

faking it

A NOVEL



ELISA LORELLO

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What happens when a writing professor and a male escort become friends? Thirty-four-year old professor Andi Cutrone has broken up with her fiancé in Massachusetts, moved back to her native New York, and wants to be a better lover. So after meeting Devin, a handsome, charming escort, she proposes an unusual arrangement: lessons about writing in exchange for lessons about sex. When Devin accepts Andi's proposal, he draws up a contract in which the two are forbidden to see each other socially. There's just one problem: Andi also wants Devin. *Faking It* is a witty, sometimes hilarious, sometimes heart-wrenching story about relationships, writing, and getting real.

Faking It Details

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Author : Elisa Lorello

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

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From Reader Review Faking It for online ebook

Jennie Shaw says

FAKING IT appears, at first glance, to be an atypical Women's Fiction novel. The heroine, Andi Cutrone, is a mid-thirties English professor who decides to hire an escort named Devin to teach her to be a better lover in exchange for writing lessons. Sounds like something that rhymes with Blipty Trades of Shey, right?

Wrong.

It's not even almost the same thing.

I started reading FAKING IT at 7:30am on a Saturday and finished by 9:30am (I read quickly). In fact, my tea went cold and I forgot to eat breakfast. Yes, it was so good that I forgot I was hungry and let's just say that it takes a lot for me to forget I'm hungry. Mostly because I always am.

In those two hours, I laughed, cried a bit, and felt my little Grinch-y heart swell on more than one occasion. Andi was a lovable, vulnerable character who also had guts, a solid backbone, and a fantastic sense of humour while her counterpart, Devin, was pretty much one of the best male characters ever.

The best way I can describe FAKING IT is to compare it to the beloved nursery story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." You see, I love Women's Fiction. Heck, I write it myself! As such, I'm constantly devouring titles in order to better my craft—hoping to get swept away on a woman's journey of self-discovery and acceptance. Often, though, the fit isn't quite right.

Jodi Picoult and Kristin Hannah's novels are full of tales where frequently blue heroines discover something major that changes their lives. Often times, though, I don't totally relate them. Also, I don't really like to sob my face off cry. These books are too sad for me to read all of the time.

Meg Cabot and Sophie Kinsella's books are hilarious, bursting with witty and smart dialogue but sometimes, the stakes aren't high enough and I'm left wanting more. These books don't always hold me hostage, making me forget that I have things to do—forcing me to read them in one sitting.

Elisa Lorello, though, created a perfect mix of plot, sympathetic characters with real issues, enough f-bombs to make me smile, and a touching and very believable relationship between two lost people who are trying to get their shit together. I say "people" because within a few chapters, they became real to me and I watched them with fascination like a non-creepy voyeur as they guided each other towards fresh perspectives. Yes, this book was juuuuuust right.

I'm not going to go into great detail on how the story develops in unexpected ways because...well...that would be mean. I will, however, say that FAKING IT is totally worth the meager three dollars. And the best part is that there's a sequel AND two other books! YAY!

So, guys and gals, you really need to go and buy it.

BUY IT RIGHT NOW!

And another super-cool thing about Ms. Lorello is that if you choose to have one of her books for your book club, she'll join you in a Skype chat-session! For reals! How freaking awesome is that?

But seriously. Buy FAKING IT. You won't regret it.

Nicole Nixon says

I bought this for \$1 off amazon thinking I didn't have anything to lose although romance novels and chick lit really aren't my "thing." The reviews and descriptions I read gave me hope that it wasn't some cheesy, cliché romance novel. Wrong! Though the buck wasn't a big deal, I want the time I spent reading this back! I didn't even wanna finish it and was done by about 20% into it -- I only finished it because it was short and I hoped it got better.

In short, it was the preconceived stereotype I had of a romance novel. I didn't think it was particularly well written or interesting and didn't offer much aside from cliché cheeseball lines.

The plot and characters seemed unrealistic and unrelatable.

As I said, this just isn't my thing to begin with; so while I feel I'm being generous, I'll give it 2 stars -- just in case I ever read anything worse.

Lucy (why do I bother to read chicklit) says

What a pleasure to read a romance story where the characters actually have depth, flaws and are NOT in or graduating from college!!!!!!!!!!

At first, it sounds odd, a professor and a male escort, but it is so well written the story really captured me.

Will definitely read other books from Elisa Lorello... Will start the sequel asap :)

Lisa Bennett says

After her relationship ends, writing professor Andi Cutrone abandons her life in New England and returns to her native Long Island to focus on her career. At a work related cocktail evening Andi comes across

handsome male-escort Devin. Andi is fascinated and offers him a proposition.

I think I got this book as part of a Kindle deal as I'd never heard of it before, but it sounded interesting enough, something a little different! (By the time I get round to actually reading these books I buy on a whim I always forget what they're about, so it's a nice surprise when reading!)

I liked Andi's journey and thought it a slightly different narrative than other books about successful 30-somethings. Devin is a curious character and the relationship that's formed between the two is interesting. I liked the mix of both of their "skills" and enjoyed both parts equally. I thought it was an engaging read. It's smart, witty and has some lovely descriptive pieces about writing and art. It's a romantic story, but with unusual elements to mix it up a bit.

Shaun says

This book was cute. The characters were lovable and endearing. The story kept right on moving at a nice brisk pace. I'll read this author again but I think I've had just the right amount of the Andi Cutrone character. I could be wrong but I think I'd be tired of her before I got through another novel about her.

Jennifer says

5 Fucking Fabulous Stars!!!!

This book blew me away! Why hasn't more people read it and liked it??? The writing is intelligent. It's sexy. It's heart-breaking. I FELT so much in this book!

Her writing reminds me of Megan Hart, one of my favorite authors.

Please, please, please read this!

~IreneOust~ says

This book sat on my Kindle forever till I finally decided to give it a shot and, boy, am I ever glad I did! I enjoyed this story immensely! This is another example to not judge a book by its cover -- the reason I held out for so long is because I thought this was going to be something along the lines of Sex and the City garbage but I was in for a nice surprise.

The characters are amazing and their story made me cry almost through the entire book. Their issues are so common that it was easy to relate to both character's pain (even if you didn't experience it yourself, I am sure you know people who have).

Didn't exactly get the ending I was hoping for but was thrilled to see that this book has a sequel.

Meghan says

This book jumped up on my "to read" list simply because I kept getting "Lendle" requests for others to borrow my book. By the time I would respond to the request, someone already lent it out (therefore I could not). This intrigued me. Why was this so highly requested?

I definitely judged the book by its cover. The title "Faking It" hinted me towards a Chick Lit book about sex. This book was so much more than that. It's about Andi, a PhD lit professor, who meets Devin, a professional (and total hot) escort. They exchange lessons: Andi will teach him about composition and rhetoric and Devin will teach her about sex, relationships, and overcoming her insecurities. Sounds like a light, heart-felt read. And then as the sessions progress, Lorello begins to peel the layers of Andi's story. She uses flashbacks of Andi's childhood, giving the reader a chance to fully understand why Andi is the way she is (often called prude by her peers). Lorello kept me interested in Devin because I always felt I needed to read to figure out who he is. She kept him very mysterious until towards the end when she finally made him the narrator. It was a nice little twist.

I also liked that Andi was smart. She was not flaky at all. A lot of romance novels are very much like a fairy tale. This, however, I could absolutely picture being a true life story. Andi was one of my friends. I even thought about her after I read the book. Yeah, this book was THAT thought-provoking for me. I had to take breaks to cry and simply think about my own insecurities, desires, and wants. Did I expect that from a book called, "Faking It"? Nope.

I also liked that the book was written in dialogue, rather than narration.

The ending of the book felt unfinished. I originally gave it only 4 stars because of this. How dare Lorello end the story so abruptly. I had so many questions. Sigh.

And then I Googled "Elisa Lorello" and discovered that there was a sequel to the book! And that's when I shrieked and immediately bought "Ordinary World". I'm currently 25% through that book and I'm re-falling in love with Andi again. You'll have to wait a few more days to find out why. :)

Jessica says

bored. to. tears.

Lauren says

Based on the plot I think I was hoping for more comedy, but while reading I started hoping for more romance. Obviously I didn't really get either. Instead I got what the book was, the story of a 34 year old woman with low self esteem, who had been sexually repressed, but at least believed in herself academically. I found Andi to be weak even after her revelations, but I guess some problems can never be solved. Devin I

really enjoyed, and felt was judged too harshly by Andi. Okay, I think I can't say more without spoiling the books so here we go...

SPOILERS

For me it was a bit like "The Way We Were" in that she did feel she was madly in love with this other person, and they couldn't ever get it quite right so she ended up settling for the more socially appropriate, easy relationship. To me I don't think either of them ever fought hard enough for the other, and honestly that's why I read romantic novels to watch the hero/heroine fight for their relationship even though it's tough. Andi took the easy way out to me, even when Devin was really ready to open up she walked away. In the end I also just hate love triangles, since half the time they don't choose my preferred person.

There is a sequel, but I'm not sure I can listen to any more insecurities from Andi. I'll probably read it in hopes Devin is able to get a happy ending, but I'd really rather it not be with Andi at this point...I think he can do better...

Christine says

DNF

I loved the premise and could not wait to start.

First the narrator, Cynthia Barrett, is awful! The heroine, Andi, is supposed to be in her early 30s. The narrator sounds like she is in her late 40s. The narrator's accent at times was English mixed in with some Boston. Make up your mind what accent you are going to use for the story!!! Anyway, it was not only the narrator that made me DNF, it was the constant babble/inner dialogue from the heroine. It felt like she was constantly patting herself on the back with what a great professor she was or her 15 minute commentary on why she chose a specific cheesecake restaurant to meet the hero. She loves cheesecake and this place had the best cheesecake and it was so worth it...blah, blah, blah. The story starts in February, but she does not even make an appointment with the hero until June or July. February to June/July was all babble. It took for ever to get anywhere with this story. Then the heroine flashbacks to how she met her ex-fiance, Andrew. Nothing about why they broke up, but how they met. Who cares??? What does that have to do with anything?!?!? Don't answer that...I don't care anymore. The story lost me.

This may work for you, but did not work for me. I am not telling you not to read it.

Jane Stewart says

A professor and a male escort teach each other. It kept my interest but was lacking emotional fulfillment.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

I love romance novels which is the angle I'm coming from. This does not provide emotional fulfillment. It's women's fiction about finding love. It's also about a woman who is insecure about her body and afraid of sex. She overcomes her insecurities. At the end of this book I felt some pain and sadness about one relationship. I also felt some comfort about another relationship. But the sadness feeling was stronger than the comfort feeling. The ending did not leave me feeling satisfied. Things felt unfinished. I had hoped the sequel (Ordinary World) would make things better but it didn't. Someone dies at the beginning of Ordinary

World and the entire book is Andi grieving. The sequel depressed me. Maybe someone experiencing grief might like it better than I did. So, the sequel is not the way to get the happy ending I wanted for Faking It.

The story has the flavor of unrequited love. It is told in first person by Andi. She falls in love with Devin very quickly. But we never see Devin's point of view. (Ok, we did read an entry in his personal journal once, but it wasn't enough.) It appears that he does not fall in love with Andi, but that he sincerely cares for her. She's insecure about her appearance, he's movie-star handsome, and he doesn't return her feelings which adds some insecurity and sadness.

In this book there was a fair amount of talk about the craft of writing and authors like Plato and sophists. It wasn't done in a way that interested me. I read through those parts quickly without much thought. More entertaining or colorful illustrations of her points might have helped.

STORY BRIEF:

Andi has a PhD and teaches writing. She feels overweight and has low self-esteem. She was afraid to have sex so her fiancé broke up with her. She found a new job and moved to New York. She meets Devin, a male escort. He pleases women with companionship, attention, massages, and sensuality. He never has sex with his clients, but he uses sex toys to bring sexual pleasure to them. Andi can't afford Devin, but she asks if he will barter with her. She will teach him to write if he will teach her to shed her sexual inhibitions. He agrees. Maybe a third of the book is about their lessons with each other. Her lessons are mostly about her feelings about herself and her body. They are not sex scenes. They also have a growing friendship outside of the lessons.

DATA:

Story length: 270 pages. Swearing language: strong. Sexual language: none. Number of sex scenes: about three, but they are referred to - no details shown. Setting: current day mostly New York area and some Massachusetts. Copyright: 2010 (first published in 2008). Genre: women's relationship fiction, chick lit.

Caitlin Boyd says

I need to not buy random cheap books off Amazon at 3 am anymore.

Laura says

This book was amazing. I read it in one day, cover to cover (well kindle cover to kindle cover) because I simply could not put it down. The plot really interested me, because it sounded so different - a male escort and a professor? The book was nothing like I what I was expecting. It was so deep and meaningful, I really got to know Devin and Andi so well and I felt like I was inside their story. I also expected the book to be rather erotic, but it was so tasteful and I felt handled the nature of the book very respectfully.

This is such a wonderful, compelling and heartfelt story. I know a lot of people didn't love the ending, and even though it disappointed me - I understood why the author wrote it that way. This is one of the best books I've read in a long, long time and I really want to tell everyone I know to read it as well!

Manda says

This book was pretty good, maybe because I could identify with Andi and her internal struggle to interpret her emotions. Having conflicting feelings for two men can be particularly frustrating. I enjoyed the way it was written, though it's very dialogue driven. It just seemed to work in this book because I liked being able to see the characters interacting with each other rather than narrating. I didn't notice any grammatical errors (Thank you, Lorello!) but the formatting on the Kindle seemed a little off sometimes. The paragraph indentations weren't uniform, and even though it's barely a nuisance, it kind of annoyed my OCD.

As far as chick lit, it was pretty average. That isn't to say average is bad. I quite like the story and how it wasn't an exaggerated fairy tale romance; I could very well imagine it being a true story. The characters were likable. Andi wasn't a silly ditz who didn't know what she wanted out of life or was just trying to nab a rich hunk like most of the others that I've read. Devin was a little unrealistic at first, but he wasn't flawless and became more realistic as the story progressed. Lorello has a good eye for detail, and the characters and their mannerisms are vivid. In my opinion, she captured the essence of human interaction. She also did a good job at integrating intelligent topics into the novel. Overall, I think it was missing something...I'm just not sure what. The kind of something that would have made it amazing.

It was a nice, light read that I'll definitely keep around and read again. I recommend this to anyone looking for a cute romance to fall in love with.
