



## The Flatshare

*Beth O'Leary*

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## **The Flatshare** Beth O'Leary

Tiffy Moore and Leon Twomey each have a problem and need a quick fix.

Tiffy's been dumped by her cheating boyfriend and urgently needs a new flat. But earning minimum wage at a quirky publishing house means that her choices are limited in London.

Leon, a palliative care nurse, is more concerned with other people's welfare than his own. Along with working night shifts looking after the terminally ill, his sole focus is on raising money to fight his brother's unfair imprisonment.

Leon has a flat that he only uses 9 to 5. Tiffy works 9 to 5 and needs a place to sleep. The solution to their problems? To share a bed of course...

As Leon and Tiffy's unusual arrangement becomes a reality, they start to connect through Post-It notes left for each other around the flat.

Can true love blossom even in the unlikeliest of situations?

Can true love blossom even if you never see one another?

Or does true love blossom when you are least expecting it?

## **The Flatshare Details**

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Author : Beth O'Leary

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## From Reader Review The Flatshare for online ebook

### Stacey (prettybooks) says

*The Flatshare* was technically one of my favourite books of 2018, despite being published this year!

Tiffy Moore needs a room. Leon Twomey needs extra money. The solution to their problems? To share a bed, of course... You've heard about flatsharing, but bed sharing? It may sound unusual, but in today's London, with sky-high rents and extortionate house prices, it probably does exist. Tiffy and Leon are never in their flat at the same time due to different work hours, and so have never actually spoken – aside from through Leon's nosy girlfriend and the Post-It notes they leave each other. And yet, over time, love blossoms...

*Continue reading this review over on Pretty Books.*

*Thank you to the publisher for providing this book for review!*

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### Libby says

The Flatshare is a lovely, uplifting book that made me laugh uproariously, cringe sympathetically, fall in love with the characters, and race to the end to find out what happens. The characters are relatable, funny, flawed, often clever and insightful, caring and charming, and it felt like they could have been my group of friends. The book is furnished with hilarious and poignant observations of being a 20-something in London navigating the demands of a job, rent and relationships. It beautifully weaves together a few different plots that add complexity to the lives of the characters and enrich the central themes of love and trust. I was fortunate enough to read an advanced copy, and can't wait to be able to buy it for my friends and family.

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### Mhairi says

Very adorable and pretty fun.

TW: emotional abuse.

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### Stephanie says

This was super cute and fun. Full review to come.

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### Olha says

Romance novels are like meditation for me, but only if they are good. And “The Flatshare” by Beth O’Leary

is just amazing!

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I liked the book for the healthy atmosphere. I mean, there was a man who cried or a woman with incredibly strong character (in other books it is mostly the other way around). There were situations, when someone would tell something a little bit sexist, but another character would disagree with that. Some characters did not like Trump and his intention to build the wall between USA and Mexico. For me all these moments were precious. I really liked characters for their dialogues and their positions about certain things in the world.

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Of course the book was also incredibly cute, especially the first half. I was in love with both Tiffy and Leon. And their family and friends too. I even remembered all the characters! (I just always forget secondary characters in romance books, but not in "The Flatshare"!).

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However, it wasn't always cute in the novel. The author revealed some pretty serious topics like emotional abuse and not quite good justice system.

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I don't want you to become skeptical about this book before reading, so I'll just stop saying how amazing this debut (!) novel by Beth O'Leary was for me. I definitely wait for another book by this author! (and as I know, the new novel is already written and is in editor's hands!).

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## **Laura says**

Tiffy and Leon share a flat and they also share a bed but Tiffy and Leon have never met.

TELL. ME. MORE. (This is going to be an epic love story, right?)

I adore the premise for this book and had it ranked as probably my most anticipated 2019 read. The publicity and marketing around this book has been excellent; I don't think there's anyone who hasn't heard about it (and if they haven't then they are MISSING OUT.) The cover is also particularly stunning and will entice so many readers in. So thank you very much to Quercus for approving me on NetGalley and allowing me to read this delight early.

To explain the premise a little more – Tiffy and Leon have a mutually beneficial deal. Leon needs money to pay the rent and Tiffy needs somewhere to live and fast. Leon works nights and Tiffy works days and so they start to share a one bedroom flat and, with a strict timetable in place, have the flat (and bed) to themselves at alternate times. A pretty inspired idea, right?! Obviously, as with most excellent ideas, there's always a few spanners to be thrown into the works and love to be found.

I started reading The Flatshare expecting something instantly beautiful and heart-warming but for me this book took a little too long to get started. Ok, that's not a fair statement – what I mean is there was a lot of introducing and scene setting and I was ITCHING for the main characters to actually meet. It felt like it took a long time for that part of the story to get started but after they'd met and I finished the book, I had the chance to reflect on what I'd read and whilst I thought the meeting was still a little too late in the book, I realised that the build up made that first meeting even more sweeter. I think my problem is I have zero patience for any brewing love story. KISS THE GIRL, ALREADY.

The novel is told in alternating chapters between Tiffy and Leon and I also struggled with this a little when I started as they both had very different styles of storytelling so where I could get lost in the descriptions of

Tiffy's parts, I found Leon's to be a little more jarring and hard to get into. HOWEVER, this was also something that improved as the book progressed and by the end I felt like I knew Leon inside out and could understand his chapters with much more ease and enjoyability. Plus I grew to learn his quirks and traits and realise now that he couldn't have any other voice – it's perfect.

Now, I don't want to do any spoilers or ruin this book for those who are yet to read it but let me just say, IT IS CUTE TO THE MAX. I genuinely had little butterflies dancing in my tummy and a ginormous smile on my face as I read the last few chapters of this book. I was so invested in the characters and their story and felt a little cheated as I finished it – I WANT MORE PLEASE.

The Flatshare is an uplifting, comforting cuddle of a book with characters to fall in love with, a gorgeous central message and bucketful's of hope. A true delight.

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### **InBooksILive Reviews says**

I was given an ARC by the publisher, FlatIron Books, in exchange for an honest review!

I really loved this book! I love Tiffy, so, so much! I love how the story shows how a relationship doesn't have to be physically abusive to be abusive. People can mentally or emotionally abuse as well. This may have been a lighthearted, fun, romance but it has a good moral behind it all. Never settle! Never let anyone take away what makes you you. Never let anyone diminish your spark! Be strong. Stand up for your happiness!

So grateful that I was able to read an ARC of this book. It's going on my favorites shelf!

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### **ALPHAreader says**

My first read of 2019 and it's a favourite! Beth O'Leary's 'The Flatshare' was AMAZING - I inhaled it in two days, and then went back for a re-read straight away.

"Tiffy & Leon share a flat. Tiffy & Leon share a bed. Tiffy & Leon have never met."

It's a clever romantic premise that plays out in duelling-narrative chapters, when our protagonists initially communicate via Post-It notes left around the house, and by picking up on one another's moods, days, and personal battles via the social-cues left around the flat. Interestingly, Beth O'Leary says she got the idea for this set-up while living with her doctor-in-training boyfriend, when he worked long hours and she perceived his mood from things like how many coffee-cups were left on the drying-rack, and if his runners laying out meant he'd managed to squeeze in some exercise before work.

What elevates this novel and the romance aside from the quirky and ingenious premise, are the personal obstacles Tiffy and Leon are overcoming. For her it's a recently disintegrated long-term relationship, and the dawning realisation that her ex was a lot more possessive and calculating than Tiffy ever allowed herself to examine. For Leon, it's his brother who is in prison and currently campaigning for appeal - coupled with his job as a palliative-care nurse who is trying to track down the long-lost love of one of his patients ... eventually these various threads that account for a lot of Tiffy and Leon's anxieties that leave an imprint on

the flat, leak out into their real-world evolving relationship with brilliant results.

Honestly, I need this quirky love story to be adapted into a rom-com movie (my request is for Riz Ahmed to play Leon) because my SOUL needs it! I haven't fallen so hard for a book and its author since Rainbow Rowell's 2011 debut 'Attachments' (which 'The Flatshare' gave me some vibes to in the best way, plus some Mhairi McFarlane feels - which you KNOW means a lot coming from me!) And, honestly, I haven't instantly re-read a book as soon as finishing since Sally Thorne's 'The Hating Game' - which is high-praise indeed!

'The Flatshare' is a stellar debut, and needs to be on everyone's must-read list because Beth O'Leary is a UK author who KNOCKS IT OUTTA THE PARK first time out. Wow.

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### **Tamsien West (Babbling Books) says**

Funny, sweet and oh so very readable! The story features some really wonderful, nuanced friendships, lots of publishing industry jokes, and a really mature exploration of the impact of emotionally abusive relationships.

The tag line, that the main characters share a bed but have never met, could easily have become very silly very fast. But it really worked! Living in a city with skyrocketing rental costs I can understand the financial strain on young people working in jobs that pay poorly, and the idea of economizing by sharing with someone who works opposite shifts to you is not entirely unreasonable. The book's setting in London definitely helps make that possible/believable.

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### **Emer says**

YASSSSSSSS!!! Oh I have been waiting for a book like this one to come along FOR YEARS! The Flatshare is exactly what I want from a romantic comedy/dramedy type book... It's got hugely likeable protagonists in the form of Tiffy and Leon, a highly original setup for the meeting of these two characters, a cast of interesting supporting characters and side storylines but most of all... It feels fresh!!! Hallelujah for that. I have found myself getting so jaded when it comes to this genre of book but this one is a veritable diamond in the rough. 'The Flatshare' does not feel like so many of the countless romantic-comedy/dramedy books I've read throughout the years.

The setup for this book is a bit bonkers but it really works. Tiffy and Leon are flatmates with a twist. They share a bed! But Leon is in the flat only during the day as he works night shifts. Whereas Tiffy is in the flat at nights and on the weekends. Their lives are so separate that they haven't even met... I mean we know where this is going right? BUT THE JOURNEY IS FABULOUS! Tiffy and Leon start leaving generic post it notes for each other around the flat (regarding things such as bin day, leftover food etc) but these notes gradually evolve into a deeper intimacy and the two find themselves wondering a lot more about the other person and if maybe there is a significant connection. The pacing is perfect btw, I thought the book might have the error of using the notes as the sole point of contact between the two leads for too long, but, the author got it spot on with how she kept building upon their burgeoning relationship.

Tiffy is the traditional quirky type of leading lady that we so often get in these books BUT because of the great writing and the fact that she has a fabulous backstory and is a character laden with genuine feelings and

emotions, her quirkiness feels authentic to who she is as a person. And who she is is also incredibly relatable. She's got a wonderfully human quality about her and is fabulously dynamic in that at times she's spunky but others is vulnerable and weak.

Leon bless him is just lovely. He's so quiet but filled with lots of hidden emotions. The backstory regarding his mum and his brother and how that translates to his chosen career is quite touching to read about.

So what I really wasn't expecting is that this story is far more emotional than I ever thought possible from a light read. This is because it deals with some heavy issues regarding destructive and controlling relationships; all of which I thought were handled in quite an appropriate fashion for such an accessible / easy read.

And what happily contrasted with that emotional side of the book were a great number of humorous moments. I laughed out loud FREQUENTLY at the fabulous jokes and witty dialogue between the characters. FYI, for those of us who enjoy that sort of thing, there are some fabulous patriarchy bashing jokes in the book that are absolute gems!

If you're a fan of romantic comedies and romantic dramadies then this book is definitely one you should pick up when it's published in April 2019.

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*\*An e-copy of this book was kindly provided to me by the publisher, Quercus, via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\**

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### **Latkins says**

This is an entertaining novel about a couple who share a flat, and indeed a bed in London, but have never met. Leon is a nurse at a hospice who works the night shift, and with his brother Richie in prison for a crime he didn't commit, he has lawyers bills to pay for the appeal. So he decides to rent out his flat, just for the hours 6pm – 9am when he'll be at work, and for the weekends, when he will stay with his girlfriend Kay. Meanwhile, Tiffy is a crafts book editor who has just come out of a relationship with the wealthy but emotionally cruel Justin, and she needs somewhere relatively cheap to live, so takes up Leon's offer when she sees it online. Although they haven't met, Tiffy and Leon start leaving post-it notes to each other, and form a kind of friendship. Written in alternate chapters from Tiffy and Leon's points of view, this is a heartwarming, romantic tale which although essentially lighthearted does address some serious issues, of emotional abuse and miscarriages of justice.

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### **Cortney LaScola - The Bookworm, Myrtle Beach says**

I just adored this book. Cute and fluffy love story about two amazing characters with their collection of equally amazing friends and family.

Fantastic book, especially for a debut author! Cannot wait to see what else she writes.

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### **Emily says**

I loved this British romantic comedy. It was the perfect escape on a cold winter weekend.

Tiffany and Leon are both having some financial and romantic troubles.

So, in order to pinch some pounds (save \$), they agree to share a one bedroom flat.

Leon works nights and Tiffany works days so they are able to share the flat and a bed without ever seeing each other. They have actually never even MET each other.

They get to know each other via post it notes left around the flat.

There is a delightful cast of family, friends and ex-lovers (some not so delightful).

There are some poignant moments including recovery from an abusive relationship.

It is laugh out loud funny.

And, yes, there is a happy ending.

This is Beth O'Leary's debut novel. Here's to hoping that we will see plenty more from her, including a return of these brilliant characters!

Will be discussed on both Episode 70 and 71 of Book Cougars podcast. ([www.bookcougars.com](http://www.bookcougars.com))

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### **Jaclyn Crupi says**

It took me a little while to fall in love with this charming, sweet and joyous book and I worried that it was too light but before I knew it I was head over heels. It's Bridget Jones's Diary and The Rosie Project meets Me Before You and it's delightful. Tiffy is emerging from an emotionally abusive relationship and watching her find herself again, make professional gains and develop feelings for her flatmate Leon is lovely. Leon (who may well be a feminist fantasy) is dealing with his brother's incarceration, the damage of his mother's relationships and his inability to commit and watching him emerge from the fog thanks to Tiffy is lovely. Basically, if you want a feel good, sweet book that does have some weight to it then this is the one. Also, I want to see the movie of this NOW.

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### **michelle says**

Thank you NetGalley and Quercus books for a copy of The Flatshare by Beth O'leary. I absolutely loved this book from start to finish. For a debut novel, this is amazing. If you like writers like Jojo Moyes and Marian Keyes, this is the book for you.

Tiffy Moore has moved out of her flat after ending a difficult relationship. But, having problems finding a flat in London, when she sees Leon Twomey's advert to for not only a flat share but, also a bed share. Leon needs money. Leon is a Palliative Care nurse and works nights. At first Tiffy, thought this was an unusual arrangement but, she agrees. Leon and Tiffy are never in the flat at the same time. So they leave post-it notes to each other. They get to know each other. Leon talks about his brother who is wrongly convicted and Tiffy talks about her relationship with her ex Justin and her job. They soon fall in love.

I have read quite a few romantic novels but, this is different to others that I have read. I loved this for its originality and its quirkiness. But it had great characters and I loved the sense of humour. I am sure this is going to be a hit.

