



## True Love Way

*Nancy Scrofano*

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Marlo Spencer relishes all things retro. Old TV shows, classic movies, and even the collectible lunch boxes to go with them. In fact, she's quite cozy in her Malibu apartment, surrounded by her treasured knick-knacks and vintage memorabilia. It's her best friend, Nik, who doesn't get her fascination with all that "old junk," as he calls it. He especially doesn't understand why she's so keen to get back to their hometown of Napa when her high school sweetheart, Josh, suddenly returns after twelve years in Paris and nary a single phone call, eager to reunite with her. So, when Marlo heads up north to wine country to rekindle her relationship with Josh, Nik tags along, claiming he was already planning to visit his sister, Savannah, Marlo's gal pal. Once they reach Napa, however, dreams of a blissful reunion are shattered as old secrets and past betrayals are revealed, leaving an unsuspecting Marlo to pick up the pieces. Can she forgive and forget, or will true love find a different path to her heart?

## True Love Way Details

Date : Published April 20th 2012 by Simon & Fig (first published April 17th 2012)

ISBN : 9780985352004

Author : Nancy Scrofano

Format : Paperback 350 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance

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## **From Reader Review True Love Way for online ebook**

### **Kimberly Vargas says**

True Love Way is the debut novel by Nancy Scrofano, and what a debut it is! I immediately could relate to the main character, Marlo, and her difficulties in giving herself freely in love due to her past experiences. The settings of Malibu and Napa are just as much a part of the story as the other characters you will meet and appreciate along the way. This would be a perfect beachside read over the summer.

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### **Lovey Dovey Books says**

Nancy Scrofano's debut chick-lit novel, True Love Way, is amazing! Marlo Spencer will lighten up even the darkest scenes of the novel with her love for retro this and retro that. She's such a trusting and open character that readers will fall in love with her and root for her happiness at each turn.

Don't expect True Love Way to be just a cute read. Despite Marlo's upbeat, optimistic voice and the humorous interludes with her best friend Nik, the story is tinted with dark secrets and emotional breakdowns. Scrofano's plot reveals itself to be realistic, twisted, engaging, and suspenseful. Some events can be seen coming from a mile away, while others will come as big surprises. Throughout all the drama, Scrofano still gets an emotional rise out of readers. The connection between the reader and Marlo will be so strong that her life becomes the life of the reader. True Love Way is the story that forces you to put yourself in the shoes of each character because of the real-life situations and relationships and outcomes.

Fortunately, Scrofano doesn't only focus on the negative. Betrayal, loyalty, forgiveness, and romance blend elegantly for the perfect balance in this light drama. When Marlo's reunion with her old boyfriend takes turns for the worse there's always something, or someone, to lift her spirits and give her hope. True Love Way is an all-around wonderful read; entertaining with a side of humor. It's a debut you don't want to miss!

Originally posted on Lovey Dovey Books

\*Novel provided by author in exchange for an honest review and blog tour purposes\*

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### **Jessica Sinn (Books and Trouble) says**

Overall, this book is a fun little beach read that will take you on a rollercoaster ride of emotional turmoil. The romance is entertaining, but what really makes the book special is Marlo. Considering our society's obsession with all things digital, it's refreshing to come across a character who lives in her own whimsical world of retro pop culture.

Nancy Scrofano certainly has some writing chops, and I'm interested to see what she'll come up with next! Fans of Emily Giffin and Jane Green are sure to enjoy this charming story about a quirky woman reaching a crossroads in life.

Go to Chick Lit Cafe for the full review! <http://loonachicklit.wordpress.com/20...>

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## Lydia Laceby says

Originally reviewed at Novel Escapes

Rated 3.5 Star

I enjoyed True Love Way which is about being true to yourself, following your heart and finding what is right in your life, whether it is what you expected or not. Family and friendship holds a huge theme in this light hearted read about pining away for the one that got away and then discovering maybe he wasn't what you thought or remembered in the first place.

The whole friendship dynamic in True Love Way made me nostalgic for Friends and I wanted bury myself under the covers and watch reruns. Marlo has two best friends. Her bestie from childhood, Savannah, lives several hours away from Marlo and has a pre-teen daughter who Marlo helped raise when she was a child. Savannah's much older brother, Nik, has become Marlo's other best friend when they both moved to the same city knowing only each other. Marlo and Nik hang out all the time. Now add Josh, Marlo's high school sweetheart, who shows up a decade after breaking her heart by moving to Paris without her and whose return turns all their lives upside down.

From the outset, I could see how clueless Marlo was that Nik was completely besotted with her (no spoiler – it's pretty obvious) and I really loved Nik. He was kind, courteous and loved Marlo's great Aunt Margaret who he always visited along with Marlo and helped her whenever he could. He was nice. And lovely. And then there was Josh, who I hated. I wanted to punch him in the face. And then punch Marlo when she didn't listen to the little nagging feelings of negativity that kept popping up.

I couldn't understand how Marlo would suddenly run back to an ex-boyfriend. Having never had this inclination myself, I couldn't really relate to this aspect of the story and how she assumed they would go waltzing down the aisle even though he broke her heart so many years ago. Marlo and Josh had made a pact during a tender teenage moment and she presumed it was all to work out now that the pact date loomed? What? Just because they made a stupid pact, it negates her previous broken heart? Wouldn't he just do it all over again? Did she really want to be his backup plan? I wanted to shake Marlo and show her what was right in front of her and how much of a jack-ass Josh was.

At the same time I could relate to how she wanted her happy ending so she ignored some signs she probably should have paid more attention to. I think all of us overlook some things in order to get our happy ending, whether it's things we should ignore or not and eventually I could relax because Marlo slowly started to trust her instincts.

There was such a strong focus on relationships in this novel – not just love relationships - and I loved that. Even with a secret revealed that threatens them (which was a bit obvious for my taste), all the friendships and family ties were so strong and I think this was the strength of True Love Way. I absolutely adored Marlo's great aunt, Margaret, and that Marlo and Nik had such a lovely relationship with her, visiting, cooking and watching old movies with her. Even Marlo's relationship with her parents was strong and seemed realistic to me, even though I probably wouldn't share as much with my family, being a little more private than some. Even Marlo's relationships with her friends was more like family. These connections are what will stick with me most about True Love Way.

One thing that I want to mention is the title and cover. Unfortunately a book is often judged by its cover and I wish it had been stronger to compliment this story which is much stronger than both. I didn't base any part of my review rating on this, but I wanted to mention it because I really don't think they do *True Love Way* justice and I wish more attention had been given to them.

As this novel wrapped up, twinges of emotion wormed through me which says a lot. Although not entirely original and a bit predictable, I enjoyed Marlo's path to self-discovery and especially loved the abundance of close relationships in this novel.

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### **Laura Chapman says**

Nancy Scrofano offers a fun and entertaining read about a quirky heroine who is determined to rekindle the sparks with an old flame in *True Love Way*.

I am a fan of Nancy's work as a blogger and reviewer, so I was especially delighted to find myself a fan of her fiction as well.

Marlo is definitely a unique character, which sets this chick lit novel apart from others. Her love of retro -- an interest shared with the author who created her -- makes for a humorous and playful quirk. She wants to find love and goes after it even after having little success in the past. Though a little silly, she is generally a nice person who I found easy to like and identify with. This made it easy to fall into her story and get caught up in the action.

My theory about guys like Josh was confirmed in this story: Even though they seem like a good idea, they almost never turn out that way. Usually a relationship from the past broke down for a reason. Until you know the reason and find a resolution, there is not much use. Part of Marlo's journey is coming to terms with what happened and realizing that no matter how much she wills it, they can not pick up where they left off and live happily ever after. That's a good lesson ladies -- especially if you're like me and occasionally have a soft spot for exes (only to receive harsh reminders of why they're exes).

See how easy it was for me to identify with Marlo? I'm projecting on her.

While we're talking about having soft spots, I also love a good story where a heroine begins to look at a close friend in a new light, for better or worse. When romance mingles with friendship, I like it no matter what happens. Marlo and Nik's story line was fun to read, and mixed with some additional twists and turns.

Just like her Aunt Madge, I just wanted those two kids to figure things out. It made for a tense couple of hours as I read and wondered what would happen in the end.

Scrofano also writes well and has a solid storytelling voice. For me, I will read any story, no matter how seemingly predictable it might seem -- as long as it has a good voice and strong writing. Plus, the story was just so darn cute.

Review originally posted at [www.change-the-word.blogspot.com](http://www.change-the-word.blogspot.com).

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## **Lucie Simone says**

I fell in love with Marlo and her friends and especially her Aunt Madge. Nancy Scrofano draws her characters so vividly that you feel like their your friends and family. Marlo is all consumed with classic TV, film, & even her personal style is retro. And this passion for the past also extends to her love life. She's hung up on "the one who got away" and when she gets a second chance with her high school sweetheart, she jumps at it. But love isn't easy the second time around, and she soon discovers that a lot has been left unsaid. A lot! So, when she discovers some pretty unsettling truths, she has to decide if she can forgive & forget or move on.

Nancy does a great job of moving the plot along and throws in some good twists to keep the reader on her toes. You'll be rooting for Marlo and her pals the whole way through. Everyone has something at stake and something to lose. I loved the use of sitcom dreams to reveal Marlo's inner conflict. This is a quick and entertaining read with heart and humor. I read it five times and loved it more with each read!

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## **Sandie says**

Marlo Spencer's dreams are about to come true. Twelve years ago, the love of her life, Josh, abandoned her to attend chef school in Paris and stayed in France since. While Marlo has dated, there's been no one serious as she can't get over Josh. She spends her time with her best friend, Savannah and her daughter. Savannah was also abandoned by a high school sweetheart and has been a single parent for eleven years. Marlo's other mainstay is Savannah's brother, Nik. Nik was too much older to hang with the girls in high school but now that he and Marlo are living in the same city away from their families, they have formed a close friendship.

But now Marlo has a decision to make. She receives an email after twelve years from Josh. Josh says he is back in town and has never forgotten Marlo. He reminds her of the pact they made in high school to get married to each other if neither was married at age thirty, and asks her to come back to town to visit and get reacquainted. Marlo is overjoyed and nervous all at once. Will things be the same? Will Josh explain why he left her alone?

She goes back home, accompanied by Nik who is ready for a family visit. Once there, she meets up with Josh, but things seem a bit off. As the week goes on, secrets her friends have been keeping from her start to emerge, along with a sense that she may need to reevaluate her true feelings. Will true love's way make the decision for Marlo?

Nancy Scrofano has written a breezy, interesting romance that keeps the reader turning the pages to see what choices Marlo will make. Marlo is a quirky character, loyal to a fault, but determined not to change. Her favorite things are from the past; old TV shows from the 1960's and 1970's, when life was simpler and every issue could be solved during a half hour sitcom. Will her life follow the same path, or will Marlo discover that real life is more complicated and more rewarding? This book is recommended for readers who like romance and modern day relationships.

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## **Cindy says**

This was the first book I have bought in a while in paperback and I was really excited to get it in the mail!

Thought the cover was really adorable.

TRUE LOVE WAY turned out to be such classic chicklit fun! I read it really quickly because I wanted to find out what was going to happen to all the characters in the book.

It has all the essentials needed: Fun sidekick, a cupcake shop and a sweet love story.

Very cute read and I liked the retro flashbacks and references quite a bit, it added to the story's charm and made me want to watch The Brady Bunch. :)

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### **Isabella says**

Marlo Spencer loves to live in past! She loves old TV shows – The Brady Bunch, I Love Lucy, and Dick Van Dike, just to name a few. She is known to collect old things, and is proud of having her Brady Bunch lunchbox. Her Malibu is cluttered with everything vintage and she doesn't care. Nik, her best male friend, doesn't understand what the fascination is, and even complains about it, but he accepts her as she is. I loved these two together, and I could relate to their close friendship. Their dialogue reminded of how an old married couple would sound.

When Marlo receives an email from Josh, Nik doesn't like it at all! It's a little bit obvious that Nik might have feelings for her, but it's not until the end do we find out what else he could be hiding.

Nik decides to follow Marlo to Napa so she can hopefully rekindle their romance and go through with the “pact” with Josh, the man who left her twelve years ago without saying goodbye, he decides it's time to spend time with his sister, Savannah, and her daughter. After they get to Napa, it's a whirlwind of emotions for everyone involved – Marlo, Nik, Josh, and Savannah, Marlo's best friend and Nik's sister. While Marlo wants things with Josh to be in sync, they're not. Things with Savannah don't seem right either – it's not until towards the end is everything revealed. What's found out could harm relationships – even friendships! I think it came full circle and turned out how it was supposed to. I was very pleased with the ending! (Great way to end it, Nancy Scrofano!) If I said anymore, I'd spoil it – so read the book! You won't want to miss it!

After reading the plot of True Love Way, it sounded like a cute book, so I decided to review it! The title and cover also swayed me. Like I do with most book, I dove right into this one late at night and I didn't want to stop. The only thing I would change is Savannah's character. I wish she felt a little more emotion for...(if i told you, then I'd spoil it). True Love way was a quick and fun read. All the characters are believable, and the storyline is filled with twists and turns. At the end of each chapter, you'll want to begin the next! I couldn't put it down! I recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a fun and quick beach read!

I give this book 4 out of 5 stars!

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### **Katrin says**

Truely a lovely novel.

I wasn't so sure about the cover at first, but the novel inside is absolutly wonderful. And that's what counts! Nancy Scrofano has created a wonderful story about the past, present and future. Marlo is a dancer with her

own studio, still wondering where her long lost boyfriend might be and the ever same question "What would be if we had a second chance?". The chance comes and with a lot of butterflies and her best friend Nik(best friend Savannahs brother) she takes of to her hometown to see what is going to happen. And there is going to be a lot happening until the end!

I enjoyed every page of it. The characters are well drawn and I really like Scrofanos writing style!

A well written debut - I'm already looking forward to reading what's coming in the future!

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### **Samantha March says**

I was in a bit of a unique situation when I was asked to review *True Love Way* by debut writer Nancy Scrofano. I actually virtually be-friended Nancy via our blogs. She runs the fab site Chick Lit Bee. When Nancy had finished writing *True Love Way*, she asked me for a manuscript critique. I happily obliged, enjoyed her story, and was excited to see what happened next. My other good friend, Lucie Simone, runs an indie publishing company, Simon and Fig, and took on Nancy and her story. And...here we are! Nancy can now add "published author" to her long list of accomplishments. So, let me jump into my review.

The heroine of this story is Marlo Spencer, a retro-loving gal who is addicted to classic TV shows. And who has been holding out for her Mr. Wrong for too long. When high school boyfriend Josh finally reconnects with Marlo after twelve years of silence, Marlo doesn't waste any time driving from Malibu to her hometown of Napa. Her best friend Nik makes the journey with, as his family and sister – Savannah, Marlo's close friend – also still live in Napa. Marlo loves seeing Savannah and her daughter, as well as her parents, but she is really there for Josh. Could it be after all this time that they will finally get together? But Marlo's happy homecoming doesn't go anywhere near planned, when old secrets are revealed, friendships are tested, and Marlo figures out where her heart truly lies.

I thought this was a really fun chick lit read. Scrofano has a talent for creating characters, and I felt like Marlo and I could be pals. I even love me some *I Love Lucy* like she does. There was drama, romance, tears, and love. The only thing I didn't like so much was that I felt the big secret was fairly obvious. I don't want to give too much away, but I felt about five foreshadowing cases could have been removed so there was more of an actual shock when readers discover the secret. Other than, really great debut. I'll be looking forward to more from Nancy Scrofano!

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### **Silver Swan says**

With little previous experience with the genre of chick lit, I picked up *TRUE LOVE WAY* and found it to be an enjoyable read and well-written debut. The story was a good mixture of funny/cute scenes and tender moments. The characters were well-drawn and realistic; their unique "quirks" (ie. Marlo's obsession with everything retro, an especially fun addition) made them more "real" in the eyes of the reader. The old TV show-connected dreams in particular served as a delightful manifestation of Marlo's "quirk" . . . and I found myself visualizing those scenes as if they were really on TV.

Although I am a hopeless romantic, I loved how the story wasn't just about the love triangle. Marlo's close

ties to her family were also key. As I am close to my family, I could relate to that aspect of the story. I especially liked Aunt Madge and thought that her backstory was as endearing as her personality. Although Marlo and her friends were the main characters, Aunt Madge was truly the most significant, for she connected the past to the present with her "timeless" love story. She was the uniting force that tied the story together. Additionally, atmosphere---which could arguably be viewed as a character in and of itself--- was well developed. The settings near the ocean were quite nice and somehow deepened the meaning of the story. However, what stood out most of all was Miss Scrofano's gift with dialogue . . . very impressive! It has been said that an understanding of individual characters may be revealed through their thoughts, the comments of other characters, and the interaction between the two. While Miss Scrofano expertly used all three, the dialogue stood out especially as the strong link for both the individual character and for the story as a whole. As a result, the novel itself could easily be visualized as a TV show or movie . . . an assertion that Marlo would likely approve. :)

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### **Lisa says**

Oh, Marlo. Silly, adorable, stuck-in-the-50's Marlo. She is such a creative character. With her flaws to go along with her great qualities, you can't help but just love her to pieces. Marlo struggles with feelings she still carries around with her for a past love she had in high school. I think we can all relate with this one. Marlo is a prime example of "needing closure" at the end of a relationship. Will she ever get that closure?

Well, to Marlo's total shock she receives a call from Josh, her heartbreaker, and he's back home in Napa and wants to meet up with her. You can bet your butt she plans her trip back home immediately! Her trusty BFF Nik decides to accompany her for the ride.

I really enjoyed Marlo's journey back home to Napa, both her physical journey as well as her emotional one. She's thrown a huge curveball when she learns of secrets that were kept from her in the past. All of a sudden she feels lost... not knowing who she can trust. Will this change everything for her happily ever after as planned? Is poor Marlo doomed to a life of loneliness?

I would definitely recommend *True Love Way* strongly to other chick lit lovers out there like me. Nancy's debut novel is a winner in my book! I think Nancy has a real talent and I look forward to her next book.

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### **Laura says**

I have to be completely honest when I say that i've always had a soft-spot for self-published authors, or authors that publish through smaller, lesser known publishing houses, because I feel like every book deserves readers and attention esp. when an authors put their blood, sweat, and tears into it, and books like this always remind me why I will never lose this way of thinking. Sure, i've read quite a few self-pubbed books that

completely flopped and did nothing for me, but for the past two years a few have made it into my top 10 books of the year list (and I have a few that I know will make it this year as well). Chick-Lit mainstream authors have let me down as of late, due to many of stories feeling cookie-cutter and dull, but have found a lot of refreshing self-published Chick-Lit's that have made me fall in love with the genre all over again.

I would be lying if I said that this book wasn't a bit predictable and within the first fifty pages I knew without a shadow of a doubt who Marlo would end up with in the end, BUT that being said the means in which she gets there, and the circumstances surrounding her decision I would never have seen coming in a million years!! I loved the romance in this book, and I loved the characters, they all had a real quality to them that made them likable and relatable. Although I have little to no interest in old classic movies or tv shows I loved the references in the book, and felt like that was something you don't see very often.

Nancy Scrofano created a great piece of fiction. I never lost interest in the characters and I found myself completely engrossed in the book (even in a noisy train). If you're hesitant to read a self-published book, or a book from a lesser known publishing house, do yourself a favor and read this one, because it will change your outlook on the judgement that is constantly thrown in their direction.

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### **Michelle says**

The day before I read this book I saw the first episode of The Mindy Project, and True Love Way reminds me so much of it. And I loved both of them. Both of the characters are slightly obsessed with tv or movies. Marlo with classic tv and sitcoms and Mindy with romantic comedy movies. Marlo is adorable with her love of all things classic sitcom, and her life certainly did seem to mimic one throughout the book. True Love Way is pure summer fun. A great beach read!

Nik is super cute and it was easy for me to see that he liked Marlo so I knew right off the bat he was the one I wanted her with. The plot was kind of predictable to me but it was still really enjoyable. I got sucked right into the story and was rooting for Marlo and Nik the whole time. Sometimes a little more for Nik than Marlo but that's ok. I want to see some more Nik and Marlo side stories though. I loved when they did a flashback and we got to learn something about them in the past. It was really cute.

If you are looking for a light and fun romantic comedy, True Love Way is the book for you. I should note that this is an adult romantic comedy, not YA but really the only reason is because the characters are older. I can see it appealing to many YA fans. If you are looking for a good beach read, I would try True Love Way.

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