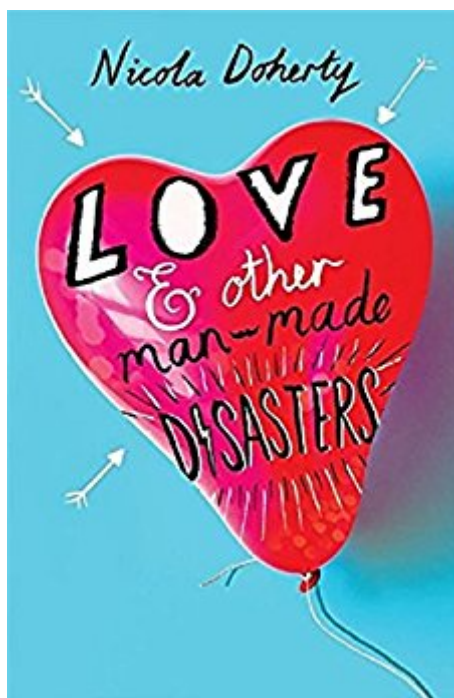


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Love And Other Man-Made Disasters



Synopsis

A contemporary teen romance by Irish author, Nicola Doherty, about facing your fears and falling in love. A story with humour and heart, this book is perfect for fans of Sophie Kinsella, Holly Smale and Stephanie Perkins. Juno is scared of a lot of things. Climate change, urban foxes, zombies - the usual. So when she goes on a skiing holiday with her mum's adrenaline-mad new husband and his tearaway twins, she doesn't hold much hope of surviving. Then she meets Boy. Gruff, hairy and thrill-seeking, he's everything Juno doesn't like. Or is he? Juno's about to discover there's nothing more scary than falling in love.

Book Information

File Size: 682 KB

Print Length: 240 pages

Publisher: Orion Children's Books (June 2, 2016)

Publication Date: June 2, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B019CSNQ6K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,543,917 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #99

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Customer Reviews

17 year old Juno has just arrived at the family holiday from hell, well that's what she thinks it's going to be like. Her family comprising of her mum, Siobhan, Step-Father Ed and his eight year old, annoying twin boys are supposed to be having a fun week in Austria, skiing. There is a teeny-tiny problem though. Juno can't ski and what's more, she doesn't want to learn to ski either. You see, Juno is afraid of anything that has the potential to do her harm or kill her and I

mean anything, including World War Three, climate change, oh and a zombie apocalypse! Because of her lack of skiing ability, Juno is sent to ski school. She was hoping for a classroom full of people, but no, ski school is actually physically learning to ski. Even ski school is too much for her, and after some persuading, she agrees to attend one-on-one skiing lessons. This is where she meets Boy, yes that's his name, or The Gruffalo. There is just something about him that is drawing her to him. Will this be Juno's first holiday romance, and will she ever be able to stay upright on those ski slopes? Love and Other Man-Made disasters is Nicola Doherty's first attempt at writing a YA book and what a perfect attempt this is. Now although I don't quite fit into the YA age group, I still love YA books, and this book was thrilling and moreish. The plot is well thought-out and keeps you interested from beginning to end. The characters were just adorable and easy to fall in love with, even her pain in the backside step-brothers, and the vividly described scenery had me longing to be wandering in the thick snow. Juno is a lovely young girl, with a good head on her shoulders. She is wise, although a little cautious. She made me laugh out loud with her views on the Zombie Apocalypse that is going to happen in the future. Boy, okay it's not his real name, but the name the staff know him by (he won't tell anyone his real name), is a quiet young man who likes to be alone. He is the complete opposite of Juno, in that he is a daredevil and likes to be frightened. He wants to climb Mount Everest and is saving every penny so he can achieve his dream. He was super moody at first, but as he and Juno got to know each other better, he let his defences down and you see a softer side to him. A fantastic book by Nicola, that was a complete page-turner and young adults and grown-ups alike will surely enjoy every minute of it. Reviewed by Stacey at Whispering Stories Book Blog**I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review**

3 - 3.5 Stars in my Sky! Love and Other Man-Made Disasters was a bit of an assortment of things for me. Juno's almost droll outlook and wisdom made me smile, but I wasn't a fan of the pacing and I didn't really get Boy as a BBF. As someone who has spent a couple of years as a Seasonaire and a large chunk of my life on family snowboarding holidays, I enjoyed all the skier/boarder references. I've lived the chalet lifestyle and also been the winter holiday guest, so I appreciated the many winter holiday insights. Juno is a worrier. This is an intentional part of Juno's charm. For some reason she reminded me of Marvin the Paranoid Android from The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, but in a teenage girl kinda way. I emphasised with Juno's need to find something to cling onto when faced with uncertainty. Her home life has dramatically changed and she's facing the big transition

from finishing high school to starting University. The events in the book show her faced with the reality of growing up and having to fend for herself. It's a sort of test run, featuring a hot young ski instructor. Having spent one very hectic Christmas in the French Alps writing my dissertation I liked how she sneakily took her homework with her and fell in love with the slopes. I'm a big fan of coming of ages stories but I felt a little disconnected with the characters and story in general at times. I think this may have been because certain elements felt a little convent and hurried, whilst others a bit unrealistic. What I felt was the most accurately portrayed was Juno's worry about her new situation and the awkwardness of first romances. Overall I enjoyed the story and the moments of nostalgia it invoked, however I would have liked a little more character engagement and development. I received a review copy

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