



The Invitation

Keris Stainton

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‘I absolutely-totally-completely-bloody LOVE Keris’s books!’ *The Writing Garnet*

When **Piper James** unexpectedly gets a message from her insanely hot teenage crush **Rob Kingsford**, inviting her to their school reunion, her heart flips. She hasn’t seen Rob in eight years – and he’s always been **the one who got away**.

Throw in some old friends (and frenemies), a sister on the edge of a meltdown and a few too many cosmos and you have all the ingredients for a real night to remember... **Will Piper and Rob finally get together, the second time around?**

A hilarious and uplifting story about conquering your demons and being true to who you are – perfect for fans of *You Had Me At Hello*, *The List* and *The Best Thing I Never Had*.

Read what everyone is saying about Keris Stainton:

‘**Utterly addictive. I LOVE it!**’ Colleen Coleman, bestselling author of *Don’t Stop Me Now*

‘**Utterly charming** and adorable, top quality romantic comedy, **simply joyous.**’ Rowan Coleman, author of *The Summer of Impossible Things*

‘A wonderful, feel-good book. **I loved it... I couldn’t put it down...** A very enjoyable read!... **Will have you laughing out loud...** Definitely one to look out for.’ *Goodreads reviewer*

‘**Best Romcom of 2017.**’ *Well Read Pirate Queen*

‘**Laugh-out-loud funny...** I loved this book... Funny and **amazing.**’ *Goodreads reviewer*

‘**Eye-wateringly funny...** Romance fun at its greatest. **Fabulous.**’ *Goodreads reviewer*

‘**Love, love, love.** Keris’s rom-coms are my happy place... Sweet and warm-hearted.’ *LGBT YA Reviewer*

‘**A great, funny, feel-good read...** Would definitely recommend this one!’ *Stardust Book Reviews*

‘**Laugh-out-loud funny...** I was rooting for all of the characters.’ *Goodreads reviewer*

‘**I read it in one sitting... I nearly died from laughter.**’ *Goodreads reviewer*

‘Totally **LOVABLE** characters!’ *Goodreads reviewer*

‘**Exactly what I needed!**... Hilarious! If you are looking for a refreshing story this is **perfect** for you!’ *Read More Sleep Less*

‘**I smiled from ear to ear...** Joyous book.’ *Wit and Wonder Books*

‘**I love this...** Believable, sympathetic characters who hook into your affections and stay there... An utterly

satisfying read, **laugh-out-loud funny**... I started it last night and **stayed up to finish it because I had to know what happened.**' *Making them Readers*

‘**Super cute.**’ *Saturday Nite Reader*

‘**Adorable!**... This is **perfect.**

The Invitation Details

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From Reader Review The Invitation for online ebook

Lauren James says

Keris' books always make me feel like I can achieve anything I set my mind to. Heart-warming, body-positive, sweet and caring, I am going to be thinking about these characters for a long time. Can we get a sequel about Holly, please?!

Nicki says

This was a fun read. I really liked Piper and admired her positive outlook on life. I loved Matt, her BFF and flatmate, he was brilliant and such fantastic person to have around, encouraging her whenever she needed it.

I loved the main storyline about the school reunion. Having avoided every school reunion myself, I completely understood Piper's reluctance to attend. Unless you were one of the popular kids, why go back and socialise with all those people you've managed to live without for years? I admired her decision to go and just loved how she prepared herself, I especially that 'Power Pose'!

I also really enjoyed Piper's work storyline with her involvement with the girl band. I especially thought the names that the company kept coming up with were eye rollingly cringey!

And what about Rob, the one that got away? Was he for real or just messing with Piper's head? Well, you'll have to read the book to find out what happens!

Amanda says

I have loved each and every book that Keris Stainton has released. I (im)patiently wait for her next book from the moment I finish her last book. I know that when I pick up a book written by Keris, I am in for one hell of a read. So it proved with 'The Invitation', which I absolutely loved by the way but more about that in a bit.

It was extremely easy to take to the character of Piper James. She is a blogger, who focuses on positive body image and encourages others to be positive and not negative. It's a pity that she doesn't practice what she preaches because I found that she was negative towards herself, her body shape and her size on more than one occasion. Although I couldn't see her, because obviously there were no pictures of her in the book, I thought that she was perfect just the way she was. She's chatty, she's friendly, she loves a good night out but equally she loves a night in watching movies and she loves a good bitching session. Piper is invited on to a morning television chat show to appear with somebody who has opposite views to her. Piper doesn't think that she will come across very well but judging by what people tell her, Piper absolutely smashed it!! Piper's job is in London but she is increasingly drawn back to her home town. Her parents have sadly died but she does have an auntie, who is a mother figure to her. Sadly it appears that the auntie is not very well at present and I did begin to wonder if her auntie had dementia or some other brain condition. Piper's sister is about as much use as a chocolate teapot and somehow it always seems to fall to Piper to go and check in on her auntie. It's during a visit back home that Piper bumps into Rob Kingsford, who Piper had a huge teenage crush on. Rob invites her to the school reunion, which she eventually does agree to attend. Piper and Rob

become extremely close and I had my fingers crossed that they would get together as Piper deserves a happy ever after ending. Another character I loved was Piper's flatmate and BFF, Matt, who was hilarious and the kind of flatmate everybody would love to have.

I absolutely ADORED this book. It was one of those books that I became addicted to from the moment I opened the cover and began to read. The page numbers and the time flew past in a blur and before I knew what was happening I had finished the book, which I was so disappointed about. I just loved the storylines, the characters, the humour and the moments that made me realise that Piper is just like you and me.

Underneath her confident exterior, Piper still has a lack of self belief and thinks badly of herself and her shape.

I picked this book up at a perfect time for me. I was feeling fed up, my back was killing me and my dogs (2 loopy but adorable Labradors) had done my head in, so as you can imagine I needed a distraction that would hopefully cheer me up. Oh my this book ticked both of those boxes and then some. I haven't laughed as much as I did with this book for a long, long time. I was giggling away throughout the book, which got me some strange looks in the bus queue. Honestly some of the situations that Piper found herself in were the sort of things that could happen and do happen to anybody on a daily basis. The writing in this book is so good that I could almost see the story acting out in front of me. The characters were so real that they just seemed to come alive and I did think of most of them as friends.

In conclusion, I think that it's fair to say that I just adored this book and I would definitely recommend this author and her books to other readers. I can't wait to see what comes next from Keris Stainton. Here's hoping that we don't have too long to wait. The score on the Ginger Book Geek board is a well deserved 5* out of 5*. I just wish I could have awarded it more stars because I enjoyed it so much.

Carrie says

The Invitation by Keris Stainton is billed as a second chance romantic comedy and I'm always a sucker for both of those things so of course I had to check this one out. I will say it probably is the best way to describe this one but a lot is left out of the blurb that I didn't expect too.

Piper James is a twenty some single gal that has tried to put her past behind her and move on with her life after dealing with her weight and all the insults that come with it. She's now comfortable in her skin and doesn't let the negative opinions get her down but Piper also never expected to head back to where she grew up.

When Piper gets a Facebook friend request from her high school crush, Rob Kingsford, she doesn't quite know how to react. With some encouragement from her best friend Piper does get in touch with Rob and is surprised to find things aren't quite the way she remembered and it's time to face the past.

The Invitation is the second book that I've read by Keris Stainton and I think after finishing this one I have some of the same feelings that I did with the other. There is quite a bit of humor involved in her stories to put them into the rom-com category but her leading ladies have some issues that also bring some angst into the story that brings the comedy down a bit for me. This one started off pretty solid making light of Piper's weight issues but the longer it went on there was just more and more downer moments that it loses it's fun a bit. What can I say I'm not a huge fan of a lot of angst so again this just turned into an OK read for me.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more review please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Berit??? says

4 Side Splitting Stars? ????

This book at its heart was so fun and filled with so many laugh out loud moments... I absolutely love romantic comedies... and strong sassy female characters..... and this book fit the bill for both! This was my first book from Keris Stainton, but I can guarantee it will not be my last! Adding her to my ever-growing list of must read authors...

Piper was a phenomenal character... I loved her spirit, her sass, her strength, and her positivity.... I love how she had come to terms with her weight issues and loved herself just the way she was... also loved the friendship she had with her amazing guy friend Matt...

Piper has a second chance at love in this book... A Facebook friend request from a high school crush, leads to her going home and facing her demons, and perhaps finding true love.... rob was a really good guy, but.... can Piper find her way past the doubts and the misunderstandings and the past?

Perhaps this is naïve of me or it is my desire to always see the good in everybody... but I do find it most troubling that people would actually comment about somebody's wait on a picture on social media??? OK I think I'm probably being very unrealistic, but why would anybody ever do this? Also I would hope after you've been out of high school for a decade you'd be over thinking you were better than anybody, perhaps this is a small town issue? This book brought up these issues and they really quite frankly bothered me... I so want to see the good in people, but then people do really mean things? Please do not rain on my little happy bubble!

Absolutely recommend to fans of a fun romantic comedy full of sassy characters and heart?

*** many thanks too Bookouture for my copy of this book ***

Robin Loves Reading says

Second chances can be marvelous. That is exactly what Piper James experiences when she gets a message from her teenage crush Rob Kingsford. She was crazy about him in school, but has not seen him in eight years. Rob has invited Piper to accompany him to their high school reunion. Could she really have another chance with the gorgeous hunk of a man? That said, this is not simply a romance, though. It is a story about body positivity, friendships and family.

The Invitation is sweet, funny and tender. I so wanted Piper and Rob to get together. They both really liked one another. Piper's war with confidence and self-esteem is quite realistic. She has been judged by others due to her weight - including her family - and feels as if Rob could not ever really be attracted to her. This book had some great connecting characters, and they added to the humor in this story, including little Buster. This was a delightful, one-sitting read. If this book is indicative of the genuine writing style of Keris Stainton, I definitely look forward to reading more of her work in the future, maybe even stories about Matt and Holly.

Many thanks to Bookouture and to NetGalley for this ARC to review in exchange for an honest review.

Date of publication: June 25, 2018

Katie says

I'm ashamed to say this is my first book I've read by Keris Stainton and oh my gosh it was brilliant! I laughed, I got choked up, my emotions were all over the place and by the end I was uplifted into believing I could do anything.

Piper lives in London with her friend Matt, has a good job and runs a body positivity blog. Piper has always been overweight so when her old school crush Rob invites her to a reunion she's excited and nervous. Will Rob still be the same or will he have changed?

I loved everything about this book, I was engrossed to the pages as I fell in love with Piper, Matt, Rob, Holly and Connie. Piper was a brilliant character, I was there cheering for her to overcome all the fat jokes. I loved the body positivity theme that Keris was promoting throughout the book, it made me feel better about myself and by the end I had a big grin on my face and my heart was uplifted.

Keris's writing was just superb, I was hooked right from the first page and I loved getting to know all the characters. The pages turned themselves and I just couldn't put the book down. This is definitely a book you'll want to read in one sitting – will Piper and Rob get together? What happened to make Piper and Holly stop talking to each other? You'll just have to read the book! I really hope Keris revisits Piper again at some point, she is probably one of my favourite characters of the year so far.

The Invitation is funny, romantic, heartwarming and will make your own confidence soar as you read it. This is a wonderful read and perfect to read this summer. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to grab Keris's other books!

Kaisha (The Writing Garnet) says

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

I always look forward to reading a new novel from Keris Stainton, and her latest novel, 'The Invitation' was no different!

Meet Piper, a woman who has struggled with her body confidence for as long as she can remember, trying to promote positive attitudes towards all different weights and sizes on her blog. While it is clear that she is turning heads with her words, she also seems to be turning heads with how she looks – and not in a bad way!

Keris Stainton always has been in hysterics with her fantastically written and well-timed humour and, whilst I did find myself laughing like a hyena on more than one occasion, I found myself empathising with Piper and her situation, rather than giggling constantly like I usually would. Don't panic, that is in no way a bad thing. I think that, because I have been in a similar situation to Piper but on the other end of the scale, I was able to channel her emotions and see her side of the story a lot clearer than someone who hadn't been in the

same position. The body image topic is one that is often seen as ‘taboo’, yet it is one of the most important hurdles for today’s youth. Yes, both genders. I loved the way that Keris Stainton uplifted the situation with her humour, without belittling the cause and the message that she was trying to get across. I felt that the author understood exactly what it’s like to be a person who dislikes how they look, or have been called something derogatory due to their size, big or small.

‘The Invitation’ isn’t just about Piper’s journey with her blog, it is about a lot more than that. No, I cannot tell you what that would be a spoiler, pfft! Just trust me when I say that ‘The Invitation’ will make you laugh, make you sit and ponder your life choices, as well as opening up the App Store on your phone to see if you can find an app to add faces to certain things....

This book sends such a positive message to every single person out there – I wish I had someone like Keris Stainton in my corner when I was growing up, but I am glad that I have her words of wisdom and hilarious one liners to get me through my nearing thirties. If that’s not lucky, I don’t know what is.

Keris Stainton never fails to deliver, with her voice getting stronger and stronger with every book she writes. Yes, ‘The Invitation’ is hilarious, but it is also a powerful and poignant read that will have you admiring fellow women for their strength and outlook, instead of whether they have ‘curves in all the right places’. Thanks to Keris Stainton, the only curve I need to worry about is the one on my face – my smile.

Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says

A sweet summer romance that addresses love, friendship, family and body positivity.

Our main character is fun, smart and relatable. She has moments of great confidence and also hints of self-doubt.

My main issue with the book is that it all feels very surface level. I feel like this book definitely could have been stronger if it spent more time developing the characters and delving deeper into all of the characters personal and interpersonal issues.

Full Review to come

I received a free ARC copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Donna Maguire says

<https://donnasbookblog.wordpress.com/...>

I absolutely adore this author’s books, they are easy to read and I love the characters that she creates! This is a very positive book and I loved reading it.

I love her writing style and this really brought the different characters to life. Their interaction was superb, I really warmed to Piper, she is one of my favourite characters from 2018 so far and I could see myself in so

much that she was doing!

I LOVED it – such a good story and no hesitation in giving it 5 stars – it is funny and heart-warming at the same time, a highlight of the year so far for me – a genuine pleasure to read!!

Claire Reeder says

The Invitation is one of those books you think I'll just read a couple of chapters and the next thing you're nearly half way through the book.

It's witty, warm and well-written and follows Piper who unexpectedly received a message from her teenage crush Rob who she hasn't seen for 8 years. Throw in her bisexual best friend and flat mate Matt, her slightly stuck up sister, some old school friends and a dog with a dodgy bladder and you're in for a great read.

This is the first book I've read by Keris Stainton and I look forward to reading more.

Thank you to NetGalley, Bookouture and the author for the chance to review.

Els says

I think it's quite clear that nobody is perfect, but some seem to think they are and therefore are allowed to call people names. Do they ever take the time to consider how hurtful they are? No, of course not. To them it's fun and to humiliate seems to be their second nature. Sometimes I wish they could be, even only once, on the receiving end ...

It takes a strong person to stand above this all, be happy with what nature gave them and encourage people to do the same. To this, I doff my cap.

The book is about the importance of family, second chances and friends.

This story makes you smile but makes you reflect as well.

Thank you, Keris Stainton, Bookouture and Netgalley.

<https://bforbookreview.wordpress.com/>

Lusie says

This book is about Piper who gets a second chance with the one who got away. It's a nice story, yet I didn't feel connected to the characters. Body positivity is one of the underlying themes, which keeps coming back throughout the story. It felt a bit "preachy" to me. I liked that this book was funny and romantic. The ending made me roll my eyes, because it was a bit cheesy and a bit sudden. For me this was an okay read.

I received an advance copy from NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Carly Findlay says

I really enjoyed this book. It was light, a quick easy read, and funny. I stayed up late to devour it.

There were some excellent messages around body image and body positivity within, as well as the power and perils of being a body image advocate on social media. I related to that.

Loved Piper and Rob's relationship, and also Piper's mentoring of the girl band (and their admiration for her).

Looking forward to reading more of Keris Stainton's books.

Brianna says

The Invitation by Keris Stainton is a second-chance romance told in third person narrative primarily following Piper James. She was seen on tv by her longtime crush, Rob Kingsford, who then messages her and eventually invites her to their school reunion. Despite being comfortable in her own skin, she is on edge near Rob because he was always the one that got away. Following an amazing night at her school, she begins to get closer and closer to Rob.

I loved the way things progressed with Piper and Rob. They were so cute and funny - I couldn't wait until *that* moment. Even the side characters were a great addition to the story! Matt was my favourite and I really hope there is more with his "love interest" (view spoiler).

My biggest problem with this novel was that I felt Piper focused too much on her negatives. She was supposed to be this confident women who writes her own positive body blog, however anytime someone made a nice comment about her looks, her weight, or even her personality at one point, she just waves it off like they are just saying that to be polite or something.

Easy 4/5 rating. (Plus the cover is really cute and definitely drew me in!!)

Thanks to NetGalley for a free copy of this book for my honest review.
