



A Page Out of Life: A Scrapbooking Novel

Kathleen Reid

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The connections women make through scrapbooking inspire a novel full of "the twists and turns that keep readers turning pages."

When frazzled mother of four Ashley joins a local scrapbook club, she's amazed at the way old photos and mementos can bring color to sepia-toned memories. Among the diverse group is Tara, a single grad student whose search for love, like her relationship with her absentee father, has only brought her heartache--and some funny dating stories. Then there's Libby, a semi-retired teacher who thought she'd spend her golden years taking classes--not as a town pariah after her son is charged in a corporate scandal. But all three find comfort and inspiration in the scrapbooking group, where they learn that only together can they face earth-shattering revelations and emotionally unavailable men--and figure out their futures while artfully commemorating their pasts.

A Page Out of Life: A Scrapbooking Novel Details

Date : Published April 29th 2008 by Berkley Books

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Author : Kathleen Reid

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Rachel says

This book follows three main characters: Ashley, Tara and Libby, who are in a scrapbooking club together. Ashley is a frazzled mom of four, Tara is a single grad student and Libby is a grandmother whose son is involved in a corporate scandal.

I was interested in this book because the characters scrapbook (like me!). But this book is in SERIOUS need of editing. There are continuity error and grammatical errors throughout and the writing is just.not.good. Someone needs to give the author a thesaurus and a lesson on how to craft a metaphor. The general story was mildly entertaining until about two-thirds of the way through when there is a completely unrealistic plot twist that makes little sense. I think the publisher is banking on the fact that scrapbookers will be so excited about the fact that the book has scrapbooking in it that they won't care that it's poorly written. Luckily, I checked it out from the library so I didn't waste my money.

Geri says

silly story line with dialogue that could have been written by a twelve year old.

Courtney says

I loved this book and the characters and I'm so bummed it's not a series!

Jackie says

Great summer reading. This book is about three women who come together to scrapbook. We get to know them, and what is going on in their life. However, there is a hanger in the book, where two of the women have more in common than just scrapbooking.

Christi says

goofy, silly read! Should have saved it for the beach!

Diana says

Love, love , love this book. A group of women get together weekly to scrapbook, gossip, etc. There's a big surprise in the middle. Love stories that catch you off guard. A story that makes you realize what treasures your friends really are. Great read. Highly recommend.

Mary Pat says

So boring. Unfortunately, I think this could have been a good book. It has the bones to be a well-developed, interesting, contemplative story, but the author never got it to stand on its own two feet. All of the characters speak in the same polite voice. Honestly, there wasn't much (if any) differentiation between the characters, just their circumstances. Overall, the book is flat and unsatisfying.

Pam Levitt says

It's a light read about women's friendships. A few of the characters were likable, but overall, I found the book lacking compared to other similar titles. Nearly all the men are losers and liars and the storyline was worn. There were no surprises here and the bond between the women could have been further developed. As a mindless beach read, it fulfills a purpose but I found it somewhat stale and flimsy.

Carmela says

An ok quick read. In the same vein as "The Friday Night Knitting Club" and "The Knitting Circle" - only it's about scrapbooking. With a less-than-stellar twist. But it kept my interest and it was a quick read.

Joan says

I love to scrapbook so I understood all the descriptions of the swaps, products and techniques described in the book. Although the book revolves around a scrapbook group, the stories were of friendship, strength, values and stories from each of the lives of the women in the book. At one point I thought the story was going to degenerate into a low morals story but it didn't. I enjoyed the story but gave it a three star rating. I don't give 4's unless it is really good and I don't give 5's unless it changes my life in some way.

Jackie Randolph says

A client rec. this book. Her friend wrote it! It was pretty good!

Nancy says

I really enjoyed this book and was hoping it wouldn't be so full of scrapbooking that there would be no story

line. But it has a very good story line and character development. Just like most of us with good girlfriends and a common interest that binds us together and we share our lives and support each other are the entwined relationships. ONLY thing; this book has a very unnecessary twist in it that really did lower my view of it. Totally unnecessary and I wish some one would have gotten a hold of the author to let her know the story was interesting enough without that zinger. Sort of like she thought maybe it wasn't exciting enough. But she had some good dilemma's going on...a marriage falling apart, a possible affair and attraction, a son in trouble with the law...why did she have to throw THAT other thing in...well besides that I really loved the book and looked forward to coming home after work and reading it. All the characters were likable and interest in the arts was a sparkle of culture needed in the crafty world of scrapbooking.

Julie says

Book

Michele says

Friendship Through Scrap Booking

This story centers on a group of women living outside of Atlanta, who gather each week to make scrapbook creations. Any woman who is part of a scrap booking group, or women's group of any kind (like a book club, bunko group, or knitting circle) will easily relate to these women and understand the strength and bonds of friendship that go along with meeting regularly. There are eight women in the group, but only three, Ashley, Libby and Tara are prominently featured, beautifully fleshed out, and have intriguing story lines.

Ashley is the mother of four with a louse of a husband. I cringed when at one point he actually calls her a "fat pig." She is the daughter of a super model, "Marrie," who is as famous as "Twiggy." Tara is a beautiful doctoral student, who is preparing her art history thesis on the Spanish artist Miró and is in love with her louse of an advisor. Libby, the "mother" of the group who takes care of everyone, deals with a public scandal brought on by her son's corporate greed. This plot line, along with a surprising twist involving Tara and Ashley are the most enjoyable aspects of the book and what kept me reading. Scrap booking is merely a device to bring them together and I only grew impatient when the subject or action of scrap booking came up. Regardless, it all works and author, Kathleen Reid, couldn't have picked a better title for this novel.

The most powerful aspect of this tale is the positive nature of friendships between women, and the support the group members give one another through difficult times. One aspect of the plot regarding Tara's Miró thesis was NOT resolved, however, and this left me wondering The characters beg for a sequel, particularly those left undeveloped.

Mara S says

This had potential but did not live up to it. This was written in a very juvenile and not-interesting manner. I would not recommend this book at all. One upside was it was a quick read, so I didn't feel as though it was sucking my life away by reading it. Kept hoping it'd get better by the end, but that didn't happen.

