



The Disengagement Ring

Clodagh Murphy

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'We're her family. It's our duty to interfere.'

Kate O'Neill is ready to settle down, so when her commitment-phobic boyfriend Brian asks her to marry him, she accepts. Though she knows her close-knit family aren't fond of Brian, she feels sure they'll come round once they get to know him better.

But Kate's eccentric mother, Grace, is determined to prevent Kate from making the biggest mistake of her life. She hatches a plot to scupper the engagement, urging the whole family to do everything in their power to encourage a break-up. She even ropes in Will Sargent, manager of ultra cool rock band Walking Wounded, and unrequited love of Kate's life, in the hope that she can lure Kate away from Brian.

Reluctantly Will offers Kate a job as chef for Walking Wounded, and whisks her off to Tuscany for the summer, where they are working on their new album.

As temperatures in the kitchen begin to heat up, will Kate's feelings for Will be rekindled – or will she decide Brian really is the man for her?

The Disengagement Ring Details

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Author : Clodagh Murphy

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From Reader Review The Disengagement Ring for online ebook

Nancee McMann says

Not the good, not that bad

I don't know what to say. I enjoyed the characters so much. But it just lagged in many places. I did finish it in less than a day because of skipping so much nonsense.

Mary says

Really enjoyed this nice easy chic lit

Rebecca Emin says

I really enjoyed this book. It was one of those times when I was near the end and found myself slowing down so it wouldn't finish so soon. The characters are wonderful. I particularly liked the main character Kate, and Rory and Freddie. I also enjoyed how the family ties became a part of the plot, good intentions and disastrous ideas woven together.

I am looking forward to reading more by this author.

Charlotte Taft says

Thoroughly charming! I'd love a sequel featuring the band!

Lisa says

I loved this story. The characters are so rich in detail with a lovely blend of the dramatic and mundane this story will sweep you away until the last page is turned. Laughter, tears, drama, family, scheming - it's all here and for fans of Marian Keyes, Eva Rice and Katie Fforde I can't recommend it enough!

Sylvia says

A fun read!

Lots of twists and turns as to how things are going to play out with the characters. One of those books you

want to read in one sitting.

Lauri says

Loved this book so I read it twice. It was predictable but sometimes that's what you need, it was an easy read and I thoroughly enjoyed it. There were a couple of parts in the book where I started to get annoyed because there are only so many times things need to go wrong before they can go right. I liked the characters and found Kate's family to be amusing, I couldn't stand her tree hugging boyfriend and I was completely in love with Will in my mind he couldn't be any more gorgeous, he was totally romantic as well. I also liked the fact it was written from both of there points of view so we knew they were both in love with eachother we were just waiting for them to realise. A light hearted romantic novel, well worth a read.

Leah says

Kate O'Neill wants to settle down and have a family, so when her tree-hugging boyfriend Brian finally asks her to marry him, she says yes. She doesn't even mind the fact there's no ring to go with his proposal. Kate's family, however, have other ideas and her mother Grace and sister Rachel set about sabotaging the engagement. Their plan is to have Kate spend the summer in Tuscany with Will, the love of Kate's life, in a bid to show Kate what she could have if she broke up with the tree-hugger. As Kate, Will and Walking Wounded (the band Will manages), head off to Tuscany, will Kate see that settling for second best isn't what she wants and that it's Will who truly is the love of her life?

The Disengagement Ring is Clodagh Murphy's debut novel and is one I've been looking forward to reading for a while now. I loved the sound, cover and title of the book and couldn't wait to finally get my hands on it. Imagine my surprise when Clodagh offered me the chance to read it – I was thrilled and couldn't wait for it to arrive. I started it a few days after it arrived and I was immediately sucked in.

The Disengagement Ring has a rather fantastic yet devious plot and that was what immediately had me hooked on the book. It helped, of course, that right from the off I felt that Brian was all wrong for Kate. I truly couldn't stand him. When Grace, Kate's mother, and Rachel, Kate's sister, hatch the plan to have Will flirt with Kate in a bid to break Kate and Brian up, I was all for it. I knew it was devious, but I also felt that, actually, Grace was only acting in Kate's best interests. I can't say what Rachel's motives were and I didn't particularly like her either as she seemed very vindictive. The plot kept me hooked throughout and I genuinely had no idea how the book would end. Just as I thought we were heading to one conclusion, something happened which made it swing completely the other way.

While Kate is seemingly the main focus of the book, the book also focuses on family life and, for me, that was another factor in my enjoyment of the book. Most of the time when I'm reading chick lit, the heroines don't have particularly close relationships with their family whereas the O'Neill's are practically in each others pockets all of the time. They're a huge clan but they all seem to have time for each other. The bit that touched me most about the O'Neill clan was about how welcoming they were to Will when he ran away from his father. That summed the O'Neill's up for me: anybody who wanted to be part of their family would be welcomed. The main reason they didn't like Brian was because he didn't seem to want to be a part of their family. I'd go as far to say that he wanted Kate away from them and the family obviously sensed that and didn't take it well hence the plot.

Bar the obvious characters who were only there to be disliked, I loved every single character throughout the book. Kate was a fantastic central figure to the book and she seemed very determined about what she wanted whenever she wanted it. I warmed to her immediately and really cared about how everything would work out for her. I loved the O'Neill clan and in particular, Grace, the matriarch of the family. Grace wasn't afraid to voice her opinions, whether they were right or wrong. It's safe to say I loved Will the first time he appeared in the book, which was early on, and even when he agreed to Grace's plot I still really liked him. Seeing his and Kate's relationship play out was an enjoyment to read. One of my favourite characters was Freddie, Kate's gay best friend, I thought he was hilarious and it was a shame he didn't go to Tuscany as that meant he was only in half of the book – if that. Walking Wounded, the band Will manages and Kate goes out to Tuscany to cook for, also seemed incredibly nice considering they're huge rock stars. Owen, Rory, Phoenix and Georgie were all hilarious and I loved how their band came to be. As you can see, The Disengagement Ring is filled with quite a few characters but don't fear, it's easy to keep up once you work out whom is whom. We had quite a few villainous characters: Brian, as I mentioned, Will's girlfriend Tina who was rather high-maintenance and irritating, Tessa, Rory's girlfriend who was like Tina. It was a wonderful cast of characters, all who added their own sparkle to the book.

The book is written in third-person and flits from one person to the next. It could be talking about Kate one minute before immediately switching to Will/Grace etc. and, at first, it made my head spin but I quickly got used to it and enjoyed seeing everything from everyone's point of view. It gave a well-rounded view of events although knowing how everyone felt at all times while the other wondered how they were feeling drove me insane as I wanted them to just figure it out and stop wondering. The book has quite a few twists and turns and while I did wonder how it would all end, I was safe in my assumption I would be happy with the outcome.

The Disengagement Ring is a hugely enjoyable novel and Clodagh Murphy is a very promising writer. I say this a lot, but she's an author to watch and I can't wait for her next book. It'll have to be something special to beat this book and it'll also have to have another fantastic plot, not to mention a unique one. Although I have to say, it does remind me of a film... I can't for the life of me figure out which one! I recommend you give this book a read – you won't be disappointed.

Michelle Sanders says

Smiles

Sometimes you just want a happily ever after. Funny, sexy, boy gets the girl good book. This is one of the best

Alysa says

2.5 stars

The more I think about this book the more annoyed I become. I actually really liked the experience of reading it, it was fun and sweet and everything it aimed to be.

But there were some lingering complaints that have really festered into full on problems I had with the book:

1. The viewpoint constantly flip flops? Pick a character (or two even) and stick with them
2. So many non sequiturs, she used to be fat? They once had sex? He's allergic to alcohol? She's a chef? They're in there constantly, but they add absolutely nothing to my understanding of the book.

3. So much cheating. A looooooot of cheating for a book all about true loves. It just made me uncomfortable.
4. Kate is the least confident person ever (I get that it ties into her “formerly fat” thing but it’s lame) and so all the confusions that result are just painful.

I'd give another book of Murphy's a shot since I actually quite enjoy reading her work, but I gotta hope it's a bit better planned out next time.

Warren Gossett says

This is a lovely book with a quick heart and funny bits. I read it eagerly all the way to the last page skipping over two other less exciting books I had started first.

Debra says

The Disengagement Ring

What starts out as a girl who has crushed on a family friend years ago. That ended with drunk sex that he doesn't remember. Evolves into their mother's trying to hook them up. His get a him to hire her as his hands chef. Both have other people that they are seeing. Both moms don't like the others. Now added to that the close proximity sparks start to ignite. But will it cause a fire or fizzle out?

Trena says

Loved it .The characters were just perfect flaws and all.

Carol says

I was three quarters of the way into this book and loving it when it turned annoying. I wanted to scream that no one would carry on this long procrastinating about something that was so important to two people. Especially when Kate goes to explain to Brian (the tree hugger) boyfriend that problems in their relationship are too dire to proceed further and then gets co-coerced into staying the night. I literally wanted to hang them both from a tree. My first novel from this author and probably my last.I gave it three stars purely because most of the book was good and I loved the characters especially Kate's best friend Freddie.

Cb says

No depth

I wanted to like this book... Really wanted to because I think the author has a unique style and her characters are witty. That being said, the relationship felt forced. There wasn't any real chemistry between the

characters and the heroine kept forgetting that she had a boyfriend. It was just weird.
