



Get Lucky

Katherine Center

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How do you change your luck? Katherine Center's marvelously entertaining and poignant new novel is about choosing to look for happiness—and maybe getting lucky enough to find it.

Sarah Harper isn't sure if the stupid decisions she sometimes makes are good choices in disguise—or if they're really just stupid. But either way, after forwarding an inappropriate email to her entire company, she suddenly finds herself out of a job.

So she goes home to Houston—and her sister, Mackie—for Thanksgiving. But before Sarah can share her troubles with her sister, she learns that Mackie has some woes of her own: After years of trying, Mackie's given up on having a baby—and plans to sell on eBay the entire nursery she's set up. Which gives Sarah a brilliant idea—an idea that could fix everyone's problems. An idea that gives Sarah the chance to take care of her big sister for once—instead of the other way around.

But nothing worthwhile is ever easy. After a decade away, Sarah is forced to confront one ghost from her past after another: the father she's lost touch with, the memories of her mother, the sweet guy she dumped horribly in high school. Soon everything that matters is on the line—and Sarah can only hope that by changing her life she has changed her luck, too.

Get Lucky Details

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From Reader Review Get Lucky for online ebook

Amber says

For bookclub this month we got read Get Lucky and had the opportunity to skype online with the author Katherine Center. I liked the book before but now I am totally enamored after hearing her talk through her thought processes and reasonings and hearing the voice of the author which is a true and honest depiction of a woman. I told her that I appreciated (especially while reading Everyone is Beautiful) the fact that she could write about my life, being a woman and often frustrated mother in such a way that I actually felt assured that I was normal and that my daily struggles are worth it. I told her that I thought that often women authors write women how they "think they should be" rather than how they are and that I felt like she just seemed to get it and portrayed woman with flaws, but honest, beautiful flaws.

Thoughts on the book: although a quick and easy read, this book had several thought provoking themes. One being the bond of sisterhood. If your sister couldn't have a child, would you provide that for her if it was the only option? Could you, should you, can your relationship survive? Also, thoughts on mothers, forgiveness, and objectifying women. There was a whole plot-line on a girl who at first was simply referred to as "the boobs" and it was interesting to see the main character get to know the boobs and find out her name and get to know her. The books was also laugh out loud funny at times. I think my favorite moment was when her ex sees her for the first time on the plane and simply says "you got old". Funny!

All in all a great bookclub book and a fun experience.

Jennifer says

Thank you, Anne Bogel, for putting this book on my radar. If you can overlook the one chapter with cussing (as part of a self-defense class), this is a really good story of sisterhood, forgiveness, and redemption. I can't give it a five because I save that for my life-changing reads, but I really really liked this.

Shonda says

Ms. Center became a part of my world last year after I read raving reviews for Everyone is Beautiful. Unfortunately I didn't get the chance to read it. When I heard her latest book would be released in the spring of this year, I immediately added my name to the wait list. My only regret is I waited to start reading her books.

Get Lucky is a fascinating story between two sisters Sarah and Mackie. Sarah makes one careless decision which costs her her job. Uncertain what to do next, she flies home to spend the holidays with older sister Mackie. Mackie and her husband have attempted several times to conceive a child. When Mackie informs Sarah they have decided to give up, Sarah decides for once she will take care of Mackie and offers to become their surrogate. Little did each sister know the impact this will have on their lives.

What I liked most about Get Lucky were the relational themes throughout the novel. At first glance, it's obvious the story is about sisterhood. Ms. Center delves deeper and explores parental relationships, the loss

of relationships and forming new relationships. Just when we think everything is okay, the past has a nasty way of blindsiding us. Until that moment of sudden impact, little did we know it was there all along shaping us and protecting us in all our relationships. Center does a great job of examining the unhealed wounds of the past.

So, yes I'll admit my first thought of Get Lucky was a quick, light read. But after reading the last page and closing the book, I realized it was much, much more than that. Take a lesson from me, don't wait to read a book by Katherine Center. Get Lucky was my first read, but will not be the last.

Neyly says

So ... yeah ... four stars. Why? Well, sometimes it hit just the right notes - Dixie, bless her heart, being one.

There was a noise from around the corner, and I could hear my mom's old friends tittering about something. I glanced over. "I'm going to tell them to leave," I said.

"Don't do that," Dixie said.

"My mother would have already kicked them out by now," I told her.

"Sweetheart," Dixie said then, "I'm from the backwoods of East Texas. There's not a group of mean ladies on this earth that can scare me."

and

"Your mother will always be your daddy's one true love," she said. Then she leaned in and winked at me. "But that's okay with me, because I have a true love of my own." "You do?" I asked.

She nodded. Then she stood up and pulled the waist of her jeans down a little to expose her hip. And there, at least the width of a grapefruit, was a full-color tattoo--sideburns, sunglasses, and all--of Elvis, circa 1972.

Need I add that the book takes place in Texas (Houston, to be exact). Despite a thing or two (or three), I enjoyed it.

*In the quotes above, the main character Sarah sounds younger than she is. Sarah happens to be the gestational carrier (twins) for her older sister and husband. Mackie can't carry a baby to term and Sarah, wanting/needling a change in her own life, offers to do it. The narrative takes off from this point in myriad directions (perhaps too myriad).

Susan says

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GET LUCKY by Katherine Center is the story of Sarah Harper, a workaholic advertising executive in New York City. When she sends out an inappropriate company-wide e-mail and is fired from her job, she doesn't know where to go or what to do. She decides to travel home to Texas to visit her sister and best friend Mackie. When she arrives home, she finds that Mackie's life is not as perfect as it looks; all Mackie wants is a baby and she and her husband are struggling to conceive. Sarah swoops in and makes a seemingly ridiculous but generous offer. She offers to be a surrogate for Mackie and her husband Clive. Sarah is excited; it seems like the perfect arrangement and certainly one that will bring she and her sister closer. Both Sarah and Mackie are surprised when the pregnancy completely turns their lives- and their relationships upside down.

First of all, look at this cover? Doesn't it just scream summer? As we all know that I'm one to judge a book by its cover, I was immediately drawn to this one. I really loved GET LUCKY. I got completely lost in Sarah's world. She was a wonderful protagonist and I loved hearing her story, told in her own voice. Other minor characters (especially Sarah's father's new girlfriend) play a special role in the story and truly make the story more wonderful. GET LUCKY takes a few different interesting turns. It's not strictly about the pregnancy; there are several mini-plots that keep the story exciting.

Katherine Center really knows how to write about family drama, heartbreak, and forgiveness. I can not wait to read more by this wonderful and heart tugging author. I have many of her older books to read and that makes me so happy. GET LUCKY is all about letting go of the past and learning how to move on. It is filled with likable and relatable characters that will find their way into the readers heart. If you are looking for a book about a less than perfect family, GET LUCKY is the story for you. Spend the afternoon on your beach chair or on your couch devouring this beautiful story. You will love every minute of it!

Kylene says

This was the first book by Center that I've read. While I did enjoy the book, there were a couple of things that irritated me.

One thing was the over use of info that was not relevant to the story. There were plenty of times that I skipped over two, three or even four paragraphs of useless, boring info, only to find out that I didn't really miss anything.

The other thing was that the story went back and forth in time way too often. For some books, it works but not for this one. The main character could be talking about getting a new job and then all of a sudden, she jumps into the future saying "in a week this is going to happen" or she'll suddenly jump back in time.

Other than those two problems, I enjoyed this book. I liked the premise of it (although I would have liked

more STORY and less useless info). I think it's a great idea as a whole but could use a little more tweaking, maybe a little more dialogue with some of the other characters and less seeing inside of Sarah's head.

Allison says

This book is some good quality chick-lit. There's a lot going on on every page, and I loved the characters (mostly). The story is cute in a "this would never in a million years happen to me, over the top" kind of way, which is how I like my chick-lit. I thought each of the situations that Sarah found herself in was well-developed but like in real life kind of taper off in importance as they're going on and other things get in the way, like when Sarah realizes she hasn't seen April in a month.

I had mixed feelings at the beginning when Mackie and Sarah decide decisively to do the surrogate thing in less than a page. It felt a little bit un-thought out for two such supposedly smart characters and a little bit "let's get this story on the road!" for the author. Once the plot-line was in place, it worked out pretty well although at times felt like an afterthought for Sarah. I know it's chick-lit, so I'm not judging here because you can't get *Too Deep* in chick-lit, but I might have liked to see Sarah give a little more insight into the feelings of being-a-surrogate. I thought she was a pretty intelligent character, so surely she had some thoughts throughout about what it all meant, like the first time the baby kicked, etc.

I totally hated Everett every page he was on from the beginning, and I didn't feel like the author did enough to redeem him for her ending, which was kind of disappointing. I breezed through the last chapter-and-a-half kind of disinterested because I already knew I disagreed with the author's ending, and I liked the first 7/8 of the book enough that I didn't really need it.

I like the author's style of writing -- it's cute, it's catchy, it's young and hip. I'm being a little harsh on it in my star-rating (3.5 would be ideal here if there were decimals) because for the genre it's certainly it's a very entertaining read, and I recommend it! I would read another book by this author, but I might not go seeking it out, as i don't seek out my chick-lit; it finds me.

Another first-reads -- can't wait to receive it! I really wanted this one.

Cayla says

I just love the heart & humor in Center's writing. Almost done with her backlist and then I just have to wait for her new release!

Jennifer says

From my blog...[return][return]Get Lucky by Katherine Center is a delightfully charming, witty, and down-to-earth look at the lives of two sisters, Sarah and Mackie, and the life altering events that shape who they are. The story is told to the reader by Sarah beginning with how she managed to get herself fired and then ends up staying in Houston with her sister and brother-in-law, Clive, much longer than she ever expected. Center's characters are witty, strong, and quite likeable, especially Sarah, Mackie, and Dixie, making Get

Lucky a smart feel-good novel that also happens to be introspective, deep, and philosophical. One cannot help be drawn into the lives of these remarkable women. Get Lucky is not only a feel-good novel, but a novel that makes one take stock in what is most important in life. Get Lucky is a great book for anyone looking for strong sister bonds, strong women, and epiphanies. It is my belief that Get Lucky would make an excellent choice for book discussion groups.

Anita says

This is the third book written by Katherine Center, I read her first two in 2009, The Bright Side of Disaster, and Everyone is Beautiful. I waited several months for this book to be published and couldn't wait to read it.

Sarah Harper has a critical lapse in judgement and loses her big city big time advertising job in NYC. She returns to Houston to her sister and best friend Mackie. Sarah is at first lost on what she is going to do after the Thanksgiving holiday, and then it dawns on her that she will help her sister have the baby she longs for. Along the way Sarah faces her own demons of the past, losing her mother, her relationship with her father, and other things of her youth, like many of us she would like to leave them behind.

Katherine Center's writing is lovely and lively and you really want to like Sarah and her sister Mackie. I did enjoy them, but something about the simplicity and less than emotional trial of becoming a surrogate for her sister left me hanging. Perhaps my own infertility struggles have made me a bit more realistic of the devastation and heartache there can be on that journey. Beyond having her sister's baby there is a love attraction that is a funny on again off again tale that keeps the reader wondering where it will end.

I rated this book a 3 out of 5 stars. I did enjoy it, it was easy to read, but not realistic in my opinion. I even told a friend of mine that parts seemed silly to me. It does make a good beach read and I'd be more than happy to share my copy if anyone would like me to send it along.

I look forward to more of Katherine's works, her first two novels were wonderful.

Myrna says

Get Lucky is my fourth Katherine Center book and I am a fan of this author! She has a way of pulling you into the story. This one is a little more serious with themes of friendship, sisterhood, and family but still has some funny moments. I would definitely recommend this book if you like this genre.

Jeana says

This is the story of a woman who finds herself in a position in which she can help her sister with her infertility problems by becoming the surrogate mother. I found this particularly appealing because a while back, when I found out I had cancer and may have to do radiation that would fry my uterus, my sister had offered to do this very thing for me. Fortunately, we didn't have to. But it made this story all the more interesting for me because of that. I love stories about sisters. I love the differences of sister relationships

than friendships (even though it's the most true and honest type of friendship there is). This was a fun story and I do like reading Center's fiction.

Laurel-Rain says

A story about sisters Sarah and Mackie Harper, "Get Lucky" reveals the differences and the similarities that bind the two, even when they're living totally separate lives—with Sarah in New York and Mackie back home in Houston, Texas, with husband Clive.

Then one day, in the midst of an advertising campaign that would, most likely, move Sarah up the ladder of success, she does something so daring (and inappropriate) that she ends up jobless and on a flight home to Texas.

As if to add to her humiliation, Sarah is shoved up into a small seat on the plane next to the guy she dumped in high school...Everett Thompson. And from his attitude, he hasn't forgotten or forgiven.

Holed up in Mackie's gorgeous home, she thinks about cocooning there for awhile. And then, hearing about Mackie's unsuccessful attempts to carry a child, she offers up her "womb." Outrageous as this sounds, the two find themselves immersed in the fantasy of it. They also check out the realities and find it is possible. Surprisingly, husband Clive is on board. The baby would be created with Clive's sperm and Mackie's egg—Sarah would just be the gestational carrier.

Just as she launches this project for her sister, Sarah discovers that Everett works for Clive, and obviously, she'll be seeing a lot of him over the next few months.

I enjoyed this story so much that I was laughing all the way through, except for the parts that reminded me of feelings of rejection and envy and loss. Those feelings connected me to the characters so deeply that I wanted to learn more about them—even after the last page.

What these characters brought to my life was how real they felt, and how, despite the somewhat unusual circumstances of the story, they could have been people I knew.

This tale, like every other Katherine Center novel I've read, earned five big stars from me.

Darcy says

Do you ever pick up a book and find that you are surprised by how much you liked it? You aren't really sure why, maybe it is your mood, maybe you connect to the story or the characters, but there is just something about it. This is what happened to me with this book.

It is always funny how there are times when you hit the send button on a e-mail and you know you shouldn't have sent it. For Sarah that one little action cost her, her job and sent her home to Texas to lick her wounds. On her way home she ends up seated on a plane next to her old high school boyfriend, who she treated badly when they broke up.

I love how lost she felt after loosing her job. As it has happened to me, I get how you start to make all of these decisions at the time that seem rational at the time, but aren't. I once cooked a whole turkey, not that that in any way compares to being a carrying your sister and brother-in-law's baby.

You can just tell that Sarah's life has taken a big turn and there are bound to be so very many issues ahead. As Sarah navigates all of these life changes, her raging hormones, her life becomes a roller coaster. And this is where the story becomes so funny. I found myself giggling as the land mine's started to explode right on time.

Donna says

I got lucky when I won an advanced copy of this book. *Get Lucky* is a well-written, charming, and humorous look at one woman's adventures through a life transition. We first encounter Sarah after she has gotten herself fired from her New York City ad job and is headed to Houston to spend a holiday with her sister. Of course, it turns out to be more than a short vacation. As we become immersed in Sarah's story, we are reminded that plans don't always work out the way we expected, grief can be overcome even if it never goes away, and history may be in the past but it still matters.

Katherine Center has created a cast of characters so vibrant and engaging that even predictable outcomes are entertaining. This is a book that will make you laugh out loud and shake your head in understanding. Add to that a fast pace and you get a book that is delightfully human. Other reviewers have noted the positive-from-negative dimension of this story, and that theme plays out well. But I believe *Get Lucky* offers something more: an element of assurance not only that you can go home again but also that sometimes going home is a serendipitous thing to do.
