



A Girl Like Lilac

Victoria L. James

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The first time Toby Hunter got arrested for defending Lilac Clarke's honour, he was only fifteen years old, but he'd loved her from behind his black-rimmed glasses for as long as he could remember.

With a desperate need to protect her from a distance, one arrest turned to two, two soon turning into three, and before Toby knew what was happening, the sleepy village of Southwold was turning against him for daring to stand up for a girl like Lilac.

Beautiful Lilac with her flowers in her hair, her camera in her hands, and her sweet, pink, sugary-lipped kisses.

They could hate him for loving her all they wanted. Toby was a boy who did what was right, not what was easy, and he was always going to grow to be the man willing to give her what she deserved.

Even if that meant losing Lilac forever.

A Girl Like Lilac Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Victoria L. James

Format :

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review A Girl Like Lilac for online ebook

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

MY REVIEW can also be found on my blog:
KITTY KATS CRAZY ABOUT BOOKS

A GIRL LIKE LILAC: Is a full length New Adult Romance by new to me Author Victoria L. James. In this we meet Lilac Clarke & Toby Hunter.

UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07F1WTKGJ>

USA: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07F1WTKGJ>

I don't even know where to start with this review. Straight away I was astounded by the feels that started hitting me even as soon as I read the 'Prologue' when we're first introduced to a seven year old free spirited Lilac as she masters her first attempt at capturing still life photos in her back yard and that was the day she fell in love with what she held within her hands.

That's the same day that Toby, the shy boy with the too big black glasses first started watching Lilac outside of his window, his family were the new comers to the neighbourhood. Their houses sat side by side.

They never really spent a lot of time with each other but they were always aware of the other. They were as different as chalk and cheese.

It's not until they reach their teens and are attending the same party held by a cops son was where Toby stepped up and protected Lilac's honour is the starting point of where things started to spiral down a dark unrelenting tunnel of teenage angst. From this point onwards everything changes.

Gone was that gentle, shy, the brave soft boy and in it's place was a boy protecting his princess. A boy with a target on his back.

Lilac's and Hunter's journey was sad, heartbreaking, romantic, sweet and steamy. My heart broke into smithereens for the things these two had to endure, but in the end true love prevailed.

BEST BOOK OF JULY!! God I freaking loved this, this was a fast burn, it scolded me as soon as I started reading it, I fell in love with this book as soon as I opened up that first page and that feeling was with me the whole time, seconds, minutes, hours ceased to exist, I didn't want to leave this magical love story that this author had created, I can not believe that I've not read anything by this author before..Why did someone not kick my rock or something!!

The feels came at me like thunder, crashing into my heart from out of nowhere, this book was truly un-put-downable.

There's nothing I didn't love about it, the pace, the cover, even how this author has formatted the ebook is gorgeous, her words especially were magical, she had me eating out of the palm of her hand, I loved these two characters, no words can really convey how much I actually loved this...

KAS says

A Haunted, Heroic, Heartthrob!!!

Wow, folks! My first read by this author and I am pure blown away.

Talk about riveting! Talk about unexpected! Talk about confessions that will have you tearing up!

? *Seventeen years old, and I was dating a boy I liked a lot, wishing for a boy I loved more.*

Let me introduce you to two beautiful souls whose love for each other is fathomless, yet circumstances get in the way time and time again keeping them apart ...

Lilac ... the girl other girls love to hate, but who all the boys want to date.

Toby ... the boy who feels unworthy of Lilac, but is her ultimate protector, no matter what the cost.

? ... *"I could destroy any guy who tries to get near you."*

? *"Don't even joke about it, Toby" ...*

?... *"Why not?"*

? *"Because. I'm not worth that kind of trouble."*

? *"You're worth a war, Lilac."*

Mercy sakes!! Toby's devotion to Lilac about gutted me. What he goes through for her is astonishing and selfless.

A lot of 'wrongs' happened in the small town Lilac and Toby grew up in. Wrongs of the past and present needing to be atoned for, needing to be 'righted.' Through no fault of their own, Lilac and Toby are caught in the middle of all the wrongs and are instantly forced to make a decision which will change their lives forever ...

? **Should I do what's right?**

? **or**

? **Should I do what's easy?**

I urge you to find out for yourselves what decision was made and the impact it had from that moment forward.

Want to feel? Want to gasp? Want to swoon?

This is a heart pounding, page turner of a romance. It is a love story of sacrifice and hope; trust and resolute determination.

Trigger warning - (view spoiler)

Shelby (Book Lovers Have More Fun) says

A Girl Like Lilac was everything I knew it would be and **MORE**. I'm so happy that **THIS** book was my first Victoria L James read.

AGLL was the kind of YA I wish there were more of. The story was filled with so much **REALNESS**. From the story to the characters. I can't tell you how much I **LOVED** Lilac and Toby. Their love was the kind that had me swooning and caused heart palpitations.

A Girl Like Lilac has become one of my **FAVORITE** books of the **YEAR**. Even though this was my first book by this author, it's no way the last.

Leanne says

VLJ has done the impossible and left me speechless.

I'm brain dead.

Flabbergasted.

Discombobulated.

This is such an emotional, heartfelt read. It's powerful, angsty, raw. Its written in such a way that you feel like part of the story rather than a person looking in. You feel the pain, you cry the tears, your heart skips the beat.

Young hearts, drawn together like a moth to a flame. But they are so easily burnt if they get too close, so easily broken in their fragile state.

My words won't ever do this book justice.

But here are three that might help...Beautiful, memorable, perfect.

L.J. Stock says

Victoria L. James has a gift when it comes to words. It doesn't take many of them to coax you in, but once

you start, you're hooked.

A Girl Like Lilac is no exception to this. From the first word to the last I was besotted. As much as this is a story of young love, it's also a story about life, the hard hits, the quiet moments, the stolen moments, and the struggles that we take for granted.

Written beautifully, Lilac and Toby are just one of the highlights of Victoria's writing. They're human, and they're flawed, and they make mistakes that have you yelling at the page and threatening bodily harm. They're not the only ones either. Victoria's innate talent for immersing you in her world means that even the smallest of characters pull you in, hold you hostage and drag emotional reactions from you.

What does this mean? Well, it means A Girl Like Lilac packs an emotional punch – several of them – as you traverse the landscape of sleepy sea town of Southwold. There were moments when I gasped, wept, laughed aloud, and cursed the words – and characters – as I read them. Lilac has so much heart and soul, that blood pounds through the story's veins and becomes a driving force and I just couldn't put it down for long. When I did, I was constantly recalled by the drive to discover the what path we were going to travel next.

Victoria L. James can weave a plot so intricately, just when you think you have everything figured out, she smacks you upside the head with something you didn't consider, let alone see coming. She's never brutal with it though, her words push their way into your heart and consume you, instinctively narrating a love story with every ounce of happiness, every stab of pain, and still manage to keep us turning the page.

Keep an eye out for this novel. You're not going to want to miss A Girl Like Lilac. I'm damn glad I didn't.

Dri ☆ says

★ 6+++++ stars!!! ★

I don't know how to explain... how to put into words how much I loved this wonderful book. How much these lovely and unforgettable characters warmed my heart from start to finish. What an emotional, incredible and well written story! A must read for sure! This book has become one of my favorites of the year and Toby's the best book boyfriend ever! **ALL THE FEELS!!!**

“I wanted to look at the world through her eyes and see the magic that she once told me to go out and hunt down, but I knew in my heart that I could never do things or see things the same way as her. We were two different people with two different lives, occasionally drifting off course into each other's paths until the world dragged us both back in line and made us smile at each other from afar.”

Lilac Clarke me encantou completamente desde o prólogo com a sua personalidade. Foi cativante ver o seu otimismo e a maneira como ela enxergava o mundo e as pessoas. Personagem única, iluminada e adorável e que no decorrer da história se mostrou leal, forte e lutou por aquilo que acreditava e sentia, ganhando ainda mais o meu respeito e admiração! Amei demais essa mocinha!

“I like it. Makes you look... mature. And no glasses?” she asked me, pointing out the obvious that I wasn’t wearing them that day.

“I don’t need them all the time.”

“Then why do you always wear them?”

I looked down at the floor and cleared my throat before I looked back up at her. “They give me something to hide behind.”

Toby Hunter o garoto tímido da casa ao lado... Que se revelou um grande protetor, leal e destemido quando o assunto era a Lilac. Sou só suspiros... só tenho elogios e mais elogios pra ele. O MELHOR book boyfriend! Meu coração ficou apertadinho pelas situações que ele enfrentou. Pelo o peso e até mesmo a responsabilidade que carregava nos ombros por aqueles que precisavam dele. Conforme eu avançava na história, meu respeito, minha adoração e amor só se fez maior. Meu Deus, como eu amei profundamente esse personagem!

“We were beautiful and tragic all at once, and I couldn’t get enough.”

O desenvolvimento da relação entre Lilac e Toby durante os anos foi convincente, verdadeiro e real. Eu amei acompanhar cada passo, cada sentimento e descoberta. Aqueceu meu coração o amor puro e verdadeiro que havia entre os dois. Quis em diversos momentos guardá-los em um potinho para protegê-los do mal que os rodeava. Torci, suspirei e me emocionei com a jornada desse casal, meu coração se quebrou por tudo o que enfrentaram, todas as dores que passaram... Como também transbordou de felicidade e amor ao vê-los juntos.

“Don’t make me out to be a hero. I was just a kid in the right place at the right time.”

“All superheroes start out as ordinary people. They just feel better saving others than they do saving themselves.”

Me apaixonei pela escrita da autora, primeiro livro que leio dela e com certeza não será o último. A forma brilhante como ela desenvolveu e narrou essa história foi incrível. A delicadeza e sensibilidade com a construção dos personagens me fascinou. Não queria que esse livro chegasse ao fim, não queria me despedir de Toby & Lilac...

“I gave him an escape and a way out of his misery. I gave him my love, my body, my heart. I gave him happiness. He told me so. He kissed it to me as I broke through his pain.”

Há tempos não me senti tão profundamente ligada a um livro por completo. Principalmente porque não sou muito fã dessa transição entre infância-adolescência-fase adulta, do primeiro amor e tudo o que envolve essa fase da vida... Minhas leituras passadas com esse tipo de enredo não foram tão agradáveis e prazerosas. E justamente por esse motivo, tenho que admitir que depois de ler esse livro, minha opinião ficou um pouco

abalada e creio que não ficarei tão receosa no futuro ao escolher uma leitura nessa linha.

“Because in his arms I was strong even when I was weak. I was safe even when I was vulnerable. In his arms, I was home, and the world was impossibly bright, even as the sun began to set behind us.”

Por isso eu só tenho que agradecer imensamente a autora por me proporcionar uma experiência pra lá de maravilhosa, pois essa história tocou meu coração de uma maneira que não sei explicar ou colocar em palavras... Amei TUDO, TUDO, TUDO!!! ♥♥

FAVORITE QUOTES:

“A young girl once told me to hunt for magic. I guess I found it in her. Now I'd do anything to protect it.”

**“You shouldn't be so good with words at your age.”
“I'm not good with words, Lilac. I'm just good with you.”**

Robin Hill says

I put *Lilac* on my TBR the minute I saw the beautiful cover. I didn't even bother reading the blurb. Unfortunately, my TBR is a black hole of books that I don't pull from often—not with all the new shinsy tempting me...

This year, I'm participating in a pretty ambitious reading challenge, and it's forcing me to delve into the depths of said black hole. I chose *A Girl Like Lilac* based on its title because I needed a book with a color in the name.

YA (a genre I struggle with) was another category I needed to complete, and I'd picked a YA that ended up being too YA for me. I swapped that book for *Lilac* without realizing that it's YA too. But I decided to go for it and fell in love immediately. I found it very hard to put down, which was a problem considering how busy I've been.

Genre notwithstanding, *A Girl Like Lilac* is the perfect romance for me: a dreamy AF hero, a heroine who discovers her own strength, supportive side characters, a beautiful setting, and real-life drama that—especially in teen-based fiction—is refreshing. I loved the angst, the swoon, and the epilogue perfection, and I cannot wait to read more by Ms. James.

Now that I have my YA book checked off, can anyone recommend one with a color in the title? ?

Kiki says

Alex need to read it first!

Saunders says

I have always loved Victoria L James's writing. Its flawless and I know when I read one of her books I am going to love it.

A Girl Like Lilac is a New Adult story that takes us on a journey of life, young love, despair. It has twists and turns and heartache for a number of the characters till they find "their magic". I read A Girl Like Lilac in one sitting. I couldn't put it down til I got to the end.

Go into it blind because VLJ has an amazing story to tell.

"The only fairy tale to exist is a fairy tale. It's meant to be a tragedy, a romance an a comedy you survive, thrive and remember. Accept the hard times, Appreciate the good and never stop the simple things like love, breathing and being"

I loved Toby and Lilac's journey. Even the hard bits.

A recommended read for all my book buddies.

cupcakes and bookshelves says

A Beautiful, heartfelt story. A rollercoaster ride of emotions and twists, I was drawn in right from the start and was immediately invested in the characters and their struggles. A book full of feels and experiences that any reader can relate to one point or another. This is an absolute must read and I urge you to take a chance on Lilac and Toby's journey together.

4.5 Stars.

ARC kindly given in exchange for an honest review, thank you so much

Jan says

A girl like Lilac. A beautiful coming of age story and second chance romance that is raw, with tragic moments, heartwarming, bittersweet and written in a way I am beginning to love about this author.

Victoria L James has the words and lays them down with precision. The flow is like being on a boat, setting off on calm waters then you feel every storm and wave that passes until you reach the calm

again.

I loved Lilac and Toby's journey. A girl like Lilac is the sort of book you oooh and awe over and feel the ups and downs along with the characters.

Toby knew he loved Lilac at the age of seven, since he first saw her rolling in the grass, strawberry blonde hair in a tangled mess, horrible green socks and blue shoes, nothing matched but she made it seem like everything she was wearing was made for her. Toby's neighbour fascinated him, he gravitated to her as she did with him.

" She was like a ball of light in a dull grey world"

This is a beautiful story of a friendship that grows into love, with life tragedies along the way that rock their world.

"I'm not worth that kind of trouble"

"You're worth a war Lilac"

Friendships, bullies, and adolescence, first kisses, first dances, first intimate moments the whole journey was bliss.

"My body already knew her body. My hands already knew her skin. My tongue already knew her taste. Everything was instinctual like we had done this a thousand times before."

"We were beautiful and tragic all at once and I couldn't get enough"

Another book by this author I couldn't put down and a memorable journey.

Told in first person dual pov and leads to a hea. A standalone. Available in KU.

NOW LIVE!

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Arc gratefully received for review purposes

<http://www.bbbf-sizzlereads-bestbookb...>

Jen~KU Book Reviews says

My heart hurts. Damn, what an emotional journey. Victoria L. James delivered a story that put me through the ringer, but in a good way.

A Girl Like Lilac begins with Lilac and Toby who live next to each other. She's the girl with the magical smile along with a love for life that Toby is drawn to. Toby doesn't have it easy, but the moments he shares with Lilac fill his life with color and sunshine.

What starts off as friendship soon turns to young love—the all consuming kind where you feel as though it will burst and your love becomes the life you breathe.

I couldn't put it down. I cried, I felt their pain and heartache.

The writing is pure brilliance, and you will FEEL every emotion. It's worth every tear, every ounce of pain twisting in your stomach as you travel along with Toby and Lilac as they navigate their way through life.

Victoria L. James is an incredible storyteller. Her writing is top notch—beautiful and poetic. A must-read author for me and A Girl Like Lilac captured my heart and it's a story that I won't forget.

LOVED IT!! What a beautiful, emotional story!! Review to come later today after I've gathered my thoughts!! Victoria L. James, my heart ???!!!

Sophie "Beware Of The Reader" says

Thank you to Michelle Chen for recommending this book and for agreeing to buddy read it with me!

4,5 “protector” stars

I had never read any book by Victoria L James before. But when Michelle recommended this one to me I was intrigued. One peek at the blurb and one look at the gorgeous cover and I was frantically ordering the paperback!

What can I say pretty covers just lure me out every single time.

When I opened the book to buddy read with Michelle, it was on a scene with a young Lilac holding her first camera thanks to her aunt Coral. She must have been around seven and when she worried she could break it her aunt gave her this wonderful advice: *“Less worrying, more living.”*

It sets the tone of Lilac's childhood where:

“Everything my family did and said was pure ice cream flavoured love with hundreds of sprinkles on top to make every occasion even better than it really was.”

I loved reading these lines. There was a quiet poetry reading this with sunny Lilac, wearing bright colors and ginger hair.

No wonder she fascinated shy Toby her neighbor.

For as much as Lilac's family was vibrant and joyful, you could feel Toby's family shrouded in shadows and sadness. Lilac was Toby's light.

When they officially meet at school it went like this:

"Lilac Clarke" she whispered from the corner of her mouth.

"Toby Hunter."

"Are you?" she whispered.

"Am I what?"

"A hunter?" Lilac's eyes went wide, and her lips parted as she stared at me in wonder.

(...)

"No."

"Have you ever tried to be?"

I shook my head.

"Why not?" she scowled.

"What would I hunt?"

"Magic"

Bam! I was sold to the book. Sweetness wrapped up in a cute little red bow.

Why? Well if you needed yet another reason than the poetic writing I would say that this book is about one of my favorite tropes: **childhood sweethearts.**

Shy little Toby, seven years, hiding behind his glasses is mesmerized by bouncy, pretty and dreamy Lilac.

These first lines and first chapters with Toby being hypnotized by the cute little girl are one of the sweetest lines I've ever read. I was all swooning and doe eyes. Young innocent love blossoming under my watch.

Toby will observe Lilac.

Always. From a distance for many years. They will talk from time to time and the connection between these two was already undeniable.

He will vow to protect her. Keep her light intact. She is too brilliant to be snuffed out.

He was a teenager the first time he had to come into action. Saving her from something that could have turned nasty. Being arrested for . And going to the police station willingly. He would do it again, in a heartbeat. Because it's Lilac.

Countless times Toby will defend Lilac, lay his life and body for Lilac's safety.

This is the third reason why I loved this book so much: I melt like a puddle of goo for protective heroes. Toby is not an alpha in every day life but for Lilac he becomes a knight in shining armor.

His dedication, his love was admirable and deeply touching.

“Why do you care so much?” “A young girl told me once to hunt for magic. I guess I found it in her. Now I'd do anything to protect it.”

Of course if Toby has to protect Lilac you must have villains she needs protecting from.

Mrs James portrayed “classic” villains: the son of the police chief, full of himself and determined to have Lilac or make her pay. An unexpected friend turned villain and I won't give any spoiler just that when he made his move I was really mad at him! I was all “traitor”! “Coward!” ...

The small town will take sides and be fooled who the good guy is.

But Lilac will never let Toby down. Even when he'll try to protect her from himself, to set her free because he loves her so much she'll never waver. And that's another thing I deeply loved about this book because I can't stand “high angst” books with people tearing each other, denying what they really want, with back and forth etc. Thank God Mrs James spared me here.

To sum it up I loved:

- the childhood sweetheart trope;
- the poetic and effortlessly flowing writing;
- the drama but not overtly high angst;
- the family stories and secrets this small town hid;
- the love story;

And

I can't resist to conclude this review with a confession.

This is how I pictured Toby all along!

As a young teenager:

And as a young man

And when he protected Lilac

Sorry but even Amy Adams playing Lois Lane in Henry Cavill's arms is a redhead!

I don't know if Mrs James planned all this but I read clues about my favorite superhero in the whole book!!!!

Let me explain my reasoning...

Toby has blue, blue eyes, dark hair and dark rimmed glasses (like Superman).

His first name Toby made me think of Tobey Maguire (and yes I know he played Spiderman and not Superman but he was a super hero!)

Lilac's name is Clarke (as in Clark Kent, Superman alias)

Toby's father is named Wayne (it reminded me of Bruce Wayne from Batman)

Toby was a level headed and cool guy except when someone threatened his precious Lilac. He became all Hulk on the villain. She was his kryptonite.

As stated above Lilac was a ginger like Amy Adams who played Lois Lane.

Now do you get all the "super heroes" references?

No? Oh well that's me then.

Recommend this book? Oh yes!

Have you read books by Victoria L James?

Thanks for reading!

Sophie

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Lisa Jayne says

I can happily review with absolute certainty that this author writes with beauty and confidence - her words show depth and courage and more than that they show that she was born to create. When I was given the opportunity to have an early copy of this authors latest work I was over the moon and with a cover as beautiful as this one and a blurb to match I was already excited for what was to come.

What did I love?

There was so much to love about this coming of age novel and so much to enjoy. It's evident from chapter to chapter how much work, effort thought was put into this book. One of the things I love most about this authors work is the originality of story telling and the obvious care that is taken by the author to produce something special. I loved the flow and pace of the story telling and there was always something new and exciting to discover chapter to chapter. The characters kept me glued to their development and the author gave me enough ground to make me invested in their story. All in all a fantastic time spent with characters that were hard not to fall in love with.

Why not five?

Don't get me wrong here, or misunderstood my love for this authors beautiful writing. Ultimately I fell in love with this authors talent but not necessarily the story that was presented. This is purely personal taste, I know I'm not wired to fall easily in love with a story that is tinged with grief and hardship. Does that make the author at fault? Absolutely not. But similarly I can't move away from the fact that the beautifully written heaviness of this novel didn't win me over like it should have. I know this book will have that wow factor for almost all of its lucky readers and whilst i was once again impressed by the work of Victoria L James I was held back by falling completely under her spell.

Final thoughts ...

If you like a mildly angst filled, coming of age story with plenty to keep you interested then you will most probably adore this heart tugging young adult romance. I can not recommend this author more, her words are golden and it would be a shame for fellow readers to miss out. What are you waiting for? One click and enjoy ... kisses.

Jan says

*** 2.5 Stars ***

I've read this in my short trip back home a few days ago. Gonna do a lazy copy and paste of a chat I had with a friend about it:

An easy read, a bit unrealistic. Lilac was perfect, too perfect and boring. I like flawed characters. The part where Toby's mom was forced to spill her guts out was a massive let down. I don't believe a mother would be that insensitive. She could have done that without the dirty and painful details. He didn't deserve that. No one deserves that! I am all for the true but... Then, there was the bullies (father and son) The father went MIA and the other had a change of heart that didn't convince me :(Loads of good reviews around, you might ignore my ramblings.
