



The Losers' Club

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In 'THE LOSERS' CLUB', Richard Perez tries to answer the eternal question.

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His journey brings us into the East Village, pre-9/11 - and in contact with Nikki, his dream woman, who remains unattainable romantically yet becomes his friend and confidant during his illuminating misadventures.

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The Losers' Club Details

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Author : Richard Pérez

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From Reader Review The Losers' Club for online ebook

Parksy says

Quick read... kind of romantic fluff... but still well worth reading.

From the Back Cover

WHAT IS LOVE?

In the game of love, there are winners and losers. In *The Losers' Club*, Richard Perez tries to answer the eternal question. Set in downtown New York City, *The Losers' Club* tells the story of Martin Sierra, an unlucky writer addicted to the personals. His journey brings us into the East Village, pre-9/11—and in contact with Nikki, his dream woman, who remains unattainable romantically yet becomes his friend and confidant during his illuminating misadventures. Populated with characters and surprises few will ever forget, this energetic, comic novel is as much about a generation (we won't say "X") as it is about a specific time and place. "It is a book to be savored." —Tim Sandlin, *Sorrow Floats*, *Social Blunders*

"A story of youth, very well told, and it dwells in the mind long after a reader finishes it." —Joanne Greenberg, *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*

"A very beautiful valentine to a time and place almost faded from existence." —Mary Gaitskill, *Bad Behavior*, *Because They Wanted To*

"Funny and endearing—and wisely not so hip as to avoid a good grab for your heart." —Marcie Hershman, *Safe in America*, *Tales of the Master Race*

"The Loser's Club is a vibrant and hopeful anthem for all of us 'losers' who choose not to wallow (for too long!) in our despair and who find the will to keep searching." —Heather Lowcock, *Joseph-Beth Booksellers*, Lexington KY

Amanda says

appropriately named...

Daniel says

The story is about a down-on-his-luck writer named Martin who struggles not just with his craft, but also with a fruitless quest for love. He signs up for a voice-mail dating service that, of course, turns out to be a dead end. He also does some bar-hopping in a few odd and ostensibly quirky joints, with dismal results.

This book is bad, and not laughably bad, or moderately bad. This book is insultingly bad. I'd like to count the ways, but there are far too many, so I will try to summarize, and as kindly as possible.

The writing, to put it mildly, is weak. Perez's style is hardly any style at all, unless you can call watered-down and clichéd a "style." Even the very few moments of the story that threaten to become interesting are dealt with so clumsily and pretentiously that they devolve into the same witless and lackluster mess that surrounds them.

But that's no mean feat, since the story itself is so contrived that it, literally, sounds as if it were composed of the weakest moments of some prepubescent bedroom fantasy. Martin's past, the women he meets, and his failures at work are all so bland and predictable that they make reading even this rather short book an excruciating chore.

Martin himself is a dull, inactive person. It is nigh impossible to sympathize with this person's struggles since he is so amazingly unlikable. He wanders through the story, wallowing in self-pity, exuding an ennui that is both colorless and uninspired, a textbook case of someone who treasures the miseries they've invented for themselves. The book is peppered with samples of Martin's writing, and considering their quality (think lots of eye-rolling references to dreams, darkness, love, and loss) it's no wonder he's never been published.

There is so much more. Consider the glossary of the Spanish terms that occasionally pop up in the book. Perhaps it's just an attempt at silliness, but the gesture comes across as more self-righteous than funny. Consider the weird, distracting, and (above all else) very dumb footnotes.

I will end by pointing at the novel's attached "Guide for Book Discussion." I normally don't care for these. They seem to say, "Not only is this book so insightful that you'll want to discuss it with others, but its complexity and brilliance also means you won't even know where to start or what questions to ask." I'll grant that some books do fit that description, but *The Losers' Club* is far, far from it. The questions themselves point out the vacancy of the novel's inner themes. "How does Martin's life fail to meet his expectations?" "Describe Martin's relationship with Nikki."

Or, perhaps most fitting, "In what ways could the central character be considered a 'loser'?" I can think of many, and one of the biggest reasons is that his story is hardly worthy of the telling, especially when the telling is this bad.

Glenn says

A humorous but also sometimes emotional story about a young, struggling, oft-rejected, down on his luck writer trying to deal with life and love in New York City. He turns to the personal ads, and meets a couple of pretty unique and wacky girls that add a lot to the storyline. Prior to these girls, he became friends thru the same personal ads with a girl named Nikki, and his heart is really with her, so the dynamics of that are explored too. Overall, very well done and held my interest throughout.

Jared Busch says

ugh. i only got about 40 pages into this one before I flung it against the wall. This guy is the Bukowski of today??? Whoever wrote that must have been blind drunk.

Lily (WhoLockian) says

The Losers club by Richard Perez

Reviewed by Moirae the fates book reviews.

Set in downtown New York City, THE LOSERS' CLUB tells the story of Martin Sierra, an unlucky writer addicted to the personals. His journey brings us into the East Village, pre-9/11--and in contact with Nikki, his dream woman, who remains unattainable romantically yet becomes his friend and confidant during his illuminating misadventures. A romantic comedy and coming-of-age story.

(Synopsis provided by good reads)

This is the only book by this author I have read. It truly is a coming of age story. I like reading those types of books. While I enjoyed this book, I did find myself feeling like it was missing something, but I can't quite put my finger on what that is.

The book was not overly descriptive and it had witty dialogue. What I liked most about this book is how it feels like a roller coaster of emotions, there are parts where you will laugh and parts that will make you want to cry.

The book looks like a dark tale, but really, I didn't find that. It is a quick and easy read which is a great thing, if that is what you are looking for, however, if you like heavier books, then you might want to skip this one.

Overall rating:

*** 3 out of 5 stars

Cover art:

The cover art is nice, but I think it could have been better.

Obtained:

I won a copy from the author on library thing thanks!

Ian Mapp says

This book has a feel of a self published novel.... guerilla writing. There are doodles, a glossary of spanish terms (I can now insult people beautifully in a foreign language) and despite it being a brand new book, it fell apart in my hands!

The ghost of Bukowski hangs heavily over this book as a young new yorker workers as an import/export clerk by day and trawls the singles network of personal add dating by night.

Obviously written in pre-internet days, pre-9/11, it at times seems very quaint and at other times quite modern. It does have a great sense of place though and New York and the East village sound well worth the traumas of inner city living on a budget.

There is a sense of humour here as his platonic relationship with Nikki leaves him frustrated and then he meets a series of unsuitable new yorkers on an endless streak of dates.

The book wont leave a lasting impression but is a good read none the less.

Ashley Dawson says

I read this book because someone suggested in the comments on Amazon saying it was one of the best books they've read all year. OMG it was so boring and it never got anywhere its like I was waiting for something to actually happen. It doesn't have a beginning middle or an ending. The story never ever starts. its just really bad writing all together. Don't bother reading this one.

I cant believe all the amazing reviews it has on Amazon and I don't understand how this book has won a prize.

I'm so confused.

Kai says

Take High Fidelity angst but instead of obsessing over records you are instead a struggling writer in the East Village. This book is well written with an amazingly accurate sense of humour thinly mixed with intelligent peaks into literature, music and film... A 'love' story of a man who can only find love in the personals.

Anthony Pruden says

Martin Sierra is a 'writer' without a single publishing credit to his name (Martin's hero is Charles Bukowski, poet laureate of skid row and famous drunk), and he's getting on in years, feeling trapped in a dead-end job and languishing in an ambiguous relationship with the woman of his dreams, Nikki.

My kind of book.

Hermano says

This is an excellent book on loneliness, isolation, and love. I really enjoyed it and believe others will to especially if you grew up in any urban centre in the 90s.

Pj says

I also purchased it based on glowing reviews from Amazon...uninspired drivel...i've never encountered a book so devoid of any redeeming qualities.

Kerry & naomi says

I am of two minds about Richard Perez's *The Loser's Club*, recently published by the small but spunky Ludlow Press. Part of me wonders if this novel is just thinly veiled dreck, while the other part of me thinks I've been reading lit-rah-ture for so long I no longer have an appreciation for the grittiness of books like *The Loser's Club*. Quite the dilemma.

The Plot

Martin Sierra is a would-be poet living in the East Village section of New York City. During the day he works in a mindless job for a Japanese shipping company, using company time and supplies for copying his poems for submission to magazines. In his studio apartment, Martin has a huge pile of rejection letters that he cannot seem to get rid of. Martin also has a predilection for personal ads—he compulsively checks his personal ad voicemail box and his answering machine at home, just in case a woman calls him. He also browses others' personal ads and occasionally leaves a message.

Martin is not just looking for love, he's looking for a life. "Loser" is just the beginning.

Enter Nikki, a bisexual woman in an on-again-off-again situation with another woman. And then there's Lola, another artsy type who lives with her schizophrenic mother and goes to art school but doesn't seem to paint that much. Let's not forget Amaris, a goth-would-be-vampire, with a young son and a soon-to-be-ex-husband to complicate matters. And I would be remiss to not mention Anna, Martin's deceased mother who had personal problems of her own. At some moments, I thought Anna was abusive; at others, I wondered if she and Martin had an incestuous relationship, but the text remains ambiguous on that point.

Elements of Style

The dialogue and the narration had an edgy feel to it. Perez's descriptions of various Village nightclubs and bars had depth and a real quality about them. I would be willing to wager that all of the places depicted were actual hot spots in the 90s.

Unfortunately, my praise for *The Loser's Club* ends there. Perez seems overly fond of using italics in dialogue—could that *be* any more annoying? I mean, do people actually *talk* like that? I'd rather the writer left *emphasis* up to my imagination to fill in. At times, I felt like I was locked in a room with Chandler Bing.

Edginess and reality aside, the characters, particularly Martin seemed rather shallow and underdeveloped. I suppose Martin had no more than surface knowledge of some of the women and they would seem shallow to him as well, but Martin himself wasn't very cleanly developed. For a poet, he didn't seem to write that often; Martin was busier with checking his voicemail and getting drunk at various bars and clubs every night. Or maybe Perez was so successful drawing Martin as such a loser that I didn't really care about the character at all.

I predicted the entire outcome of the book within the first three chapters--11 pages.

Overall

I suppose this novel would be adequate for beach reading; there's not a lot going on under the surface. And, I tend to think men would like this novel better than I did. Although I liked Perez's use of language in and of

itself, the plot that he fashioned with it just did not do anything for me.

Brian R says

Truly a struggle to get through. Amateur-ish, to be kind.

How many people read this book based on an Amazon recommendation?

Lynx says

NYC may be teeming with people, but that doesn't mean it's easy to meet any of them. With the help of his best friend Nikki, Martin takes a journey through the personals on a quest to find the perfect girlfriend and cure him of his loneliness. Is she one of the eccentric women who answer his ad or could she be someone he already knows?

If it hadn't been set in NYC with wonderful descriptions of 90's East Village and St Marks Place and for some fun film and literature references I probably wouldn't have enjoyed this at all. It was alright until I realized it was going nowhere. The ending felt like it should have happened in the first third of the book, like the rest of the story where things get really interesting was yet to come. I didn't dislike it, I just wanted something to happen. Wasted opportunity.

2.5/5
