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But Georgie is thrown into disarray when Carrington's is plunged into a recession-busting makeover, cueing the arrival of femme fatale Maxine, who wields the axe in her immaculately-manicured hands.

It spells a recipe for disaster for Georgie and soon she is fighting not only for her job, but also for the attentions of her gorgeous boss, James. And when hot newcomer Tom arrives, who may or may not be the best thing since sliced bread, Georgie must decide where her loyalties really lie...

'A sparkling debut...funny, romantic and utterly charming. Devour in one sitting like a delicious, indulgent cupcake then go back and start again.' Sasha Wagstaff

'From the moment I read the first page of Alexandra's book, I knew I was being allowed to see something special. I believe that Alexandra has created a very real and likeable cast of characters that will appeal to a wide audience. Her writing style is crisp and funny and compels you to keep turning the page.' Chrissie Manby

'Cupcakes at Carrington's is deliciously delightful from start to finish, sprinkled with magic and full of heart.' Miranda Dickinson

Cupcakes at Carrington's Details

Date : Published January 17th 2013 by Harper (first published 2013)

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Author : Alexandra Brown

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From Reader Review *Cupcakes at Carrington's* for online ebook

Deborah says

Who says chick lit is dead? Alexandra Brown's debut novel *Cupcakes at Carrington's* was a delightful reminder that rumours of chick lit's demise are greatly exaggerated.

But first the one downside. If you buy this book because you are fixated on cupcakes, then I'm afraid you will be very disappointed. Cupcakes play very little part in the story at all, apart from the fact that main character Georgie's best friend, Sam, owns the Cupcake Cafe at Carrington's Department store in Mulberry-On-Sea (I kid you not ... even the town's name is delightful). So now we have that one potential disappointment out of the way (although red velvet cupcakes do make the occasional welcome appearance), on to all the wonderful things Alexandra Brown brings to us in this novel.

For starters, the characters are fun but not ridiculously overblown. True to chick lit form, Georgie does get herself into some scrapes, and at times I was a little unsure how she was going to get out of them (Russian mobster, anyone?). Some are completely unintentional (see previous note regarding Russian mobster), and some are very much her own making (i.e. her mounting debt problem). However, even when in the midst of her own mess, the reader feels a sense of compassion, not irritation, for Georgie. Her life, to date, has not had too many high points. In fact, working at Carrington's Department Store has been her greatest pleasure in many years--until the arrival of ex-Pageant Queen, Maxine, as the new management superstar set to shake staff out of their comfort zones.

Although some parts of the story were reasonably predictable, that didn't spoil my enjoyment at all. And, fear not, there were still a few surprises along the way, leading to a very satisfying ending (with the promise of more to come in the Carrington's series).

I have to admit, it has been quite a while since I reached the end of a book and kept reading through the tacked on bits that come after. In this case, a brief interview with author Alexandra Brown, her acknowledgements, and a quick introduction to the next book in the series (coming in November 2013). But with *Cupcakes at Carrington's*, that is exactly what I did. I was in no hurry to say goodbye to Georgie and her friends. In fact, I immediately downloaded Alexandra's short story, *Me and Mr. Carrington* to tide me over until Book 2 is released next month.

If you are a chick lit lover, particularly British chick lit, then you will probably enjoy *Cupcakes at Carrington's* as much as I did.

Rea Cobb says

Since I first saw the cover of *Cupcakes at Carrington's* and then read the synopsis I couldn't wait for the new year to come around so I could get my hands on a copy and delve into the world of Carrington's!

Where life is sweeter... Georgie Hart had it all – as a top personal shopper in London, the heady world of

Mulberry launch parties and Louis Vuitton goody bags meant she was living the dream. But all that extravagance took its toll on her bank balance and it was time to stop drinking champagne on beer money. Now Georgie runs the luxury bag concession at Carrington's Department store in the pretty seaside town of Mulberry Bay and her lavish spending is confined to a red velvet cupcake with butter cream icing in Carrington's cafe. But her plans for a quiet life are thwarted when Carrington's goes into a recession-busting makeover and soon, with the arrival of Maxine, wielding the axe in her immaculately-manicured hands, Georgie is fighting not only for her job, but also for the attentions of her dishy boss, James. And when newcomer Tom arrives, who may or may not be the best thing since sliced bread, Georgie must decide where her loyalties really lie...

FANTASTIC!

I cannot believe this is the author's debut book. The storyline flowed beautifully catching our interest and teasing our taste buds from the first page! The cover is classy and chic and I was hoping the storyline was going to be in fitting with the cover and true to form it was. With Georgie having a dream job working in the glamorous Carrington's department store on woman's accessories selling unbelievable priced handbags which I could only dream of owning and then on her breaks being able to pop along to her best friend Sam's cafe for a delicious red velvet cupcake. All this sounds like pure perfection but poor Georgie's life is far from perfect.

Brown creates a wonderful cast of characters in this book but not all are lovable we have our characters we love to hate too and even these characters were brought to life through Browns descriptive writing. The friendships the author creates seem genuine and I found the friendship between Georgie and Sam very touching when they come together at a very difficult time. I loved the male characters in this book I found Tom had an air of mystery surrounding his character I couldn't tell if he was a good guy or a bad guy until all becomes clear later in the book. The authors descriptive writing doesn't stop with the characters it continues in creating the perfect setting inside the department store. Carrington's came to life in this book you felt as though you were walking around this store with the characters and you can visualize the merchandise that the characters are surrounded by.

I was hoping that there would be more mention of cupcakes but then that is the greedy sugar monster in me picking holes in the book! I couldn't put this book down so I ended up reading into the small hours of the morning just to get to the end I was well and truly hooked by this entertaining and addictive book I am so pleased to hear that the story doesn't end with this book, I cannot wait for the next book in the series to come out later in the year I for one will be eagerly awaiting getting my hands on the next book. I can highly recommend this book it is pure enjoyment on every page so treat yourself to this deliciously entertaining read on this cold winter day.

Cintya Larasinta says

Sinopsis :

Georgie Hart sangat mencintai pekerjaannya di bagian penjualan tas mewah di Carrington's Departement Store di kota tepi pantai yang cantik. Dia juga doyan sekali makan red Velvet cupcakes dengan lapisan krim mentega yang menggiurkan di Kafe Depstor Carrington.

Suatu hari, Carrington's harus mengalami perombakan akibat resesi, dan datanglah si femme fatale Maxine dengan tangan besi bermanikur yang rapi nan terawat. Georgie mulai panik karena dia harus berjuang diri mempertahankan pekerjaan, juga merebut perhatian atasannya yang tampan, James. Saat Tom si anak baru yang ganteng bergabung dengan Carrington's. namun Georgie tiba-tiba sadar harus memutuskan di mana kesetiaan dia benar-benar berbohong.

My Review :

Well, untuk pertama kalinya saya membaca novel Chicklit pengarang Alexandra Brown. dan coverlah yang membuatku tertarik, entah kenapa cover itu terlihat manis nan menggoda yang kupikir cerita pasti tentang makanan manis namun ternyata dugaanku salah. Dalam cerita awal hingga pertengahan saya dibuat bingung sedikit, karena isinya menceritakan seorang penjaga toko di mall yang sedang berusaha melunaskan utang tentek bengek, bahkan begitu detailnya pekerjaan sebagai penjaga toko, karena ini sangat tidak biasa bagiku. Apalagi novel ini ternyata novel bersambung alias novel series.

Baiklah, dalam Cupcakes Carrington's merupakan novel bersambung seri pertama, kisah wanita muda bernama Georgie Hart sangat manis, berumur 20 tahun, berambut coklat sebahu dengan model bob-sesuatu kecenderungan dengan kegemaran tas mewah dan kecanduan Cupcake Red Velvet dengan lapisan krim mentega dan taburan.

Sangat jarang untuk menemukan karakter wanita yang mencintai pekerjaannya – nyaris tidak begitu. Dalam kasus Georgie, dia mencintai miliknya, karena dia sgt berkembang dg baik pada apa yang dia lakukan. Dia menjalankan departement di bagian aksesoris wanita di Carrington dan terus terang, aku cukup iri. Aku akan senang untuk mengelus tas indah, bahkan tas kulit yang lembut dan bau kebaruan lezat. Ugh, Saya begitu menginginkan. Dan oh ya, saya juga menyukai tas yang baru. Hahaha....

Awalnya semua tampak jalannya baik2 saja sehingga sampai terjadi bencana dan pekerjaan yang sempurna berubah menjadi pengejaran tak berdaya untuk memperjuangkan pekerjaannya. Muncullah femme fatale, Maxine. Terjebak dan begitu mengerikan. Menempatkan pekerjaan setiap orang dipertaruhkan dan membuat hidup neraka bekerja di Carrington dengan cara manipulatif, membuatnya sangat yakin semua orang menderita. Oh tidak! Bagaimana aku bisa lupa. Tidak hanya si Maxine tetapi kehadiran bintang pujaan dahsyat, Tom. Tampan, genit dan benar-benar seksi setinggi langit, tentu saja. kau harus membacanya untuk mengetahui apa yang terjadi. Hihhi...

Georgie Hart adalah wanita membumi, apa adanya, manis, mengemaskan. Dia ramah, dia selalu fokus dengan siapa saja di sekitarnya, kecuali orang-orang tertentu saja. Dia adalah karakter wanita menakjubkan dan rendah hati. Georgie juga sangat senang bergosip dengan Eddie dan Sam, Sahabat sejak masa sekolah suka minum secangkir teh susu. Aku sangat menikmati membaca buku ini dengan bagaimana saya bisa berhubungan Georgie dengan praktisnya - dari berbaginya saat jantung-melompat dengan menyakitkan, menusuk memilukan dari masa lalunya. Meskipun seluruhnya, agak membingungkan tetapi juga menyenangkan, tapi ada beberapa bagian memilukan dalam buku yang akan memaksa Anda untuk memberikan hati Anda kepada Georgie.

Buku ini ditulis dari sudut pandang Georgie dan Saya sangat menikmati membacanya dari sudut pandangnya. Alexandra membuat alur cerita yang begitu segar, romantis, menggoda. Mendadak saya jadi tidak sabar membaca selanjutnya, semoga berikutnya bakal diterjemahin.

I'm curious about Georgie and Tom's relationship ...

Oh! Valentine is full of fantasy and romantic and comforting at all !!

Mummy Loves Books says

I was really excited about reading Cupcakes at Carringtons, the cover art is lovely and the cover blurb

enticing so I made sure I was ready to begin reading this immediately it was delivered to my Kindle.

It sounded like a perfect recipe for a good book - Carrington's a small department store is failing in the recession and the store and it's staff (chiefly Georgie in Ladies Accessories) need to downsize staff numbers. How will this impact the store and it's close knit team, who is the mysterious new salesperson Tom and what exactly does the scheming analyst in charge of the restructure have in store.

I found the book started well but lost it's way a little - there were a lot of characters introduced very quickly, not touched upon for several chapters then they'd dot up again making me have to think hard about who they were then off they'd flit again for ages. The main character does lack proverbial backbone but to be fair does have redeeming qualities. The love triangle at the books core is a little weak and clearly designed to be followed through into subsequent instalments which adds to the overall lack of closure at the end of the book.

I liked many of the characters and the setting is a great concept but some of the plot lines were over-complicated and under written. I'd give Carringtons another whirl with book 2 but maybe in the Sale this time???

Sharon Chapter One, Page One.. says

I give Cupcakes at Carringtons * * * * stars.

I found Cupcakes to be a fantastic, immensely enjoyable read. Such a fabulous debut for Alexandra, surely she must be in reality, Georgie herself?!

This book is set in Carrington's, the high quality Department Store where the main character Georgie has worked for years. Georgie loves her job running the luxury handbag concession in Carrington's, where her gay best friend Eddie and her best friend Sam also work. Sam runs the Carrington's Cafe, where Georgie & the staff spend an awful lot of time discussing events and eating deliciously tempting cupcakes! It truly feels like the hub of Carrington's, and gossip central for the staff.

Carrington's is very special to Georgie – she was brought up with memories of visiting regularly with her late mother and in the present day, it's her home from home with her best friends and the daily gossip that surround the store. It's these strong bonds that keep the story flowing and the reader hooked.

You find many twists and turns for the various characters through the book, each one interesting, captivating and leaving you gasping for more as every page turns! As in reality, we don't like every one we meet... but so descriptive is Alexandra's prose that love them or hate them, we want to live in their world and we are addicted to finding out their fate. We are also left feeling slightly envious of Georgie's choice of delectable men, Tom and James – all I can voice about those two is 'Yuummm...' ;))

The writing transports you into the store with it's glamour, luxury goods and exotic fragrances – along with the need to munch sweet, scrumptious cupcakes of course!

Overall a witty, vibrant, laugh out loud gem of a debut from Alexandra Brown and it doesn't end here! Brown has already released a shot story follow up called Me & Mr Carrington which is a prequel to Christmas at Carrington's! So if you loved Cupcakes, you can be transported to Carrington's again and

again!

Melindam says

Still stuck with 3 stars on re-reading.

It is entertaining, with a lovely main character and her circle of friends are adorable, especially Eddie. He may be a typical gay BFF, but he is an absolute SCREAM.

The love interest is also cute, but the author barely lets them any screen/page-time together, so their attraction is not very convincing.

Yet, I am glad I stuck with the series, for the 2nd book Christmas at Carrington's is one of my favourite Xmas-reads and also much better than this one.

Love Fool says

Georgie Hart loves her job – running the luxury handbag concession at Carrington's Department store in the pretty seaside town of Mulberry-On-Sea, and treating herself (once too often!) to a red velvet cupcake with buttercream icing in Carrington's café.

But Georgie is thrown into disarray when Carrington's is plunged into a recession-busting makeover, cueing the arrival of femme fatale Maxine.

It spells a recipe for disaster for Georgie and soon she is fighting not only for her job, but also for the attentions of her gorgeous boss, James. And when hot newcomer Tom arrives, who may or may not be the best thing since sliced bread, Georgie must decide where her loyalties really lie...

This book was cute and fun but nothing to recommend. I enjoyed it but didn't love it. Georgie kinda annoyed me and I understand being financially stressed but I thought her actions were stupid. I also couldn't really believe the story and I know it's fiction but I felt like it was just too much. I do like Alexandra Brown as a writer and not everyone can hit a home run with their writing so I will continue to read her books.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I've been excited about this book for ages, and I mean AGES! I couldn't wait until the month turned to January so that I could have the amazing opportunity to delve into the world of Carrington's, and what a world it is!

Georgie Hart has in my opinion one of the best jobs in the world – she runs the luxury handbag concession at Carrington's Department Store. Not only does Georgie love her job, but her best friend Sam also works in Carrington's, running the Cafe where Georgie's favourite delicious red velvet cupcakes are served, so she loves to pop there for a treat and a gossip! However, Carrington's is plunged into a makeover, with the intimidating, bossy Maxine coming in to change things up, inciting panic in the hearts of the staff over whether their jobs will be safe. But Georgie hasn't just got her job to think about – to her delight, Georgie's

gorgeous boss James has started focusing his attentions on her. And when the mysterious and handsome newcomer Tom arrives, Georgie finds herself pulled in very different directions, and the adventure is only just beginning...

I LOVED Cupcakes At Carrington's! To sum it all up in one word: Wow. I Couldn't put it down – I sat down to start reading and before I knew it, I was more than half-way through. I was so gripped that I was up late last night desperate to find out the next part, telling my fiancé "I'm going to sleep soon, I just MUST know what happens next!"

This book is glamorous! Think of the feeling you get when you walk into Harrods, Harvey Nichols or a really posh and expensive store, the excitement at seeing the beautiful handbags, the gorgeous clothing, the smell of the exotic perfume and the atmosphere – Well reading Cupcakes At Carrington's is all of that rolled into one! Whilst reading I could almost feel the softness of the handbags, hear the accents of the staff and customers, and I became so involved in all of this that it felt as though I had just walked through the main doors into Carrington's and was watching Georgie's scenes unfold in front of me.

The characters are fantastically written, I cannot fault a single one! I warmed to Georgie from the first page, she is so likeable and throughout the book I was cheering her on not only in her job but hoping she might find her Mr Right too! Eddie was my favourite character – he is just FABULOUS! He made me laugh with the phrases he came out with, and I wasn't just laughing, I actually had tears streaming down my face! I would LOVE to have Eddie as my best friend, and I can't wait to hear more from him! Then there are the eligible men...Wow. James and Tom are handsome! I was having hot flushes just reading about them, and throughout I was wishing for romance! Handsome James seemed very confident which made him very alluring, and Tom was mysterious, sexy and not giving away much about who he was or his intentions, which made me want to read on to discover more about him. Throw both of these men into the mix with Georgie and trust me, the story is sizzling, there is fantastic flirtation and it is gripping!

Even the villains were perfectly written. As a reader I had such strong emotions and dislike towards them, which shows that Alexandra Brown has excelled in her writing to be able to provoke such feelings from a reader! They were believable, very realistic and they created a great pace to the story, adding a sense of danger and suspense.

The Cafe was a brilliant addition to Carrington's, I loved how it was central in the story – the place to be for gossip, and the atmosphere was wonderful. The descriptions of the treats on offer in the Cafe had me longing to visit and sample a red velvet cupcake!

After I had finished the book, I was desperate for more from Alexandra Brown. Then to my extreme delight I discovered that there are more books to come from the Carrington's series, and I cannot wait to read more from the talented Alexandra!

Cupcakes At Carrington's is glamorous, it is fun, and it is fabulous! There is humour, romance, and a lot of beautiful handbags included in this book, not to mention the cupcakes! Cupcakes At Carrington's is a firm favourite of mine, and a book which should be essential to everyone's bookshelves, so buy a copy and indulge yourself in the glorious world of Carrington's! An exceptional debut!

Lynn Brown says

Nice easy read. Lovely setting of a Department store with a little touch of old fashioned service.

La Fenice Magazine says

Recensione sul sito LA FENICE BOOK

Il romanzo è stato una vera scoperta, frizzante, elegante, spontaneo e con una scrittura meravigliosamente scorrevole! Mi sono ricreduta, forse perchè non mi attendevo alcunchè o forse perchè non avevo idea di cosa avrei potuto leggere ma mi ha stupita. Contiene tutte le note fondamentali che un romance rosa dovrebbe contenere...Non solo scrittura frivola e allegra come ho letto in molti romanzi ma attenta, studiata, che parla di ben altre nozioni fondamentali che esistono nella vita. Mai frivolo, mai scontato e pieno di passione, emozione, sentimenti repressi e allegria.

Il grande magazzino Carrington è semplicemente unico, le sue descrizioni mi hanno fatto sognare, quasi uno stile di altri tempi e modi, ho trovato quello stile personale che mi ha fatto amare completamente il libro. Il Carrington's Café, poi è uno dei miei posti preferiti, la proprietaria è Sam l'amica di Georgie, la protagonista, ed è semplicemente unico, con tutti i suoi dolcetti caldi... mi ha fatto venire voglia di mangiare un bel cupcake red velvet!

Il libro è solare e incisivo, i personaggi ben descritti e come in ogni romanzo che si rispetti tutti assumono le loro parti in maniera egregia e fino in fondo, sono stati inserite così tante personalità che ne sono rimasta estasiata e affascinata, soprattutto da Eddie!

L'unico neo che forse non mi è piaciuto, è che la casa Ed. abbia cambiato il titolo originale ma le sono grata per aver lasciato questa stupenda e adorabile copertina, quasi originale cambiando solo i colori.

In definitiva, sono rimasta completamente soddisfatta e compiaciuta di aver letto Amiche, segreti e bollicine, un romanzo segretamente avvincente; ve lo consiglio vivamente, la storia spensierata ma allo stesso tempo forte e decisa, con temi importanti alza di molto il livello di questo splendido romanzo rosa! Una chicca davvero meravigliosa!

Al Cupcakes at Carrington's dove tutti vorrebbero bere un caffè e godersi un bel dolcetto caldo e gustoso! Natale a Carrington aspettami ...sto arrivando.

Bookevin says

Review originally on I Heart.. Chick Lit.
www.iheart-chicklit.blogspot.com

International Giveaway on Valentine's Day!

Well.... What can I say about a book I've been dying to read for ages, which I polished off as soon as I got it in my mailbox? Let me introduce you to Alexandra Brown, lover of chick lit, addict of delectable cupcakes and a real sweetheart! After exchanging tweets a few times, we quickly bonded over our love of chick lit and hot men. Shhh.

When I was told I was on the list for a copy of her debut novel, *Cupcakes at Carrington's*, I was beyond ecstatic. I whooped. I laughed. I giggled whenever I thought of it. I walked around with a spring in my step. I was on a high. Okay, you probably don't want to know how I felt. Let's just say my sister found it so annoying she told me the world would end and I wouldn't get the chance to read it. I received my copy yesterday, I started it in the evening and finished it half an hour ago. Hardly a day, right?

What I thought about it:

My thoughts are still jumbled up after reading. I'm still missing Georgie's big heart and Eddie, whose gorgeous flair has left me wanting a GBF (gay best friend). So I'll layer things so you won't have a headache when you read this. Here goes!

Cupcakes at Carrington's follows the story of Georgie Hart, a super sweet twenty-something with a penchant for luxury bags and an incurable addiction to red velvet cupcakes with buttercream icing and sprinkles. It's rare to come across a heroine who loves her job - hardly so. In Georgie's case, she loves hers because she's blooming good at what she does. She runs the Women's Accessories department at Carrington's and frankly, I'm pretty jealous. I would LOVE to caress lovely, soft leather handbags and the smell of newness on them is mouth-watering. Ugh, how disgusting of me.

Everything seems to be going her way until disaster strikes and the perfect job is turned into a helpless pursuit to fight for her job. Enter the femme fatale, Maxine. Stuck-up and a horrendous cow. Putting everyone's job at stake and making life working at Carrington's a living hell with her manipulative ways, making perfectly sure everyone suffers. Oh, no! How could I have forgotten. Introducing devastating heartthrob, Tom. Handsome, flirty and utterly delicious Tom. Without giving much away, of course. You'll have to read it to know what happens. *wink*

Georgie Hart is such a down-to-earth, sweet, adorable heroine. She's friendly, she gets on with anyone who is everyone, well except certain people of course. She's a wonderful character, humble and kind to all around her. I think the both of us would hit it off pretty well. I can imagine us having cupcakes at *Cupcakes at Carrington's*, gossiping with Eddie and Sam over a lovely cup of milky tea. She carries herself very well in the book, how she tells everything that's happening around her. I loved how I could relate to her feasibly - from sharing her heart-skips-a-beat moments to the painful, heartbreaking stabs of her past. Although on the surface, this may seem like a fun, feel-good chick lit book, but there are some heartbreaking parts in the book which would compel you to give your heart out to Georgie.

The characters in the book were amazing to read about - they were really real - a wonderful presence in the book as they made it more fun and colourful. Georgie's GBF, Eddie is such a winner for a best friend. He's the kind of friend you'd rely on and would confide in him without a moment's doubt. If I can say so myself, I kind of fell in love with him from the first chapter. You'll know why. He's charming, adorable and I have a massive crush on him. Sadly, he's fictional. Georgie's other best friend, Sam is another darling friend I would want to have, super supportive and understanding. Despite being extremely loaded, how shallow of me, she is adamant that she has a job. I really like her for that, instead of being one of those spoilt Chelsea girls, she's a rather lovely girl with a big heart. And as for the gorgeous, panty-ripping handsome blokes, I'll let you read so you'll experience the fireworks in your stomach, the flips and of course, the flutters and blushes.

The book is written from Georgie's point of view and I really enjoyed reading it from her perspective. Alexandra's (Alex) writing is fresh, upcoming and it complements the plot as it really worked for me. However clichéd this may sound, it was a book I could escape to. Pure escapism for me. I let go all my worries and thought accumulated over the past weeks and delved into it wholeheartedly. The book is set in Mulberry-On-Sea, a picturesque seaside town as opposed to the busy metropolitan London. The characters

were fabulous. The plot carried me throughout the book and made me fall in love with the characters, Carrington's and even Dusty the Labrador!

Verdict:

I loved it. Here, I've said it. Perfect for you if you loved Ali Harris's *Miracle on Regent Street*, the *Shopaholic* series by Sophie Kinsella and the *I Heart* series by Lindsey Kelk, not to mention *Meet Me at The Cupcake Cafe* by Jenny Colgan!

A sparkling debut by Alexandra Brown, probably one of the best books I've read these past months. You'll devour this delicious slice of chick lit like how you polish off your favourite cupcake. Sinfully delectable and delightful.

Look out for my INTERVIEW WITH GEORGIE HART and INTERNATIONAL GIVEAWAY on Valentine's Day.

I'm giving one lucky reader a copy of *Cupcakes at Carrington's!*

Rating : 5/5

Jay-me (Janet) says

Blurb from kindle edition

Georgie Hart had it all – as a top personal shopper in London, the heady world of Mulberry launch parties and Louis Vuitton goody bags meant she was living the dream. But all that extravagance took its toll on her bank balance and it was time to stop drinking champagne on beer money. Now Georgie runs the luxury bag concession at Carrington's Department store in the pretty seaside town of Mulberry Bay and her lavish spending is confined to a red velvet cupcake with butter cream icing in Carrington's cafe.

? Blurb suggests Georgie was working in London & moved to Mulberry Bay. It is Mulberry on Sea in the book and I don't recall any mention of Georgie working in London in the book that I read. At one point she says she has worked at Carringtons since leaving school Presumably someone was over-enthusiastic writing the blurb & mixed up a few other books as well.

So the book was a nice light read, but don't go off the blurb to find out what it is about.

Tiff says

Life may be sweet at Carringtons but its sure not for Georgie Hart. Up to her eyebrows in debt and in fear of losing her job in charge of Carringtons' luxury handbag department Georgie's little ray of sunshine comes

from her good friend Sam and her fabulous red velvet cupcakes (good call Georgie!).

On top of overbearing oligarchs and Maxine - the retail consultant from hell, Georgie has an overdose of male attention in the form of her boss, James, smouldering newcomer Tom and good friend Ciaran who's fiancée Tina is adamant something is going on between them. What's a girl to do? Can Georgie climb out of this catastrophe or will it be Oh Crumbs at Carringtons?!

I enjoyed reading Cupcakes for two reasons. Firstly, the book is well written with oodles of fab gregarious characters, wicked dialogue and plenty of laugh-out-loud comedy moments. Secondly, I love looooooove books set in department stores. I don't know why - maybe its a throwback to Saturday trips to Owen Owen with my grandmother. Who knows? Anyway, the descriptions of Carringtons were a delight and just take a moment to appreciate that cover...that's it...scroll back up...it's just perfect.

The very good news is that this book is the first in a series and I'm so looking forward to reading more.

Jacqueline says

Reading this reminded me why I stopped reading chick lit.

It had the ditzy but good-hearted central character, the obligatory gay bff and in spite of the fact that she described her looks as average, the central character had two impossibly handsome chaps competing for her. Every time anyone had anything important to say, they would be interrupted by something or someone; and I mean EVERY TIME.

The token evil character was like a panto villain and there were lots of other characters who had no real role in the story but would pop up from time to time, interrupt something important and then not be seen again for another few chapters.

I really had to force myself to finish this one.

Cat says

Warning contains spoilers!

I'm really shocked at how many high ratings this books has received. I thought it was poorly plotted, rushed, predictable and incredibly annoying. The main character does nothing to warm herself to you and many of the other characters are so one dimensional it's difficult to remember they exist.

The final chapters just feel a tad rushed it's the equivalent of and I woke up and it was all a dream. Georgie's sudden acceptance of her father so much so that she's moved when her best friend asks him to give her away makes no sense at all! The oh Tom is the new owner and wanted her all along is terrible constructed with no depth or personality to him.

I know there are more in the series but with great writers like Freya North releasing new books I'd save your time and avoid anything at Carringtons
