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Estate agent Frankie Blue is known on his home turf - White City, Shepherd's Bush - as "Frank theFib." He's a liar - but one who always tries to tell the truth. He has been friends with Diamond Tony, a hairdresser, Colin, a computer nerd, and Nodge, a cabbie, since schooldays. Now they are thirty, and trying to live the same life as they did then - drinking, girls, coke, football. But Frankie is bored. He's decided to carry out the great "betrayal" - he's going to get married. From the moment he tells his mates, the whole patchwork of their friendships begins to collapse - revealing the sad, shocking but often hilarious truths that lie underneath.

White City Blue Details

Date : Published May 4th 2000 by Penguin (first published 1999)

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Author : Tim Lott

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From Reader Review White City Blue for online ebook

da-wildchildz says

Following on from the dumbest book I've ever is the daftest book I've read. The difference? Nothing. Shallow characters, tedious plots and bad writing, they might as well be playing snap. End of story.

Printable Tire says

I was really enjoying this book - I guess it would fall under whatever the male version of chicklit is - until the mammoth disappointment of the surprise secret of one of the pro's friends. This book better be autobiographical, because as a believable plot point it totally sucked. I'm not going to tell you what it is, but just think Chasing Amy.

I think I was reading this along the time my girlfriend dumped me after college. I know I bought it in 2004 when I was at Oxford.

Kyra says

Terrific book.

Geetly says

This book reiterates the fact that the our first reaction towards committment is always that of aversion. Even the second, third and fourth. Having said that, while this book is an accurate portrayal of friendship in today's times, I would like to think its a sad exaggeration.

Nacho says

Una sorpresa inesperada. Me la leí en un viaje de tren de unas tres horas. Que engancha, vamos.

En castellano, se titula *White City* a secas.

Josie says

One of those books that was easy to read, but didn't really make you feel anything. Just a very easy read I guess.

This is Tim Lott's first novel and I can't say I'd be actively seeking out his others in a hurry!

Although that said, it was nice to read something so very English!

Ellen says

The ending totally rectified everything that was wrong with the book. And by ending I mean the last sentence.

John Salmon says

Not liking this one too much chiefly because the protagonist is such a wanker and his narrative voice so odious. Most likely won't finish it.

S.K. says

A really good book about what it is like to be a young man in modern Britain.

Deborah J says

A book for the lads. I read it because I'd heard a lot about Lott's latest book, and White City Blue revolved around 14 August, a date of significance for me. White City Blue had its moments - a couple of things made me laugh out loud - but it's meant for those 30 years younger than I, and for blokes. However, as a picture of London in the 90s and of the property boom it has a certain interest.

Vy Nguyen says

Interesting read, so descriptive i could picture the friends in my mind. Dont know how precise it is to a guys state of mind but worth reading.

Shirley Williams says

I loved this book. I love an honest take on life and people and Lott achieved this in this beautifully written book.

Erin W says

I read this for a class way back in my undergrad days. The class was based on the modern British novel, and

it's part of a pretty popular subgenre called "lad lit" AKA "What hell hath Nick Hornby wrought?" It's like chick lit, except it's worse because it's full of misogyny. (Not that I would include Hornby in that category. He, unlike most of his contemporaries, can write a troubled man who is nonetheless decent.)

This particular novel is about the baffling need for men to hold onto friendships that have outlived their lifespan, as a last-ditch effort to hold onto their youth. The main character here has three buddies who, every year, reenact the same pointless adventure they had once when they were young. But one year it conflicts with his girlfriend's birthday! Oh no! The choice between past and future!

First of all, any girlfriend worth her salt has no trouble celebrating her birthday the day before or the day after if there is a legitimate conflict. Second, the fact that he doesn't even like these guys anymore suggests that maybe the tradition might as well be retired.

I don't remember the writing being anything special, but it has been a very long time.

So: pass it up and read something better by Nick Hornby, or maybe some early Michael Chabon if you're American. The Mysteries of Pittsburgh does better with similar themes, as I recall.

Erin Knoll says

I loved the beginning of this book - quirky characters, fun voice, a little thread of nasty drama running under the surface. The descriptions of different types of friendship are astute and hysterical.

Sadly, about three quarters of the way through the story kind of unravels. I don't mind if everyone's a jerk, but it was just something about the mix of cynicism and realism that was more unpleasant to read than anything else. So in the end, it was unsatisfying, and I was more disappointed than anything else by the predictable finish. Too bad...but I'd definitely read more by this author.

Adam Wolstenholme says

What stands out for me is the details that bring the characters to life. Diamond Tony's flaring nostrils; Nodge's pensive smoking; Colin's idiotic and revealing sexual fantasising about the robots in Blade Runner. All these I can recall now without having read the book in years. Looking at some of the reviews, I think this book suffers from being seen as somehow representative of men, whereas it's better understood as just another story about a set of characters which, incidentally, might touch upon some universal truths. I found the structure very satisfying - the way the flashbacks catch up with the narrative proper. And it's full of nice little witty, wise, often cynical asides, for example that no-one is 'special'. People are pretty much the same. Anyone who says otherwise is annoying. Well put, Frankie Blue.
