



Still Life with Strings

L.H. Cosway

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My name is Jade Lennon and I stand still for money.

The night I saw Shane Arthur watching me everything changed. A man in a suit always catches my eye, but it was the way he looked at me that was different. Like he knew me or something. He didn't know me, especially not in my costume. My sobriety rests on staying away from men, but there was something about him that made me throw caution to the wind.

After all, I was never going to see him again, right?

Wrong.

Standing still isn't the only way I make my money. I also bartend at a concert hall. Never in my wildest dreams did I think Shane was going to show up there. Not only that, but he's the most recent addition to the orchestra. So now on a daily basis I have to resist one of the most beautiful men I've ever met and he plays the violin. For me that's one hell of a deadly cocktail.

He wants me to teach him how to live. I'm not sure how much a twenty-six year old recovering alcoholic who works in a bar and moonlights as a living statue can teach a world class concert violinist, but I'm sure going to try.

Still Life with Strings is a story of music, art, sex, magical realism, and romance that you will never forget.

** Not suitable for readers under 18 years. Contains strong language and sex scenes. **

Still Life with Strings Details

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Author : L.H. Cosway

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From Reader Review Still Life with Strings for online ebook

Amy | Foxy Blogs says

****4.5 Strings stars****

STILL LIFE WITH STRINGS is a slow burn romance between a street performer/bartender and concert violinist.

Jade has been handed the hard knocks of life. She's had a rough childhood that led her to become an alcoholic who now is 5 years sober. Jade is the guardian for her teen siblings after her mother passed away. Currently, her life consist of being a full time responsible adult.

Shane has been sheltered his whole life because he's a musical prodigy. He's lived a privileged life with everything revolving around him performing. After some major life changes he's ready for something that will make him feel alive.

A chance meeting on a street corner leads to an undeniable attraction between these two. Jade is scared to trust her heart to a man she barely knows *especially* when she the stable person in her siblings life.

Still Life with Strings is my second book by L.H. Cosway. My first was Painted Faces which made my top favorites list of 2013. I enjoy the writing style by Ms. Cosway.

Overall Still Life with Strings is an intriguing story line for classical music lovers who want a setting in Ireland with a friends to lovers romance.

Standalone

****Complimentary copy courtesy of Romance Beckons from Harlequin via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.****

♥ Jx PinkLady Reviews ♥ says

4.5 Beautiful Bluebird Stars

L.H. Cosway sucked me into her world of Shane Arthur and Jade Lennon. I found the story to be unique in both the content and the way it was told. The author took her time delivering her story, feeding us knew information, insight and feeling all the way through the book.

It's a magical, romantic story about healing, taking risks and trusting in another person, trusting them with

your heart and soul. It's about living through pain in all it's different forms, loneliness, betrayal, loss, addiction....

It's about judgement and freedom; freedom in all it's forms ~ of the mind and body... It's thematically rich with lots of layers; its deep and moving but it never felt too much, it's all told with faith and a sense of truth. I believed *everything* that happened to the characters, everything they said and everything they felt. *The impact other people can have on your life is astounding.... Most of all, for me, this is a book about love and serendipity....*

Shane Arthur is a gifted world-class musician. He's polite, sexy and gorgeous; a beautiful person both inside and out, despite his upbringing and recent life experiences. *He made me fall in book love with him.*

Jade Lennon stands still for money, she also works at a concert hall as a bartender. Both jobs are essential to her life. She's eccentric, selfless in her responsibilities, loyal to her family, down to earth and honest. She's been through hell and survived. It's clear very quickly that she's made of strong stuff and I love her for it.

Music takes her to other worldly places. Her imagination runs wild with the music.

Jade and Shane.... What can I say? You see from the blurb that they both end up at the same concert hall, Shane is the most recent addition to the orchestra. She fights her connection to him, believing he would NOT be good for her sobriety.

The characters have an equally harrowing past, they've both lived a life of pain which can sometimes be too much, but in this story it works. *There's truthfulness to everything.*

They have chemistry together, a force, something driving them together. And when they *are* together, intimately, it's explosive, palpable, sensually hot and intense.

“His grin is intolerable, and then his tongue is on me, his fingers are inside me, and I feel like I’m going to explode.”

It made my heart beat fast. So many beautiful passages.

Could they both overcome their past and enjoy a future?

I love the way the author links the story together and intertwines lives. It's completely and emotionally intense. Every now and again, before the start of a chapter, there's a little curious passage. They have so much meaning, you may not know what at the time, but they're poignant.

I LOVE this....

It feels like the universe was working to bring them together for quite some time. The story explores *Soul*

mates.... Split moment decisions can change everything; set off a chain of happenings. Was it always meant to be this way? Did they just have to find their way? Do we have a choice or is everything written in the stars? Did they HAVE to experience pain to know true happiness? So many life questions and thoughts.

If you love beautiful, well written stories with depth of feeling and emotion, interesting characters and events, you will most certainly enjoy this book. I will definitely reach out for more from this author. *Enjoy*

BR with Deanna ♥

Courtesy copy provided by Romance Beckons, via NetGalley for an honest review

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

Live early! >> [<<](http://amzn.to/1hcr6t4)

3.5 'BLUEBIRD' STARS

[5 stars for the first half

2.5 stars for the second half]

Overall it's a wonderful feel-good romance! Sprinkled with humor and rooted in reality, this book took a much overused premise and turned it into a story that entices the reader into wanting to know more about the plot and characters. I was never bored while reading and though the plot is quite simplistic, I never found any scenes to be mundane.

Jade is such an admirable and refreshing female lead. I can't tell you how many times I gave up on a book because the heroine is a weak, sniveling character but Jade isn't like that. She's responsible, loyal, daring, and witty; a recovering alcoholic and acting as a parent to her younger siblings, Jade's character really appealed to me and I admire her resilient personality.

Shane is not your typical hero. He's shy but can be possessive and attentive. He's experienced betrayal in the past and his childhood was quite cold and lonely so meeting Jade was like finding buried gold. What made this book really work for me was how the author portrayed Jade and Shane's relationship that went from friends to lovers: convincing and believable.

There is a strong musical element to the book and without it, the story would not be the same. Part of what makes Shane and Jade connect on such a deep level is his music and I loved the way the author weaved the musical aspect into the story so when I read it, I didn't feel like it dominated the plot, but instead, supported, gave weight, and helped validate their relationship.

Another thing I have to point out: this author **KNOWS** how to make the little things count. Often times I read a book and minute details are glazed over and not given much thought, but this book was rich in setting description, character quirks, and that in itself helped deliver an additional layer to the story and helped me connect with the book on a deeper level. Example being: there is this emotionally powerful scene at 40% that completely stole my breath. I did not expect it to affect me so much but it did so props to the author for achieving that.

As much as I loved the book I also had some major problems with the second half of the story.

1. ***“His face moves to my hair as he sucks in a deep breath, scenting me.”*** Sorry, the term “scenting” doesn’t do it for me. It totally kills my ladyboner.
2. The sexual tension hindered the plot. Normally I love feeling how palpable the tension is but in some cases, Jade’s reluctance to give in for even a millimeter made me angry. It’s like...they’re having a great scene where they really connect and then Jade pulls up her ice-cold wall defenses again and the moment is ruined. RUINED I say! This happens multiple times and I walked away rolling my eyes! What is wrong with Jade...
3. This is probably my biggest complaint of all. At precisely 76% I considered slapping a DNF on the book and walking away. Mind you, it’s not cheating. What went through my head (besides WTF) was why is this added in? It certainly helped explain why earlier chapters in the book didn’t really make sense until this revelation came out, but with this fact revealed, it made me question the believability of the characters and the story as a whole. You see, what was uncovered should’ve brought forth a lot more turmoil and *emotion* than was described in the book, but Shane and Jade’s blasé reaction towards it not only undermined the point of adding this in the first place, but also tainted the realism and convincing portrayals of their characters in the first 50%, hence, ruining the book for me.

I really struggled with my feelings for the book as it was so evenly split into two: first half, total enjoyment and couldn’t find a single thing wrong with it; second half was a downward spiral and ended up as a big let down compared to the beginning. Perhaps if the events at 76% were taken out, this could’ve made a solid 4 or 4.5 star read for me, but unfortunately it didn’t make the 4 star mark.

To take a sentence from the book, ***“close...but not close enough.”***

ARC provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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Patrycja says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

Debra says

★★★★? 4.5 stars!

Still Life with Strings was a wonderfully original story that very hard to put down once I started reading it. As with all of L.H. Cosway's books that I've read so far, the characters were very unique, fascinating and a bit unconventional which made them all the more interesting. This author has become an auto-buy for me and with this story she's once again proven to be able to write some very easy to read, spellbinding standalone romances that with not too much angst and the perfect combination of humor and smut.

Jade Lennon is a girl with a very troubled past. Ever since her mother died five years ago, she's been the one taking care of her three younger siblings. Her mother's death was also the event that led her to kicking her alcohol habit and after five years of sobriety she still holds strictly to the rule that if she lets another man into her heart, he will once again drive her to the comfort of alcohol. So she keeps them at a distance. But when she meets **Shane Arthur**, her whole life might get turned upside down...

"I think I might have dreamt you."

After their explosive first meeting, Jade discovers Shane is the newest member of the orchestra at the music hall where she works. And so, what was supposed to be a one-time-chance meeting turns out to be a fast evolving friendship between two people who are broken by their past but who might be able to heal each other with their presence. Shane himself has had his fair share of heartbreak that he's still recovering from. He was endearingly sweet and adorable while Jade was a very straightforward, refreshingly independent heroine, which made them complement each other perfectly.

From the moment they meet, Jade and Shane have this instant connection and powerful chemistry (with lots of sexual tension!). But because of some events in the past, Jade is reluctant to start a relationship so she suggests they become friends instead. And even though they both want more, Shane is happy with finally having a new friend. Because of his sheltered life as a famous musician, he doesn't really have any true friends. He's always sacrificed his social life in order to perfect his musical skills, but Jade is the one that teaches him it's possible to have both a career and a social life.

"It's better than being sheltered. You live in the real world, Jade, and you don't know how desperate I am to join you."

Jade and Shane teach each other what's it's like to *live* again, the two of them meeting is also catatonic in a way, but to divulge further into that would spoil too much of the story. Let's just say that there was a certain twist near the end of the story that I didn't see coming but that made their connection all the more profound (view spoiler).

If you're looking for a unconventional, inspiring friends to lovers story with a high entertainment value and some dialogue that will make you laugh out loud, I would highly recommend giving this one a try! ;)

Standalone.

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Mo says

3.75 Stars

It was just an ordinary night. He didn't think anything extraordinary would happen. Until it did. Turning a corner onto the bustling night time street, he saw her all in blue. The woman from his painting was a living, breathing thing... and she was so completely still.

This was the story of Jade and Shane. Two Dubliners from opposite social standings. She was from The Liberties, he was from Dalkey. I suppose to a non-Irish person, that won't really make sense but one thing about this book is that the author did her "Irish" right. One small quibble and this is total nit-picking on my behalf – she called a taxi a "cab" at one stage... but everything else was spot on.

Jade was a strong heroine. Had a tough life and it was still tough in some ways, as she was guardian to younger siblings.

"when everything else in life fails, there still has to be music"

I am not sure why it did not hit the 4 or 5 star mark for me. Shane was 29 but at times I found him a bit immature and childlike.

People are shit. The day you stop yourself expecting decency from them is the day you'll free yourself from getting hurt

Overall a good read and it is getting some great reviews so I would recommend it.

Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says

3 stars...

Still Life With Strings is a feel good love story infused with humor and some pretty solid messages of self-perception and overcoming.

What makes this story stand out for me is its creativity; our heroine is a living-statue street performer and our hero, an accomplished concert violinist. This alone presents an interesting foundation upon which to build a story. The plot largely focuses on fate and redemption, and extends a heartwarming twist.

However, although this *is* a love story, I did wish certain additional elements were further explored, as a lot of this story particularly underscores the physical and sexual connection.

Jade and **Shane** are equally broken and emotionally battered, although they stem from entirely different worlds. Shane is sheltered from reality and nursing a broken heart, and Jade—a recovering alcoholic with a new zest for life and a strong will—offers him life in its most vibrant form.

And Shane truly wants to *live* again.

An attraction was quick to ignite but their relationship was more of a slow burn. The sexual tension was piled on thick, and I loved the contrast of Jade's halfhearted refusal to Shane's full-on persistence. The two made quite a pair, and I honestly grew to adore them together.

There *were* some moments in the plot that felt a little too carefully conducted; as though everything unraveled a bit *too* perfectly, which is probably the reason I never *fully* lost myself in the story.

Book Stats:

- ? **Genre/Category:** Romance. New Adult.
- ? **Steam Caliber:** Ample amount of steam.
- ? **Romance:** Quick start, but slow burn.
- ? **Characters:** Broken and sweet hero. Strong and lively heroine.
- ? **Plot:** A unique love story surrounding fate and redemption.
- ? **Writing:** Fluid and humorous.
- ? **POV:** 1st Person: Heroine
- ? **Cliffhanger:** None/Standalone
- ? **HEA?** (view spoiler)

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Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

In case this shows up in my feed - despite me UNCHECKING the "add to my feed" box...Updated 4/18/15 to replace some gifs I noticed weren't working. Because OCD...

DNF @51%

Yeah so me and violins...

...just don't go together, I guess.

This just wasn't my thing, honestly...and I should have known better.

The main male character is a violinist...

And the female is a bartending sometime "busker" (*whomp whomp*) who has hallucinogenic acid trips...but without any actual acid.

The way the main female kept sending the main male mixed signals drove me nuts.

Uber annoying.

In short, this was a case of it's not you, it's me. This was just too hipster and artsy for my personal tastes.

Jennifer Kyle says

3.5 Blue Lady Stars

"You live in the real world Jade, and you don't know how desperate I am to join you."

I just **LOVED** *Painted Faces* by L.H. Cosway but for me this story had a very slow pace. In fact, I was bored a great deal of the time. My boredom didn't have anything to do the characters or the overall story but the day to day started wearing on me and I started to wonder what is the purpose of this story?

There is beauty to be found amongst these pages and it does have a bigger meaning kind of connection in its twist reveal (felt over the top for me) but I do feel others may enjoy it much more than I did.

"It's like some fucked-up version of serendipity or just complete and total coincidence?"

Jade is the guardian of her three siblings and works to provide for them as a living statute (totally cool idea) and at the beverage bar at the orchestra. Her first encounter with the wonderful Shane totally turned me off and I pride myself on not being such a book prude. (view spoiler) This scene didn't add up with the girl who is in the rest of the story for me. She has been burned in by a relationship in her past and she is also a recovering alcoholic.

"I'm sorry Shane but a friendship is all I have to offer you."

The typical I don't do relationship line in where most of this story goes. Shane runs into Jade at work and they develop a friendship because that's what Jade wants. The chemistry heats up...

"Wow. My sophisticated concert violinist has a dirty mouth, and it thrills me."

Shane lets Jade know all of his secrets and in return Jade does the same. The two fall deeply in love and I have to admit, I did love the music, the statute posing, the siblings and those sex scenes. Overall, this one hit a flat note for me but the writing is well done and the message was very sweet.

"Come and see the Blue Lady – you'll get a feather for your trouble."

ARC provided by NetGalley

JaHy?Hold the Fairy Dust says

**** 4 " FATEFUL" STARS******

When I think of *Still Life with Strings* the word "whimsical" immediately comes to mind. The writing, character development, and pace of the story felt as though I were reading a beautiful melody being performed with words. I am **NOT** a romance /chick lit kind of gal but when I noticed a friend (Claire) was reading this, I ran to request a copy. L.H. Cosway blew me away with *Painted Faces* and I was eager to see if she could do it again. **SHE DID.**

Still Life with Strings is a story of two very different people, whom live very different lives, allowing fate to

guide them to the same path to happiness.

Shane is a 29 year old violinist whom was proclaimed a child prodigy at the tender age of 6. His mother had him home-schooled by a private tutor so that he could spend more time focusing on the violin. He had a very isolated upbringing and rarely met other kids his age, hence ' no childhood friends"to speak of. While out celebrating with his new fellow musicians he spots a street performer and cannot take his eyes off the woman in blue standing perfectly still. Shane decides to approach her and.....I'm not telling, but I promise it's good *wink-wink*

Okay, okay, the woman in blue is named Jade. She's a 26 year full time employee at The National Concert Hall, who's also a street performer in her spare time. Jade is the guardian to her 3 younger siblings, Alec 21 (he's yummy, and deserves his own book) April 17 and Pete 15. They mean everything to her and she will do anything to protect them ...and her **HEART**. One day at work she runs into Shane and learns he is the musician replacing the violinist whom left for Australia (ie, they'll be working at the same place) Both are immediately enamored with each other but Jade is not looking for any relationship other than friendship (silly woman) . An enjoyable friendship is formed , sexual tension beings oozing off the pages and the most sensual scene where words are written on body parts is told in such a light it will leave you breathless. Honesty, when the scene was first introduced I thought "oh great,here comes the cheese" boy was I ever eating my words.

There is so much more I could say but I don't wish to take away from the delicate melody being told by spoiling it with my big mouth. So I shall shut up now, but first I must say..ONE -CLICK IT.

***A huge thanks to L.H. Cosway for taking a risk by gifting me an ARC. You are fantastic ! ***

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Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

4,5 STARS

Wow this book was really beautiful!!It was romantic,hot and mysterious!!I really enjoyed it!!This is my first book of L.H. Cosway and I can say that she is very talented!!I will definitely read her other books soon!!

Shane is a musician, he plays violin. He goes to Dublin to play with the local orchestra. He wants to forget the woman he used to love... After her mother's death, Jade must look after her siblings alone and she has to deal with their problems... She works as a street performer and as a bar worker. One night after finishing her street performance she sees Shane who is watching her...

Shane and Jade are such beautiful characters, they grabbed my attention from the beginning and I thoroughly enjoyed watching their story!!Both characters have some hard times but they manage to build themselves back up!!I loved their chemistry,the tension and the pasion!!The sex scenes were really hot!!

Steamy love scenes and humor made this an enjoyable read!!It's worth to read it!!

ARC kindly provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Christy says

4-4.5 Bluebird stars!!!?

To be a muse is to be a wonder in someone else's eyes, flaws and all.

Full of beauty, music and love, *Still Life with Strings* is a wonderful contemporary romance you won't want to miss out on.

Are some people supposed to meet? Is everything coincidence, or are some things fate?

One fateful evening, Shane sees a woman in blue posing on the street. He approaches her, just feeling this need to be near her. They don't know anything about one another, but they both feel it. This connection, attraction.

Jade is a 26 year old woman with the weight of the world on her shoulders. She is fun and spunky, but she has a lot of responsibility. Life hasn't handed her the easiest hand. She takes care of her three younger siblings and works full time as a server at the orchestra. Shane's life is dramatically different. He is a 29 year old violinist. Growing up as a prodigy, music has been his life.

Shane is the newest violinist where Jade works. Both of them are shocked to see one another. Shane hasn't been able to get Jade out of his head. He wants to pursue something with her, go out, get to know her. As much as Jade is attracted to Shane, she can't be in relationships. With everything going on in her home life, and things that have happened in her past, it's not a risk she can afford to take. There is something about Jade. Shane wants her in his life, even if it's just as friends. He desperately needs a friend. He wants to learn to live for real, and Jade is just the person to teach him.

I've a feeling that having this sad, lonely, lovely man in my life is going to change it irrevocably.

?

Jade enjoys Shane's company. But the attraction that continues to grow between them doesn't make it easy on her.

I didn't anticipate how hard it would be to stay platonic with a man I'm this strongly attracted to. There's an underlying note of sex in everything we do.

Jade was my kind of heroine. A little quirky, funny and strong. There were times I wanted to tell her to just take a chance on Shane, but I understood her reasons for staying away so long, so it didn't annoy me much. Shane was a beautiful and soulful man. I enjoyed everything about his character. He was a little shy and awkward due to his upbringing, but I found him to be endearing. He wasn't perfect, he had some issues, but so did Jade.

I loved watching the tension and attraction between Jade and Shane build. Shane was sweet and shy a lot of the book, but when he came out of his shell, he was sexy.

“How are you so good at this?”

?“Maybe I spent a little too much time imagining doing it to you.”?

Okay, that was the best answer.

The. Best. Answer.

And I was happy that there was some humor in the story as well. As many lovely and beautiful lines as there were, this comical line may have been my favorite. Because lest face it- it's the truth!

Anything that feels this perfect needs to be vocalized with a couple shits and fucks.

The story its self was smart, interesting and unique in many ways. I enjoyed both of the main characters and the unpredictable twists and turns. L.H. Cosway has an incredible way with words. The books of her's I've read almost have a magical quality. It was a touching and beautiful story I would recommend.

It's not like I haven't spent half of my life imagining fantasies to try to escape the darkness. I remember him telling me he felt like he dreamt me the first night we met. Perhaps he feels the same way. Perhaps I'm just as much as a miracle to him as he is to me.

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Wendy'sThoughts says

5 Believing, Bluebird, Magical Stars

*** * * * * Spoiler Free**

There are times when you just read for pleasure... the love of it and whether you review or not doesn't matter. You start because a dear friend tells you how much they loved it (Thank you, Jahy)... decide to see what it is and just go for it.

I really had very little knowledge about this book and started blind. As I read the note from the author explaining how small the city of Dublin is and how interconnected things could really be without stretching the truth... I saw it was the same author of The Nature of Cruelty and Painted Faces. It was if I had been smacked... I loved those books and sang their praises to all just in the same way my friend did about this....So I knew from the start I was about to experience a surprise treat.

This book covers so much and so well. There is a serious and real presentation of addiction... this one being alcoholism; there is the open pain of loss, be it from death, cheating or opportunity. All of these things are done with a sure hand; with humor, warmth and a brute accuracy which cuts through to the heart.

In addition to all of these ways of tell this story, there is another layer which is magical. Yes, really there is feeling of special moments throughout the book which will just astound you and cause you to stop and think for a moment... to just take it all in....

The main characters were so real to me, I could feel their need from the first moments ... the descriptions of emotions... all of them hit me. Their frustrations were mine.....Their pleasure was mine... Their pain hurt as deeply as if it had been inflicted on me.

This is a unique read... I know I haven't really said much... except to advise you... please read the blurb... see if it strikes a chord...because if it does... I promise, you will have an amazing experience.... then who knows... you might become like my friend and now me...wishing all of your friends to read Still Life With Strings, too.

A gifted copy was provided by author/publisher for an honest review.

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Lucia says

Shining diamond among contemporary romance novels, Still Life With Strings is a perfect combination of romance, art, steam and realism. L.H. Cosway wrote another unforgettable story. A must-read!

My Jade and Shane:

Jade lives colorful but difficult life. Recovering alcoholic, living statue performer, bartending at concert hall, taking care of her younger siblings. Straightforward with no time for games, one night she has a quick "shag" with handsome stranger.

*"I think I might have dreamt you,"
What a romantic thing to say to a woman who let you shag her just minutes after you just met.*

But when mysterious stranger becomes a permanent feature at one of her work places, they develop extraordinary friendship. With a strict no-relationships rule, how long will Jade be able to fight her attraction

to Shane?

L.H. Cosway has a talent of taking me to the most exciting and enthralling secluded places with her books, places that are not usual part of my life. This book is no exception. Art, music, performances and unconventional fascinating characters. Still Life With Strings is truly magical and **senses-provoking** romance story.

I love how author depicted this raw and primal attraction between Jade and Shane. It was incredibly hot, yet simultaneously **breathtakingly beautiful** and earth-shatteringly intense. They were walking fine line between friends and lovers. And it brought huge amount of anticipation, sweet torture and sexual tension into the story. I absolutely loved that.

And the best part of this book? In depth characters. It seemed like they were real people living their lives in Dublin, not just on pages of this exceptional novel.

Tough reality made quite a complicated person out of Jade. With so many responsibilities and pressure on her shoulders, I totally understood her reasons for everything she did in this book, good or bad. But most importantly, I admired Jade and the fact that after everything she had to go through in her life, she never became a bitter person. She is exactly the kind of character I love to read about - mentally strong and genuinely (and realistically) nice person.

Shane was absolutely amazing. Sexy confident and talented man with hints of shyness. I loved how L.H. Cosway was able to combine such opposite characteristics in one person and made it work perfectly. Author took human's vulnerability and turned it into something beautiful. Shane was broken but truly adorable character. I would definitely want him to "Colin all over my Farrell", he was that yummy.

Still Life With Strings is emotional story about hardships that real life brings along, about social differences, about fate and destiny. I cannot recommend it enough, this novel touched my heart and I know for sure I will be coming back to relive Jade's & Shane's story.

ARC provided by author as an exchange for honest review

MORE REVIEWS ON MY BLOG **Reading Is My Breathing**

Claire Robinson says

4.5 Stars.

Healing a broken body is easier than healing a broken heart...

Still Life With Strings isn't your typical boy-meets-girl and they fall in love kind of story. I think I would struggle to accurately put together a fully coherent review, outlining just how enjoyable this book is, without leaving massive spoilers, but I am going to try.

Picture Fantasia for adults if you will (and check out my updates while reading for more pictorial interpretations of what I was seeing whilst reading).

Jade Lennon and Shane Arthur are from completely different backgrounds, their upbringings and current day-to-day lives couldn't be more different. Somehow these differences are what make them fit together, Shane has lead a sheltered and somewhat closeted life, while Jade has pretty much been balls-to-the-wall from her early teens. Shane wants Jade to teach him how to live, and Jade just wants to avoid her reality as much as she possibly can. Both are tortured souls, but don't be mistaken in thinking this is your usual angst-fest that seems to be the norm in books lately.

What follows, and their story is wholly different from anything I have read previously in this type of genre, is simply intoxicating! Two people looking to live their lives as best they can, and deal with the cards that they have been dealt, whilst once in a while looking to remove themselves from familial pressures, expectations and obligations, and the echoes from their pasts that don't seem to want to go away.

“What is perfect anyway?”

“Whatever you want it to be. Think of it more as a feeling. I think perfect is just feeling content with your lot.”

The coincidences that tie Jade and Shane together are inspired and unexpected; I did not see any of them until right up to the point of actually reading.

Jade uses her mind and imagination as a form of escapism and you are at points in the story taken away by the lyrical, descriptive and totally engrossing writing of L. H. Cosway's imagination -

My head wanders as I become enraptured by the music. I hardly see or hear any of the other musicians, my attention solely on this intriguing man. Musical notes float out of his strings in a cacophony of colours and textures. They fly up into the air. A treble clef drifts to me, catching onto the edge of my shirt. I pick it up and smooth it beneath my fingers, fold it in half, and stick it in my pocket for safekeeping.

I literally got lost in this book; it is so full of colour, and sound and imagery that it really does take you away to the places and people contained in its pages. If you are looking for a book that offers escapism, while being tied up in a pretty spectacular storyline, then Still Life In Strings is definitely one you need to read.

My thanks go to L. H. Cosway, for generously providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for the above honest review.
