



The Death of Lila Jane

Teresa Mummert

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From *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Teresa Mummert comes a cautionary coming of age tale.

Lila Jane is spending her summer vacation preparing for high school. She does everything asked of her, but her parents rarely give her credit for her efforts. She decides to sneak out with a friend to attend a local party and shed her little girl image, to become a woman once and for all. What starts out as a fun escape soon escalates into a life on the run with a boy she barely knows.

The Death of Lila Jane Details

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Author : Teresa Mummert

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From Reader Review The Death of Lila Jane for online ebook

ZARIA (Sheldon Cooper lover) says

People have gotten the idea that the only way to make one character look good is to pair him/her with a less-awesome person. It doesn't work like that. In fact, it makes the storyline and romance twice as good if the main character and the love interest both have strengths and interesting sides to them.

"Boring old predictable Lila Jane."

Jennifer Kyle says

4.5 STARS

Teresa Mummert delivers a well written short story about two young teens who ditch their lives and find a lot out about themselves in the process.

Lila James is a fifteen year old sheltered young girl who is about to start high school in a few weeks. She suffers from social anxiety and up until her neighbor's nephew, Kaden moves in next door, she has been okay with her closed off existence. There's something about Kaden that makes her want to break out of her parent's grasp and when an offer to go to the mall is given with Kaden she tells some lies and heads off with this sexy stranger.

This story is told in alternating POVS and so we are gifted with the pain and heartbreak that has contributed to Kaden's new address. He has been through a lot and has been handling a ton of anger and grief.

"If dying of a broken heart were possible, I would find my demise soon in her memories."

To Lila's surprise Kaden brings her to a party where the events of the evening just keep snowballing until this unlikely couple runs away to New Orleans.

"Her life was completely different than mine but her hurt was the same. She wasn't happy and she just wanted someone who understood."

I adored the dialogue between the two and appreciated how they helped one another with their individual

plights. I just loved how the author brought the story together in the future and how both characters' lives changed for the better from their time spent on the run.

"I was trying this new thing now. Instead of living like every day was my last, I began to live like every day was the first day of the rest of my life. It was all about perspective."

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

This sounds good!

Debra Anastasia says

The Death of Lila Jane is so amazing. I love the relationship between Lila and Kaden. He is swoony and sexy. As always, Mummert weaves a beautiful story that can't be put down. I highly recommend it.

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

Super excited for this book :)) so far whatever I read from this author was really good *finger crossed*

An advance reading copy was generously provided to me in exchange for an honest review.

Cassie says

ARC REVIEW FROM ABIBLIOPHOBIA ANONYMOUS BOOK REVIEWS BLOG

Rating 4.5 stars

The Death of Lila Jane is one of those books about spreading your wings and wanting to fly. As teenagers we are so sick of our parents and their hovering, constant questions and always wanting us to be safe. If we knew now what we didn't know then, we would of never left home and entered this big crazy world, and that's what Lila is facing. She's 15 and sick of the life she has. She's a book worm with one girl friend. When the new boy across the street moves in, all will change. Lila and Kadens life will forever be changed. They'll go on this great adventure together and grow a bit. I kept thinking of Bonnie and Clyde, without all the murder. The book grabs you and you need to know what's going to happen with these two. They both will grow in so many ways. It has all the makings of a great love story. 4.5 stars

"I wanted to rip her from her gilded cage and force the world onto her just to watch her crumble. Misery loves company and I was nothing if not lonely." - Kaden

♦*Arianna♦* says

2.5 - 3 Stars!!

Lila Jane is a fifteen years old girl who wants to live her own life. She wants to walk on her own path and do her own mistakes, but her parents are overprotective, not allowing her like they should to live her own life. Lila suffers from social anxiety. She's very introverted, preferring reading than socializing with other kids. She's shy, awkward and she has only one friend. Things start to change for Lila when across the street moves Kaden, a seventeen years old boy. Kaden only wants to escape the guilt, the memories, to run from everything in his life – from his abusive father, from his paranoid mother and from the memory of the girl who left him alone. He moves with his uncle trying to get better and forget his past.

When Kaden realizes the girl across the street is spying on him, being a little stalker he's a little annoyed. Eventually they get to hang out together – Lila wants to know more about Kayden and Kayden simply wants to talk with someone. He'd never expected for Lila to be so different from other girls and for him to want to get to know her better. A series of events makes Lila realize that she will never be her own person if she lets her parents dictate her life. She wants to really live and a road trip with Kaden seems to be the perfect way to accomplish that.

The story is a YA /coming of age that follows the story of these characters who try to find who they are and what they want. While I liked the premise, the plot felt a little undeveloped. The execution wasn't exactly poorly done, but not too bright either. But well, this is just my opinion. I liked the title and the whole idea of the story and I think it could have been better...for me, if it would have been longer. IMO the story had a lot of potential, but unfortunately didn't do anything for me. I wasn't moved by these characters' story like I was supposed to be I guess, but I'm sure many readers will connect more with them.

Lila was exactly portrayed like a 15 years old, girl, which was a good thing IMO. She was an ok character for me for the most part. While her naivety was cute for Kayden, for me was annoying as f@ck. I don't mind naïve characters...most of the time, but for some reason, Lila's character got on my nerves more times than I like to admit. I guess I'm getting too old for some YA novels. *sigh*

One aspect of the story that I really enjoyed was the hero, Kayden. He was pretty great, mature, a douchebag at times, but overall an endearing character. He was sweet, caring and protective, wanting to protect Lila not only from the unknown, but also from himself. I enjoyed their interactions, how they tried to help each other and be what the other needs and the cute teasing between them.

Overall, this one was just an ok read for me. It wasn't the worst YA novel I've read so far, but it wasn't the best either. That being said, I'm not sure tomorrow I will remember the heroine's name.

It seems I'm in minority here, so keep in mind that just because it didn't really work for me, doesn't mean it won't work for you.

For the Love of Books & Alcohol Blog says

"I wanted to rip her from her gilded cage and force the world onto her just to watch her crumble. Misery loves company, and I was nothing if not lonely."

Let me just say that I was completely in love with the concept of this story. Mummert is unbelievably clever. The idea that the girl she had once been died so that she could be reborn the woman she wanted to be was so cool. This is going down as one of my favorite coming of age stories ever.

I loved Lila's wide-eyed ways. She was naive, but she had moxie. The evolution of her character was spot on. I felt like I was back in high school making bad decisions and seeing where they led me. Lucky for her, she was with Kaden. Kaden was her polar opposite. It's understandable that would be so taken with him. It was so much more than his good looks and swagger. He was freedom. And I wanted to hop in a car with him and run away too. He made it look easy.

The thing I really loved about this book was that it wasn't an insta-love HEA story. Things escalated quickly and the reality was always there waiting to take over. And ultimately it did. The ending was perfect! I loved it!

4 stars and pair it with a New Orleans Classic, the Sazerac.

Buy the book:

<http://amzn.to/1QGYKJ4>

Sanne Heremans says

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review - Sanne / Scandalous Book Blog

The death of Lila Jane this book is called but I'd rather call it the learning curve of a young girl on her way to find not only herself but epic love along the way.

Lila Jane has been sheltered all her life so when a good looking guy moves in across the street something ignites a spark in her.

Kaden is the epitome of a bad boy with a golden heart.

Once fate decides to get these two together something unique happens and an unlikely alliance is formed.

A roadtrip to New Orleans that opens up doors and closed down others.

Unfortunately, real life kicks in at some point and it's time to get back.

What happens after? That's for me to know and for you to find out! ;-)

A beautifully written story that'll give you all the feels and make you feel like you are right there feeling it all with them.

A song that fits this beautiful story:

Love is strange by Mickey & Sylvia - Dirty Dancing:

<https://open.spotify.com/track/66Yxbr...>

Three Chicks says

4 Stars

Review by Jen Skewes

The Death of Lila Jane is a story about a young girl trying to escape the hold that her parents have on her and come out of her shell. Lila Jane is a 15 year old girl who has lived a sheltered life due to her very overprotective parents. She is a bit introverted and has some socialization/anxiety issues. She has one friend and would rather stay in and read a book than go out. When she sees the new boy across the street she finds herself spying on him through her window. She wants to go over to him and say hello but given her issues she cannot bring herself to step outside.

Kaden has lost the love of his life at such a young age. He was sent to live with his uncle who is also broken in his own way as well. Kaden is broken but at the same time he is tough and maybe a little rough around the edges. But he is still a genuinely good guy. He sees the girl across the street spying on him. His uncle insists that he takes her out to the mall and get to know her. Eventually he gives in and offers to take her, but the mall is not where they end up going. They end up at a party which turns into the two of them going on the run together. Kaden makes mistakes which he is afraid will cause him to be kicked out so he decides to go on the run and Lila wants to go with him. She wants to break free from her parents and wants to learn to live. Kaden is the perfect person to teach her about living. But this adventure of theirs cannot last forever. At some point she has to go home. And when that happens then what?

I really enjoyed this book. Kaden and Lila had great chemistry. It was a beautiful story about finding yourself and being able to break out of your shell. But it also deals with learning to live life and learning to heal. I loved the moments that these two shared together. They were so young and Lila was so naïve due to her childhood but I think that is why they fit so well. Kaden helped her to learn how to live. While I did love this story there was something missing for me and I think the ending just fell a little flat for me. But overall a recommended and very enjoyable read.

Lina's Reviews ♡????????? ♡??Book Blog?? ♡????????? ♡ says

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

What a wonderful story of a young girl venturing into adulthood. I thoroughly enjoyed this fantastic tale. I didn't expect it to be so raw and emotional.

Lila Jane is a young girl that is trying to find her purpose in the world. She is a teenager and very introverted, always with her nose buried in a book.

She is lonely, shy and never goes anywhere unless it is school. The dysfunctional members of her family, and especially her mother, have led her into dark, rocky paths that she finds difficult to get away from.

I was just one of the lucky millions affected by social anxiety among other things. I was shy and I was exhausted from trying so damn hard

She is severely depressed and when she finally decides to do something about it, her life changes.

Seventeen year old Kaden is running from a very traumatic incident. When he arrives to his uncle's house, he knows that he is alone and that he can never return to his mother. When he notices the slightly weird girl that constantly spies him from her bedroom window, he has no desire to get to know her. But fate has other plans. Forced together by his uncle, Daven, Kaden will realize that Lila Jane is no ordinary fifteen year old girl. His feelings are mixed; dislike, curiosity and weariness all blend together and make his behavior rude at times.

I wanted to rip her from her gilded cage and force the world onto her just to watch her crumble. Misery loves company and I was nothing if not lonely.

"He practically begged me to take out the pathetic shut-in next door. It's kind of sad actually."

Her gaze danced over me and I waited for a smartass retort but instead her eyes glossed over and her thin fingers clicked to unlatch her seatbelt. I was amped for an argument, but when the corners of Lila's mouth tugged down, all my anger dissipated.

Lila has been admiring Kaden from afar, behind the safety of her bedroom window and when she finally gets to meet him things don't actually turn out as she had hoped.

The person I'd had him built up to be in my mind was an impossible standard for him to live up to. He wasn't the hero in one of my stupid books, he was just some teenage boy with a chip on his shoulder.

One night. Two lonely teenagers. A car ride that will change both their lives. When they take off together, Lila will finally break out of her shell, but can Kaden protect her from himself? Read to find out.

The book was very emotional for me. I consumed it one sitting and even after I finished it, it still stayed with me. It's a story of loss, pain and ultimately, love. It is about finding your way into a world that is easy to judge and reject everything that doesn't seem normal. I loved, loved the characters. Even though the book is about teenagers, I felt like they were pretty mature for their age despite some of their reckless actions. They were after all, teens and they were allowed to make mistakes and discover their true selves.

Do not miss this book. It's a small gem!

★★★5 Stars★★★

Melyssa Winchester says

Title: The Death of Lila Jane

Author: Teresa Mumert

Genre: Contemporary Romance, Young Adult

Series or Standalone: Standalone

Rating: ★★★★1/2 Stars

Review

I'm going on record now and saying that despite having read the synopsis for this book and being sucked in based on it, the title scared me a little. I had concerns about just how much it was going to play into how this story played out. Thankfully, the title did not have the literal meaning that I thought when I started. In fact, its meaning overall is actually quite fitting considering what takes place within its pages.

From the outside looking in, it appears that this story is about an awkward sheltered young girl and a bad boy who end up going on an adventure together, but it's so much more than that. Is Lila sheltered? In a manner of speaking yes, but she's also extremely perceptive for someone that doesn't interact much with many outside of her home. Is Kaden a bad boy? I suppose in a manner of speaking he is, but for this reader, he was so much more than all of that and it was apparent right from the moment he first makes his appearance.

I think my favorite part of this story was Kaden breaking down all of those preconceived notions about him. Being more than just the "bad boy" everyone on the outside sees him as. Does he make mistakes? Yes. Does he continue to make mistakes in the story? Yes, but in making those mistakes he also has these moments of clarity. Moments where after a whole lot of back and forth with himself, he learns from the mistakes and does what it takes to rectify them. That kind of character makes me happy. I live for some manner of growth in my reading and I got that here with Kaden. From the pain of what he's already lived through to what he experiences with Lila, he was definitely the character I enjoyed most.

That's not to say that Lila didn't have her own learning curve, but hers was more centered about coming out of her shell and experiencing life beyond the walls of her house and her family. Even experiencing it away from the one friend she did have and the boy that so obviously had a crush on her that she was completely oblivious to seeing until it was slammed home later in the story. She grew as well but in a different way. But not without having moments where she definitely wasn't ready for the growth that did occur.

These two and their story of life, love and growth was very well done. I was impressed with the care the

author took as she takes the reader on their journey together. It wasn't easy by any means. There were ups and downs, sweetness and moments of sourness, but even in what I know to be a fictional setting, it felt very real. Reactions based on character age, and life experiences came across very organic to me, even if at times things did seem a little over the top.

The only thing that kept this from being a 5* read for me was the ending. I won't go into specifics as I don't want to give details of the story away and ruin it for other readers, but I will say that I felt like that part was a tad bit rushed given the length of time spent walking us through how everything came to be.

In the end though, I got what I wanted most from this after everything that happened to bring these two together and this is definitely a story that I'm glad I took the chance on. I'm eager to see where this author takes us next.

And for the record, I'm definitely #TeamKaden.

My thanks to the author and all others involved in letting me read this story before its official release. It was a pleasure and Kaden and Lila's journey to happiness was one that I am glad to be a part of.

Diane says

Love love love all the words written by Teresa Mummert.

Great story, such emotion and realism.

Up All Night Book Addict says

Every thing Teresa Mummert writes has a tendency to be magical. Sometimes it's dark. Sometimes it's heartbreak. Sometimes it's in a class of its own. Who am I kidding? Her stories are usually a combination of the above and more. This story really isn't any different.

Just like Teresa's other books, I was roped in from the start. With all of the sadness and pain Lila and Kaden carry within themselves, these two characters are guaranteed to tell a story like no other.

Although I was immersed in this story, I was expecting so much more from it. When I first saw this book, I expected my emotions to be all over the place. Unfortunately, they weren't. Well, they were, but not as heavily as I expected.

Overall, this book is a really good book. I highly recommend reading it. The characters are very relateable and likeable. I couldn't help but to feel so much for these characters. Everyone knows what it's like to be misunderstood and unseen. Their story is definitely one that will sit with you for a while.

Shannon Avangeline says

This ARC was received in exchange for an honest review

I was working on book two tonight...honestly, Mom, I was. Then I checked my kindle. Everything came to a screeching halt! I received an ARC from Teresa Mummert of The Death of Lila Jane. I devoured it in one sitting! There are no word sufficient to describe this story. I love a coming of age story, probably better than most people, however, I have never read one that made a permanent place on my heart like this one has! The characters are real and the raw emotion left me breathless. By the time it was over, Lila Jane had wrung tears from even my cynical heart. I am simply stunned by the beauty and the power of this story! So, if you haven't pre-order your copy...What are you waiting for! Go do it now!!! You can thank me later!!

Lila Jane is spending her summer vacation preparing for high school. She does everything asked of her, but her parents rarely give her credit for her efforts. She decides to sneak out with a friend to attend a local party and shed her little girl image, to become a woman once and for all. What starts out as a fun escape soon escalates into a life on the run with a boy she barely knows.

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