



## Rumor Has It

*Jill Mansell*

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Would you be tempted?

Newly single, Tilly Cole impulsively accepts a job offer in a small town as a "Girl Friday." Fun job, country house, fresh start, why not? But soon she finds herself in a hotbed of gossip, intrigue, and rampant rivalry for the town's most desirable bachelor-Jack Lucas.

Rumors of Jack's "love 'em and leave 'em" escapes abound, and Tilly decides to do the mature, sensible thing... avoid Jack at all cost. But the more time Tilly spends with Jack, the more the rumors just don't make sense. Tilly doesn't know what to believe... and Jack's not telling.

## Rumor Has It Details

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Author : Jill Mansell

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## From Reader Review Rumor Has It for online ebook

### Calypso says

"Dizem por Aí" foi a minha estreia com a autora Jill Mansell da qual já tinha visto vários livros, mas nunca me tinha sentido atraída o suficiente para uma leitura.

Foi uma surpresa agradável e uma leitura da qual gostei. Apesar de ter gostado não sei se voltarei a pegar em breve outro livro da autora, o tipo de romances que ela escreve apelariam-me mais na adolescência.

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### Kristi (Books and Needlepoint) says

My synopsis: Tilly and Erin have been friends since college - but after Tilly went to London and Erin went home to Roxborough to care for an ailing mother. After her boyfriend moves out of their flat and leaves her with the rent, Tilly decides it is time for a change. When visiting Erin for the weekend she stumbles across an ad for a job - a "girl Friday" and decides to give it a shot.

Strong-arming her way in for an interview, she meets Max Dineen - interior designer, father of Lou, and decidedly gay. He had been married to Kaye, Lou's mom, but finally had to admit that he was gay and so they divorced. He was looking for someone to help him with his business and raising his teenage daughter. Lou had lived in California with her mother for awhile, but decided that she missed this home too much. Max and Tilly hit it off famously and the deal was sealed.

Tilly meets Jack Lucas soon after moving to Roxborough and is warned by everyone that he is a "love 'em and leave 'em" type of guy and that she would just be a notch on his bedpost. She does a good job of keeping her distance until she learns that Jack had been engaged and that his fiance had died. She continues to get to know him, and despite herself, the attraction grows. She continues to push him away, telling herself that regardless of what he says, she would not be different than any other girl. Finally with a weekend with Max and Lou out of town, she decides to accept a date with Jack. Unfortunately Jack's almost in-laws show up that night and he has to call and cancel. For Tilly, that was the last straw - she feels she was saved from certain disaster.

Jill Mansell gives you a whole cast of wacky characters to round out the story. There is Erin, Tilly's friend. Fergus, Erin's boyfriend who is married but separated from Stella - Scary Stella as some call her. She has a way of being mean to just about everybody but tries to use the reasoning that she is just telling them the truth. Kaye, Max's ex-wife also joins the fray when she arrives from America - having been put on "trial by tabloid" and losing her job on a TV show. Oh - and we mustn't forget Betty, Max and Lou's dog!

I always enjoy reading one of Ms. Mansell's books. This one was no exception. The characters are fun and full of life and the books are always very humorous. If you are looking for a good British chick lit book/author - you need look no further. I am definitely a fan!

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## **Lori Green says**

There was a recent sale on Jill Mansell titles and between Carolyn and I, we got a few. I'd read some previously and was lukewarm on what I'd read before. But a good sale and chick lit are a siren's call to me so what the hell.

I just finished Rumor Has It and thought it has the best and worst of what chick lit is.

Pro: it's a romance.

Pro: The women have careers.

Con: Men are more important than careers.

Pro: Gay ex.

Con: Gay ex.

Con: The hero was engaged previously and she died in a drowning accident. The reason it's a con is because his name is Jack and the dead fiance was Rose (you know, Jack and Rose from Titanic and Jack drowned). (Made me slightly nauseous.)

Pro: More than one couple and they all had an HEA (except the one gay guy. And the bad girl who died from cancer.)

Con: No HEA for the gay guy and the bad girl was funny but got killed off.

Pro: I really liked the best friend and her romance.

Con: I liked the best friend and her story more than the heroine and her story.

Still, I enjoyed it. It was a quick and fun read and the emotion wasn't deep. The humor was good. I'll be reading more Mansell books but not expecting too much from them.

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## **Nessa says**

I absolutely love this author, as I always know that when I read one of Jill's books, I know that I'm in for a treat. Pure indulgence on so many levels, it's got everything.

I loved getting to know all of the different characters and their own individual stories which you get to discover as you progress through the book.

If you haven't read any of her books before, then I highly recommend that you do.

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## **Petra says**

Este foi o meu primeiro contacto com a autora Jill Mansell que conta já com bastante livros publicados. Foi uma leitura bastante agradável e até divertida. Gostei.

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## **Carrie says**

Another sad example of the "Just Because It's British, Doesn't Make It Good" genre of Chick Lit.

This book can be summarized as follows:

Boy dumps Girl.

Girl lands perfect live-in job in perfect Cotswolds town taking care of perfect teenager.

Girl meets Perfect New Boy.

Girl artificially creates rumor-based reasons not to date Perfect New Boy.

Perfect New Boy pursues (*Why?*) Girl.

How will it end?

Predictable and implausible story.

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## **Krithika Sundar says**

2.5 stars.

I don't rate books so low but I just didn't feel this book. Tilly was a nice protagonist but the love story between Jack and Tilly was not realistic at all. It's like watching Some fairy tale where the struggle to get with the love of ur life is more and after that u never know if they had any fights or not.

Jack is so hot and there are rumours flying around in the town that he's slept with literally every women in the small town. Jack meets Tilly and he's attracted to her but there was no story line between the two of them that made me love them as a couple. Tilly works for Max. He's like the best character in the book. Super adorable and he's so quirky and you just love to read about him and his day. His daughter Lou is amazing .

There were some nice moments in the book. The fact that Jack asks to marry Tilly without even talking much to her on a friendlier level really baffled me. I loved many characters. and their stories weren't boring at all.

Not a bad book.

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## **Terra says**

I am going to say right off the bat that I really could never get into Chick Lit, that is until now. This is the most hilarious story with that off the wall pure British comedy that will make you chuckle from page one to

the end. This author has certainly shown me that light and fluff with a great storyline, a few important messages and some just down and out comedy is what you need every now and then. OMG, I'm still chuckling. I am so going to have to check out the rest of this author's line of books.

**Rumor Has It** is about Tilly who being dumped by her live in boyfriend ends up taking a live in position as a Girl Friday. Her boss is a hunka hunka but low and behold he is gay. Oh well, not the end of the world for Tilly as she's not looking really and there are plenty of fish in the ocean.

Along comes Jack Lucas. Tall, dark, oozing with sexual charm that draws you in like bees to honey. Oh baby is he hot. So hot in fact that he is known about town by every female old enough to have her hormones in working order.

Tilly is warned by everyone to stay away from Jack as he would only break her heart and chalk her up as another notch on his bedpost. Thank goodness Tilly has the strength of Hercules in the will department. Ahhh, but who says that even that will protect her in the end. Will she give in or will Jack break her heart into millions of shattering pieces.

The author has done a fabulous job above and beyond anything I would have ever expected. I love the sense of humor, the solid storyline with it's hidden messages that are a strong reminder to one and all. The play of emotions is outstanding and oh gee I just don't know what more to say without giving it all away. Guess you'll have to read for yourself and see what a hoot this book truly is.

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### **Jill Gilbert says**

Recently, I have been reading escapist, fluffy romance novels instead of my usual mix of YA dystopian books, contemporary fiction, and mysteries. This book reminded me quite a bit of *The Casual Vacancy*, only in an upside down, happy world. Both novels are set in claustrophobically small English villages where rumor and innuendo rule the day. But where the Rowling book spirals tragically, this book rides waves of happiness to its finish, while addressing issues of homophobia, character assassination by the media, disgruntled former spouses, potential stalkers, aggressive cancer, and school bullying. So there is quite a bit more to this charming book than just a love story.

Tilly's live-in boyfriend has just left her, so she visits her college friend in a small village in the Cotswolds. On a whim, she applies to be a live-in assistant to an interior designer and his daughter. She is not vain, needy, or ridiculous in any way, which made her a refreshing heroine. There are about 5 or 6 subplots that are all equally entertaining. If you're looking for a quick, escapist read that tackles some contemporary issues along the way, give it a try!

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### **Jennifer says**

#### **Story Overview**

This is the story of what happens when a girl from the city moves to a little town and finds out what happens when people stop being polite ... and start being real. (Oh wait ... that is the description of *The Real World*,

isn't it?) But, essentially, this book is about how living in a small town can be a little like living in fish bowl. The town in question is Roxborough (located in the UK ... but I'm not sure if it is a real town or a Mansell creation). When Tilly Cole is left by her live-in boyfriend (who she secretly wished would leave her so she didn't have to do the dirty work of breaking up with him), she impulsively moves to Roxborough to work as a Girl Friday for an interior designer named Max. As she gets involved in town life, it turns out that almost everyone is the victim of a rumor or has a secret of some kind, including:

\* Erin - Tilly's best friend who owns a dress shop and recently began a secret romance with a not quite yet divorced man

\* Stella - the wife of Erin's new boyfriend, who attempts to get revenge for her husband leaving her by spreading nasty rumors about Erin

\* Max - Tilly's new employer who is openly gay but knows a few secrets about other folks who may be gay (whether they know it or not)

\* Lou (Louisa) - Max's daughter who has a secret of her own that she is keeping from her family ... but it isn't the one that Tilly and her mother think it is

\* Kaye - Max's ex-wife and Lou's mom, who moved to America and became a TV star but who recently got blacklisted in Hollywood after falling victim to a nasty rumor started by the deranged wife of a producer on her show

\* Jack Lucas -Roxborough's resident hottie and tragic widower, who seems to have slept with every woman in town (if you believe the rumors ... ) and now seems to want to add Tilly to his list of conquests.

The heart of the story is the relationship between Tilly and Jack, but all the characters get attention and a chance to work through their rumors, relationships and secrets. Although the book is light-hearted and fun, Mansell is careful to add grayer tones to the story as well.

### My Thoughts

This was a fun read that is perfect for the beach or summertime reading. Mansell populates Roxborough with a collection of fun characters who all have their own issues, secrets and rumors to deal with. Yet, at the same time, Mansell isn't afraid to add in more serious story lines as well, including cancer, homophobia and a tragic early death for Jack's first love. This helps ground the book and make it more than just a fluff piece. Yet, at the same time, you don't have to worry about things not working out or the story suddenly turning into a tragedy when you just wanted to have a happy little read.

The press release I got with the book describes Mansell as the "Brit-Chick-Lit Sensation" and later describes the books as "funny, sassy woman's novel." (Are women not "chicks" I wonder?) Now I personally have no problem with books labeled "chick lit," but I think they've gotten a bit of a bad reputation. According to the Source of All Knowledge (Wikipedia), chick lit is fiction that addresses issues of modern women often humorously and lightheartedly. When you think about that way, what is the matter with that? I know I don't always want to read heavy books; you need a light, humorous book every now and then to cleanse your palate.

### My Final Recommendation

Don't be turned off by the "chick lit" label! If you're looking for a funny, light read that entertains, this book fits the bill nicely. Mansell has a breezy writing style that moves the story along nicely, and I appreciated that she took the time to develop the secondary story lines as much as the romance between Jack and Tilly. Mansell is a bestselling author in the UK, and I suspect she will be here in the US as well. I mean, how can you not want to support an author whose bio reads like this:

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"Jill Mansell lives with her partner and children in Bristol, and writes full time. Actually that's not true; she watches TV, eats fruit gums (gum drops), admires the rugby players training in the sports field behind her house, and spends hours on the Internet marveling at how many other writers have blogs. Only when she's completely run out of displacement activities does she write."

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### **Katerina says**

I read this. Back when I used to borrow books from the library. Four years ago. I don't remember a single thing about it. Kindly ignore my review.

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### **Emma says**

This book is a light and easy read, it is reasonably enjoyable but it seems like just another Jill Mansell book - same characters with different names in a different setting. Very predictable but fun nonetheless.

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### **Shania Tasker says**

#### **2.5 stars**

This was almost a waste of my time but had a few good parts that made it kind of worth my time. This was like those movies *New Years Eve* and *Valentines Day* in that it is a whole group of people falling in love. However, I never really liked those movies, as with this book.

Tilly and Jack were just unrealistic. They really didn't interact that much, and I didn't feel a connection with them or even between them. Then **BOOM** he asks her to marry him?! **WTF**

I really liked Max and Lou, they made the story better.

Is it horrible that I kind of wanted Stella to die? Maybe... but maybe she shouldn't have been such a bitch.

I was pretty indifferent about Erin & Fergus and Kaye & Parker.

So yeah, this was an alright book with a few good parts.

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### **Lauren says**

I picked this book up as a lark in the bookstore yesterday and started reading it when I got home. Five hours later, I was reaching the end of one of the most enjoyable, light-hearted, fun, entertaining reads I have read in a while. While this book might be in that oft-derided genre of "chick-lit", it transcends it with its intelligence,

irony, snark, sarcasm, and a cast of lovable characters in a small English town named Roxborough. In a Cranford meets Jane Austen meets Helen Fielding kind of way, the girl and the guy do get together in the end, but the journey there is so enjoyable you don't care about any of the cliches that might be within the story.

The narration of the actual book is interesting in the fact that it jumps from character to character from time to time. Most of the book is told by Tilly Cole, but every so often the next chapter comes along and you get a different point of view. While this may sound pretty jarring, the way that Mansell weaves everything together makes for a fluid story when all is said and done.

This is a very British novel. Loads of irony, snark, and sarcasm and it is delightfully funny even in the most hard, painful moments. Life and death are all treated with the same aplomb. One of the playful ironic touches comes in the naming of some of the main characters. There is character named Jack, who's love in life was named Rose. Jack and Rose. Titanic anyone? It's a playful liberty taken by the author and I fully appreciated it.

This is my first foray into a Mansell novel and I'm looking forward to the next one. I can only hope it's half as good and fun as "Rumor Has It" has been. Honestly, the worst thing I can say about the book is that its title shares the same title of a terrible movie with Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Costner, and Shirley MacClaine. Hopefully if this book is ever made into a movie, it will be more along the lines of "Bridget Jones" rather than a second-rate romantic comedy with Jennifer Aniston!

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### **Becky R. says**

I really can't say enough how much I enjoyed reading this wonderful book. As a fan of Meg Cabot's adult books, and Sophie Kinsella's stand alone novels, I felt like I'd found a book that was reminiscent of the type of "chick lit" that allowed the main character to be strong, yet emotionally open. Tilly was a sweet character that only annoyed me in her resistance to Jack, who really manages to warm the heart. Jack isn't the regular Lothario that you're eager to hate; he's actually much more complex and filled with surprising depths of kindness and generosity. I think that I fell in love with Jack!

The other thing I really enjoyed about Mansell's novel was the number of other characters involved in the story. Sometimes I feel as if a writer needs to fill space and keep you reading, so they introduce a number of characters to get your attention. In this case, they each felt important and lovely in connection with the story as a whole. I loved Tilly's best friend Erin, and wanted to see her happy. Max was also a lovely character, with a wonderful back story to add depth to the novel. Altogether, I really loved each of the characters, and was almost sad to see the book end!

Overall, I give Rumor Has It a high two thumb's up. I loved the escape factor of the story, and the sweet love story that unfolded. As mentioned, if you're at all a fan of Cabot or Kinsella, then I can readily and happily recommend this novel as another fun addition to the genre.

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### **Thea Jessen says**

I was in the mood for an easy, no-brainer romance novel, and this book was PERFECT for that. So sweet,

and with the perfect plot to drive it forwards in my opinion. Of course it was predictable, but... It's a romance novel. So obviously the end is going to be foreseeable. However, for me, it's more about the journey there. I loved seeing how the relationships developed, and what came between them. I think the characters were well thought out and not way too cliche.. I didn't sit there cringing, which unfortunately happens for me a lot with romantic books.

Overall, I would definitely recommend this if you just want a light-hearted romance book set in a cute English village. With hot guys. And a little drama.

Definitely will read more Jill Mansell another time I'm in for some good ol' romance

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### **Carolyn Storer says**

Couldn't get on with two of the main characters, Tilly and Jack. Otherwise it was an ok story.

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### **Neha says**

Oh c'mon! How is everyone giving this book a minimum of 3 stars? There was no depth in the characters, no depth in the love story of the supposed main character, Tilly Cole. I love chick-lit, i really do. But, there has to be some meaning, some depth in the 'love story'. After avoiding Jack for the whole book, Tilly agrees to marry him in the end..this just wasn't believable! So you can't date him because you think he's commitment-phobic but you can marry him? They didn't have ONE meaningful conversation! I'm giving this book 2 stars because i liked Kaye and Parker's story.

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### **Beth says**

I really enjoyed this book. The characters were likable and funny. People you would want to be friends with. Mansell did a great job developing the characters and setting up their individual stories and linking them; however, once she got them into the thick of things it felt as if she didn't know what to do next. Some of the ends were unsatisfactory, especially the ending to the main storyline. How I desperately wanted to rate this higher.

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### **Valentina Markasovi? says**

One stubborn heroine-check  
One playboy-check  
One sassy gay friend-check  
One troubled teenager-check

I loved this book. Funny, charming, an easy read. Perfect for summer.

