



Relatively Honest

M. Ringle

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Shocking. Disgusting. Deceitful. That's how some might have described Daniel Revelstoke's behavior even before he fell in love with his first cousin.

Previously a don't-tie-me-down Don-Juan type, Daniel doesn't know Julie is his long-lost cousin when he meets her and starts trying to lure her away from her long-distance boyfriend. And by the time his mum drops the family-relation bombshell in his lap, he already loves Julie and it's too late to switch off his feelings. But dishonest habits die hard. He reckons if he can keep Julie from finding out they're related--just a little longer--he runs a better chance of winning her over. He's never loved anyone before, and if she's the one, she's worth a little deceit. Love can do dangerous things to your head. And worse things to your family.

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<http://www.mollyringle.com/ReadingGui...>

Relatively Honest Details

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From Reader Review Relatively Honest for online ebook

Jolene Perry says

This book was bizarre, but good.

I will say that it was fun to be surprised about plot twists, not just once, but several times.

There were some tiny things - like every once in a while the girl would say something that sounded very british, so it seemed like their "voices" should have been more distinguishable.

But it definitely kept me guessing.

I hovered between three and four stars, but I always swing up.

Ellen Ekstrom says

I read this in two days - I couldn't put it down. Being the mother of two young men, I often wondered what was going on in their heads, especially when they looked at girls, and girls looked back. I remember what it was like to be 18, and Molly gives a fresh, real, look at the torture of being on the verge of complete independence and adulthood, in a new environment, and suddenly in love - yeah, not lust, but love, and discovering that it's wonderful and painful. All of the characters are delightful and I felt like they were my family and friends. The plot kept me guessing and I was glad - one of the reasons I couldn't put it down. Just when I thought something would happen, it didn't. Something else comes into play. There were a couple of WHOA! moments and that were absolutely delightful and surprising. The dialogue is fresh, realistic and funny.

I'm not saying a word about the plot other than Daniel is determined to get Julie. To let you know any more than that would spoil it. This may not be a book for everyone, and it just might offend some, but I found it funny, poignant and some of the best writing ever. I'm hoping Molly will do a sequel.

Rich Mulvey says

Another of Ms. Ringle's fun books! As previous reviewers have said, the male characters are so true-to-life. She knows how the male mind works. :-) I didn't see the plot twist coming at all, and it's handled very well indeed.

As I've read her books over the years, Ms. Ringle is clearly perfecting her craft. I really am looking forward to her next book!

Fred says

OMG this is the awesomesauce! I'll write a real review a bit later, but wanted to enthuse, gush, emote and rave about this warm, intense, twisty, clever, winsome and lovely book while I'm still euphoric. Molly, you've written some good books before, but this one is a doozy!

So that was my initial reaction, written in the first blush of excitement after finishing this last night. I've spent lots of time chatting and thinking about it since then, and want to write a more elaborate and complete review.

Brief summary: Daniel Revelstoke and his parents are moving from England to Oregon. Dan will be starting nearby as a college freshman, and he soon meets another entering student there, the lovely Julie, girlfriend of an employee at the resort his parents manage. They become friends as they experience the challenges and fun of freshman year together. Meanwhile, Dan's parents, particularly his Mom, are acting kind of weird, and it's clear that something troubling is happening with her. As the year goes on, Dan, heretofore a self proclaimed love 'em and leave 'em type, finds himself drawn to Julie in ways that aren't consistent with her attached status, and his formerly cavalier relationship style. When they both land parts in a college production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Dan comes to realize that Julie is "the one," but her feelings remain somewhat opaque to him. When Dan's Mom finally opens up about the unforeseen consequences of an old family secret everything goes up for grabs, in the story, and in Dan's life. Dan's love for Julie is intense and all-consuming, which is a good thing, because it's going to be tested by circumstances neither could have imagined.

My Review: As was the case with *The Ghost Downstairs*, this is a tricky one to review, because there's a twist that changes everything you thought you knew, and seeing it happen is a big part of the fun. I'll deal with that in the spoiler section, below. Meanwhile I'll just talk a bit about the characters and some of the elements I loved. Daniel is the MC and narrator. I really hadn't expected to like having a male pov, (girls are just so much nicer!), but Daniel, despite his pretensions to cad-hood, is an awfully nice guy. Like many Molly characters he's not without his flaws - he's a bit self-absorbed, manipulative with women, can be heartless when it's time to move on (which, as it happens, turns out to be pretty regularly). But he's also generous of spirit, kind, funny and a good friend. He's actually a bit naive, and as Molly has said elsewhere, there's a good boyfriend in there waiting to come out. He's good company to spend a book with. He's got some great lines, too: "Sexual tension, back at last! How I missed thee!" In short, a great MC you relate to, empathize with and root for all the way.

Julie, charming, but somewhat enigmatic. It's so weird in this genre to know what the boy is thinking, and not the girl. Girls in books always perceive boys as so inscrutable, so it's nice to see the tables turned. Julie is also not without her faults. Her fidelity is a bit shaky, her judgment sometimes impaired, and she's got a few family secrets in her capacious closet as well. In other words, she feels real, vulnerable and mega-crush worthy. And happily for us, Daniel is up to the task! He can crush like nobody's business, seriously. And of course the old "shoes on the other foot now, Mr. Heartbreaker," is part of the schaden-fun.

One thing I love to think about and explore is the meaning of character names (at least in a book where there's enough going on to make it worth it, and that's def the case here) so here goes nothin'! Dan and Julie are star-crossed lovers, no doubt about it. And once you've said that, the name Julie made me think of Juliet. And Daniel as Romeo? How bout this quote?

"Some consequence, yet hanging in the stars,
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date

With this night's revels and expire the term
Of a despised life..."

It was at those "revels" that R&J met, and Romeo "stoked" the fires of love from the torches he references when first seeing Juliet. So maybe the characters' names reference not only two great lovers, but the issues between their families they must confront. Or maybe that's a bit of a stretch, but a fun one, I hope (hey, I'm on a roll, here!)

The side characters here are fun and fully developed, especially Sinter, Dan's gothy theater major roommate. Dan's family, with all their painful and hidden past are well drawn, especially his grandmother, quite a character, with a few twists of her own to reveal.

The device of including Cyrano as part of the story is also inspired, what an intensely passionate romance it is, and the story captures that spirit beautifully.

Sigh, that's a lot of words, and I feel I've failed to capture the fun, cleverness and intensity this novel delivers. I love all of Molly's books, as you can see by my reviews, but I think this one really kicks it up a notch, and I can only encourage you to experience it first hand.

SPOILER SECTION -- HEADS UP -- DON'T READ IF YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED.

I'm still not going to reveal the precise nature of the obstacle fate has thrown at our couple. But apparently it's sufficiently transgressive that it has put off some readers (I'm still looking for those reviews, btw!). Maybe it's me, but I found it just added a bit of forbidden frisson to the already superhot relationship between these two. Daniel makes a good case for why it should be irrelevant, and I was persuaded, and Julie seems to have reached a similar conclusion on her own. It's a theme in lots of books, and obviously has quite a pedigree in the classics, too. I loved Molly's blog post on cheating in romance novels, and I think the same kind of issues are relevant here. I hope it doesn't limit the audience for this book, it sure deserves a big one!

Andrea at Reading Lark says

Review Posted on Reading Lark 12/23/11: <http://readinglark.blogspot.com/2011/...>

There is just something about Molly Ringle's writing that I love. Her stories are compelling, her characters flawed yet lovable, and her writing flows. I was a bit nervous to tackle this one after loving *What Scotland Taught Me* so much. Sometimes authors can fail to live up to the expectations they set in previous books, but this isn't the cause with *Relatively Honest*. I loved it!

Relatively Honest took me by surprise as well because of the nature of the romance in this one. Its certainly a unique type of love story and I don't want to spend too much time in the review on the topic because it could spoil the read for you. However, a bit of caution, fair reader, do be expected to pause when the twist is made known. Trust me though - fight through your initial reaction and continue to read. I do love how Ringle has my mind going in one direction and then smacks me around forcing me to go somewhere else entirely. She is the master of the old bait and switch - leaving out titillating breadcrumbs of information that lead to places I never could have predicted. It makes for one truly enjoyable reading experience. Furthermore, it is impossible to read this novel without laughing. I love that Ringle is always able to balance serious issues with some humorous moments.

At its core, *Relatively Honest* is the story of Daniel, a young Brit, who moves to Oregon for university. During his early days in the states, he meets Julie, another college bound student. The two become fast friends and the book mainly focuses on their friendship and navigating the rocky currents of the freshman year of college. Daniel and Julie are great characters that you can't help loving in spite of Daniel's womanizing ways and Julie's secretive moments. The supporting characters, Sinter and Claire, were also a lot of fun.

This was a short, highly addictive read. Ringle just has a way of sucking me into her plots and refusing to let me go until the last word has been digested. I also loved all the English lingo and culture I learned from reading this book. I admit that there were several things I had to look up, but in the end it made the read more authentic. There is also a segment of the book that takes place in London - which was probably my favorite part of the book - that just made me want to hop on the next plane heading in that direction. It is obvious that the UK holds a special place in Ringle's heart and I love how she showcases that for her readers. She also includes the strong Pacific Northwest element that I have come to expect in her works.

If you are looking for a book with a nontraditional romance, then *Relatively Honest* is the way to go. After two solid works from Ringle, I would read any of her work without hesitation. She is quickly becoming one of my top 5 favorite Indie authors. I can't wait to see what she comes up with for me to read next.

One Last Gripe: I want Sinter to get his happy ending, but I feel like everything with him was left unresolved. Perhaps he'll get his own book someday!

My Favorite Thing About This Book: Daniel's emotional evolution and his humor - you can't help but love the boy even though you know he isn't the sort of guy you should be rooting for all the time

First Sentence: "Daniel, I'll miss you so much!"

Favorite Character: Daniel

Least Favorite Character: Patrick

Amy says

Well I'll be! That was quite a ride. I haven't felt that twisted and torn since I rode Boomerang at Knotts Berry Farm.

First off, there's a short list of books with male narrators I've managed to finish and to love. *Relatively Honest* is now among them. It's something about writing the male POV that lacks the genuine emotion you get from reading the girls, and not all authors have been able to replicate it. Ringle did it flawlessly with MC Daniel. He was a multidimensional character who I instantly liked. Though he considered himself somewhat of a cad, he wasn't afraid to talk openly or show his emotions.

Love interest Jules as Daniel calls her, was something of an enigma to me. She tended to keep her feelings close to her which made it hard for Daniel to maneuver the relationship in the direction he wanted. As the

story progressed her character began to open up and soften, allowing us to see more of her to like. I also loved how she managed to flip the script as they say, on Daniel from player to played.

Daniel's roommate Sinter.... Adorable! Can you say spinoff? I would love to revisit him bashing about London.

Now for the twist... Whoa! Timed perfectly and laced with the right amount of shock value, I loved it! I can see where some people may hem and haw over its taboo nature, but I loved the conflict it created not only in our MC's emotions but in the sub character's reactions once it was revealed.

TATIANA says

let me start by telling you that i'm a very open-minded person and even though i wouldn't do what Daniel and Julie did, i don't judge them. It's love after all. All i can say is that all throughout the book i kept thinking "You are going to get caught you crazy SOB and then what?"

HebaH says

Eighteen year old, Daniel Revelstoke, is fresh out of England and about to go half way across the world to America to attend the University of Oregon. He's ready for parties, college girls, and new experiences. Daniel's a huge player; he's not into the whole relationship, commitment type of thing at all. But when he sees Julie French, everything changes. Unfortunately, Julie's got a boyfriend, Patrick, who is a bit of a jerk. But while Julie and Daniel are at University of Oregon, Patrick will be thousands of miles away in Boston.

Julie doesn't intend on changing her relationship with Patrick any time soon, but Daniel is willing to wait. When he goes back home for break, he notices something is off with his parents, and soon learns a secret that just might keep Julie and him from ever being together. Daniel begins to keep a few secrets and surprisingly, so does Julie.

I did like Daniel's character. Him and his roommate Sinter's character, really held a lot comedy. As I have this HUGE goal of going to England one day, I loved the fact that Daniel was from England.

I thought this book was just going to be your average chic-lit type of read, but it ended up having a pretty unexpected twist to it. I'll admit, this book really got my interest in the synopsis, but the over all story, just didn't really hold my attention. I liked it, but I did not love it. Overall, this book was an average okay.

May <3

Halyna says

Sweet, amazing book for your heart's delight written from the boy's pov, and I loved the point of view of that particular boy - Daniel was charming and adorable! I liked the pacing of the story, romantic tension and all

the characters. There were many amusing episodes and funny situations, I grinned a lot reading it. Great style of writing - fluent, smooth, pleasant, sparkling and compelling. Highly recommended!!!

Frezanda says

I really like the style of writing. This is my first book by Molly Ringle and I like her style. It's light and funny and well edited.

This book is a romance story from a guy's point of view.

Daniel is those funny and charming guy who never take relationship seriously. He's not a chauvinist or anything. He respects women, he just avoids commitment at all cost. Now, he fell in love with Julie who actually has a boyfriend and seems faithful to him. The love and relationship build in a believably slow pace. It's not like some of the romance story when the romance happen immediately.

Now, the twist in the story actually makes me laugh aloud. It's just such a korean drama twist, you see. It's a bit silly. But the author has made me fell in love with the characters and the story so I can cope with that story twist.

Sarah Green says

It's fun to get a break from all the paranormal and check out a new YA contemporary novel...and this baby does not disappoint!

First of all, this is not your average high school drama. This book comes from this new awesome emerging genre where the characters are a little older and doing the whole college thing. This makes for an exciting read, especially for older audiences that really enjoy all that YA fiction entails, but are ready for a little more mature characters. I really enjoyed this aspect of the book.

Also, this story is presented from the guys point of view....I mean...HELLO! That like...hardly ever happens! It was fun to get Daniel's perspective on life, love, and happiness...I mean, after all, I already know what a girl thinks about those things! Plus, who doesn't love it when it's the guy that falls hard for the girl! On the other hand, the author doesn't really hold back when it comes to what guys generally think about girls...on the physical side if you get what I mean. So, I was taken a little off guard a couple times, thinking, "Yeah...thanks, Daniel, I really didn't want to know that." But, if that won't offend you, I overall really enjoyed getting things from his perspective.

When it comes to the characters in this book, there's a little something for everyone. The sweet, innocent Julie, the British not-so-great-a-reputation Daniel, the gothic Sinter, and the hardcore Clare. Plus, if you're a theater nut, you get to experience all the awesome drama on and off stage in the university spring production.

Though on my own personal book scale, this one probably sits on average, I really think this book could be a hit with a lot of readers. It has a lot to offer in the way of plot, characters, and setting....as well as a steamy romance that will keep you turning pages until the very end!

J.L. Campbell says

STORYLINE: Daniel Revelstoke is all about fun and games in the relationship department. That's until his family relocates from Britain to America and he falls in love with a family member. Things become even more complicated since his cousin doesn't know she's his cousin and Daniel hopes she won't find out until she's in too deep to end their relationship.

Daniel Revelstoke is eighteen and a girl's man, who doesn't tarry long in relationships. He first comes across as shallow, but doesn't deliberately hurt other people's feelings. He does, however, go after what he wants and can be charming and devious while he's at it.

Julie French is a sensible girl who doesn't fall for Daniel immediately. She knows what to expect from him and becomes friendly with him over time. She's a strong young woman, who eventually makes the decision that's best for her, despite opposition.

It was interesting watching Daniel move from a guy who treats relationships lightly to one who genuinely cares about his friends and the girl in his life. It was also touching to see his concern over his mother as he tried to figure out what was going on with her. Although confident, Daniel has his own insecurities which makes him less than perfect.

Relatively Honest also does a great job of demonstrating that making good decisions involves hard work. Then there's the matter of determining sexual preferences and coming to a deeper understanding of who we are as individuals.

I had plenty of anxiety that came from seeing how things would work out for Daniel. I also had anxious moments over what would happen when Julie found out about his secret.

COVER NOTE: The models on the cover hint strongly at the fact that the book is targeted at young people, which works well for the story.

OVERALL COMMENTS: I haven't read a lot of fiction about people at college age and wondered how serious people at this age can be about each other. Relatively Honest helped to convince me that the younger set can, and do, feel deeply when they find someone they genuinely care about. I've read other books from Ms. Ringle and look forward to reading more from her.

Buttons says

I had really low expectations when I began reading this book and I am really happy that I read it nonetheless!!!

It is a very sweet love story that takes place over the period of a year. It is about family, love, friendship and ethics, as well as secretiveness. You don't drown in drama or have to read about annoying and idiotic lovers (I feared both), it is a lovely story which makes you think about your ideals.

Daniel had several girlfriends and knows his way with girls, but no relationship lasted longer than a month and he never loved any of those girls. When he moves to America with his parents he encounters Julie. As soon as he meets her, she is his new goal. She is beautiful, doesn't fall for his charm and is in a serious

relationship. Luckily they are not only freshmen at the same college, they even live in the same dorm! They become friends and spend a lot of time together as a group with their roommates. Their friendship deepens and so do his feelings for her. But then he encounters that she is actually his cousin and his mother is searching for her family for a reunion... How can he give up on her now that he is in love! How will she react if she learns the truth? What is he supposed to do?

Roksana says

DNF @ 63%

Proceed with caution/contains spoilers*****

It took me a very long time to digest this book, and after coming back to it I know now why I couldn't finish it....

For starters, the main leads are not likeable and their friends followed the same category....

Let's proceed with the Hero. He's only 18 years old, but already earned himself a reputation of a player: "already kissed 50 girls, Fifteen at the heavy-snogging level, twelve at above-the-waist petting, nine at below-the-waist" (his words) YUCK..just thinking about "what sort of girls he put his tongue in makes me puke, and the heroine said "impressive? Are you kidding me? What about STD?...then we have to hear his "adventure" at the age of 12 with some girl who invited him to her house for a snogging session with kisses..ARE YOU JOKING ME? AT 12 YEARS OLD? DO I WANT TO HEAR IT? That sounds like "paedophilia."

Secondly, upon arriving at American University, he met the heroine and felt immediate attraction..it did not stop him from taking "an opportunity" to kiss another girl and sneak out into her room because she was feeling lonely...yeah, they did not have sex, but kissed and I was already "in a dislike him mood" after that." In fairness, the heroine had a boyfriend, but, all this plot was wrong and hypocritical! Not only the Hero is a biggest player and was somewhat intimate with another girl and not the heroine when she was already in the picture, that very heroine has a boyfriend and was no better than the Hero himself! She was giving him mixed signals, like she was interested and another time she was not...she accused the Hero being a big player, but what was she doing herself? She was a big hypocrite! Was she not cheating on her boyfriend? Because as sure as hell it looked that to me...then, one of the Heroes roommate friends who also had a girlfriend who happened to be the heroine's roommate kissed the heroine and she let him? Double cheating? I just could not have any liability towards her..she had a boyfriend, but she was leading the Hero and then cheated on the Hero with his friend? And that friend also had a girlfriend, but cheated on her with the heroine? And don't make me started on the confession of the heroine on the "whole open relationship" with her boyfriend....REALLY? What a caricature characters...all of them were shallow and uninspiring....I just could not continue with this joke of a romance!

Liliana Saquicela says

[(Read Forbidden and this book won't seem so shoc

