not as well developed and I felt the weakest connection with her. But of course I kept everything crossed for her, I fell for her as well and the end of her story surprised me very much, but also

made me happy for her.

Her sister Jo, who's just started a new relationship, has a very different problem, as the new boyfriends brings his teenage daughter with and she can't quite bond with the girl. I so wasn't sure about the new relationship, the quick move, I was really scared and afraid that she's going to be hurt again, but following the motto "no risk, no fun" Jo dived pretty deep. She just wants to feel happy again. There were moments that I wouldn't stand Rick's daughter, but she was patient and determined to make the things run smoothly between them and I really admired her for this.

And India, who's running mother and baby music classes, even though she had great ambitions before, she wanted to go to music college and was short of doing this, well, is she going to reveal the secret from her past that's so haunting her? Is it this secret that makes her question everything, not being sure if she's happy with her life, her children, her husband? Is the chance encounter going to answer all her questions and doubts or rather bring even more problems?

All the stories are beautifully written, and, typical for Lucy Diamond, with tons of gentleness, understanding and subtlety. They are all down to earth and very authentic, telling us about the effects they have on each of the characters and their closest ones.

Lucy Diamond creates her characters in a way that make you feel as if you've known them for ages. You can't help but fall in love with them, cheer them on and keep everything crossed for them. I was immediately hooked and warmed to all of the women from the word go. What is also so significant is that we can really easily identify with them all because Lucy Diamond makes them realistic and down to earth, and their problems as well.

There are many lighter and humorous situations in the story, as well as many emotional ones, and the book really tugs at the heart - strings. With four main characters there is a lot happening, so it's fast paced and while I wouldn't say that it's full of twists or turns, there are for sure some surprises on the way and I wouldn't call the story predictable - oh no! Forget about the wishy - washy stories and repeating plots, "On a Beautiful Day" is close to life, realistic and relatable book with complex and well developed characters.

Lucy Diamond's writing is, as always, full of sensitivity, she writes beautifully and descriptive, but with a great dose of humour and there is a lot of understanding in her writing. The characters must face plenty of problems, their lives are not beds of roses and life can be challenging for them but the story is not sad but it will make you think about your own life and to re - consider some things, that's for sure.

It was a gorgeous story about appreciating your life, about facing the challenges on your way, about having the courage. This is a book about second chances and about trust, touching upon so many different and important issues like fertility, health concerns, (patchwork) families, relationships and friendship. I absolutely adored the fact that it was so compelling, clever and so challenging, with a complex plot and I enjoyed every single minute of it. Lucy Diamond's book are guaranteed to provide you with all you need: laughter, tears, all kinds of emotions, suspense, and it's not different with "On a Beautiful Day", but the book is on no account too heavy or too overwhelming. It makes you think, so this is really my favourite kind of read, as it obliges to look under the surface. Highly recommended!

Copy provided by the publisher in return for an honest review.

Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

3.5 stars

British author Lucy Diamond, who has published over twelve titles, delights her readers with a brand new offering titled, *On a Beautiful Day*. Diamond's latest release looks at how life changes in an instant for a circle of four close friends. The fallout from this life altering event forms the basis of *On a Beautiful Day*.

Lucy Diamond opens her novel, *On a Beautiful Day*, in the British city of Manchester. It is a special day as four friends gather to celebrate a birthday over lunch. This idyllic lunch is soon shattered by a tragic accident that plays out in front of them. This incident triggers different feelings and varying reactions for each of the four women. Forced to confront issues that they have ignored or kept a secret until the accident, the four friends negotiate a variety of problems after they witness this horrible accident. These issues range from infertility, to health crises and relationship woes. *On a Beautiful Day* is a book that gently reminds us that each day is truly a gift.

I am a relative newcomer to Lucy Diamond's work, I have only read one book from her extensive collection. Diamond's latest is a novel surprised me. Based on the cover and the title, which I assumed would be a heart and flowers style chick lit read, a much deeper story emerged. I found *On a Beautiful Day* tugged at the heartstrings and explored some difficult scenarios. *On a Beautiful Day* also delivered a great overall message, by encouraging me to seize the day!

The catalyst for the change that occurs in the novel, a tragic accident involving a vehicle that ploughs into a group of people in well known British city, was a highly relevant and authentic scenario. Unfortunately, of late, we have witnessed many of these tragic events across the globe and even in our own city of Melbourne. Diamond does not shy away from exploring the impact this kind of current event has on the people who are directly impacted by this horrific turn of events. Diamond handles this situation with care and balanced introspection. I admired Lucy Diamond for having the courage to base her novel on such relevant world events.

On a Beautiful Day unfolds very easily, via four different viewpoints. Lucy Diamond's book provides us with four contrasting leads. Each woman has their comprehensive own back story, along with their own set of issues to deal with as the book unfolds. Diamond tackles some serious issues within her latest novel. Her examination into areas impacting on her character set is treated with both insight and sensitivity. Rather than focus on issues that impact on the twenty something woman, Diamond looks at the lives of women slightly older. As I fall into this age category, I found myself relating to and nodding my head a few times in agreement.

Diamond presents a well observed character set in her new novel. Although the women are connected by friendship, they all have their own special lives and distinct personalities. With such differences, Diamond is able to reach a broad demographic of readers for her novel. All women should be able to shades of themselves in these characters. For me personally, I warmed to Laura. The tissues came out and my heart broke in pieces for poor Laura. My heart sank as Laura's marriage and dreams of motherhood are crushed together after the tragic accident. I was keen to see how things would pan out for Laura in the end, which definitely encouraged me to stick with this novel. I enjoyed each individual journey in this novel and watched on in anticipation as each woman was changed significantly by what she witnessed that one not so beautiful day.

Lucy Diamond's book offers a picture of a female friendship circle in today's age. She provides the reader with an introspective look at the pressures faced by the modern woman and how this impacts on the relationships women have with each other. The dynamics presented in *On a Beautiful Day* was an interesting

one, providing plenty of fruitful ground for exploration. I also appreciated the fact that Diamond chose to present a friendship circle that was far from perfect, which definitely gave it a touch of realism.

After a rather tumultuous venture with the main characters and the supporting team of *On a Beautiful Day*, I felt satisfied with the final direction Diamond took with her novel. The end of the book was uplifting, which was welcome after the touches of sadness each of these characters face in some form. On an individual note, my own experience with this novel left me feeling changed and my mindset adjusted by what I had witnessed with the foursome from Manchester. When a book moves you or shifts your point of view, you know that it is a good one.

On a Beautiful Day is a nicely presented story that examines the strength of female friendships, in the face of a tragedy. If you have read Lucy Diamond's books in the past, I have no doubt you will enjoy this latest offering. For those new to her work, *On a Beautiful Day* is a good book to begin exploring Diamond's work. I certainly enjoyed my second turn with Ms Diamond.

*I wish to thank Pan Macmillan for providing me with a free copy of this book for review purposes.

Zoe says

Affecting, inspiring, and delightfully mesmerizing!

On a Beautiful Day is a heartwarming tale that reminds us that life should be lived to the fullest every day and it's not only the high but also the low moments in life that truly shape us.

There are four main characters in this novel; Eve, an accountant and mother of two who struggles to ask for help; Jo, a divorcee and nurse who's hesitant to fall in love; Laura, a middle-aged woman who craves motherhood; and India, a mother of three who has a secret from the past that continually haunts.

The prose is warm and emotional. The characters are multifaceted, empathetic, resilient, and endearing. And the plot is a sweeping saga about life, loss, family, secrets, adultery, infertility, determination, acceptance, self-discovery, happiness, romance, and love.

Diamond has an uncanny ability to write beautiful, beguiling stories about female friendships that resonate and *On a Beautiful Day* is no exception. It's powerful, genuine, heartfelt, and moving and I enjoyed every minute of it.

Thank you to Publishers Group Canada for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

All my reviews can be found on my blog at <https://whatsbetterthanbooks.com>
