


The Secret Shopper's Revenge

Kate Harrison

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New mum Emily wants revenge on the stick-thin assistants who laugh at her post-baby tummy and post-baby budget. But frumpiness has its advantages when you're wielding a secret camera - and sending the damning footage straight to head office. Store manager Sandie has a lifelong love of the world of retail - the glitz, the glamour, the stockroom. Then she's fitted up by an ambitious assistant and secret shopping is the only way to keep her one passion alive. Glamorous widow Grazia can't leave behind the high life, despite her chronically low bank balance. The more she's buying - and spying - the less time she has to mourn her husband or her fair-weather friends who've dumped her. They're Charlie's Shopping Angels, controlled by a mysterious figure who sends them assignments. But when they're sent to stitch up a doomed shop owned by Will, the angels begin to feel divided loyalties.

The Secret Shopper's Revenge Details

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Author : Kate Harrison

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From Reader Review The Secret Shopper's Revenge for online ebook

Annabel Krantz says

I am not one of those people who looks down on chick lit as low-brow, second rate literature. I recognise that an easy read about women who face the same dramas as many of us do in everyday life can be relaxing after a hard day at the office, when picking up a 400-page book about a Russian espionage scandal seems a little too hard.

This book (and the two sequels, 'Secret Shopper Unwrapped' and 'Secret Shopper Affair') is a perfect example of chick lit. Kate Harrison, once a former secret shopper herself, writes about her three 'angels' as they each find themselves at a new stage in their lives. Emily is recently divorced with a toddler, Sandie has been falsely accused of theft and forced to leave her dream job, and Grazia is mourning the death of her famous husband. Each is looking for a new direction, a new dream, and they find them together in stores across London.

As they get into the swing of secret shopping, the very different women become friends and slowly begin to overcome their problems.

While this book isn't vastly different to the basic structure of any chick lit book, the characters are so well written that you can easily identify with them, and cheer them on. Also, each character is very different, allowing different readers to identify with their different personalities. There's enough detail for the books to be page-turners, but not so much that you're constantly flipping back through the book to remind yourself what has happened.

I would definitely recommend this book to women out there who are looking for a fun, easy read - and to those who love to shop. If you love 'Annie Valentine', you'll love 'Secret Shopper'!

Claire Hill says

What a fab book lived it from the first page , it a great girly read and can't wait for the next one.

Leah says

Kate Harrison isn't a new author for me, I've previously attempted to read a few of her other novels, but I've never managed to get past the first chapters, not for any particular reason, just because I always put them down and picked up something else. However I've had The Secret Shopper's Revenge sitting on my shelf for quite a while now and, for lack of anything else to read, I decided to give it a whirl particularly since the third book in the series is out next month. I'm so pleased I read the book as it was a total pleasure and I've clearly been missing out by not reading any of Kate's books to the end.

I absolutely love the plot for *The Secret Shopper's Revenge*, it's a totally wonderful plot and I'd love more than anything to become one of Charlie's Shopping Angels. I'm sure everybody in their life has had to put up with a snobby or persistent shop assistant and getting to get revenge on them would be a dream come true for me. I loved going on the assignments with Emily, Sandie and Grazia, but that isn't all the book is about because the girls have troubles to deal with. Emily's dealing with becoming a single mother to Freddie, her son and keeping the fact she's split with her husband Duncan from her parents. Sandie's desperate to clear her name after getting sacked from her job and the glorious Grazia is dealing with debts up to her eyeballs after her husband's death.

The girls aren't alike at all, but working for Charlie forges a bond between them which does eventually lead to a friendship of sorts. Because the book is told in first person, switching from Emily to Grazie to Sandie, we manage to get to know each girl fully. I was a bit worried how Kate Harrison would pull that off, making each girl's voice distinctive but she's managed it well and I felt like I knew each of them personally. All three characters had likeable points, and I was surprised by how differently I liked them. Strangely enough I felt an affinity most with Emily, she spoke to me most I would say and I wanted her to tell Duncan to just get lost. Sandie is very tough, very independent but she has a vulnerable side, too, and I liked her very much. As for Grazia, she portrays herself as a bit of a black widow, and I must admit it did take me a while to warm to her properly, but turns out the black widow act was just a front. But the character I loved most was young Fredster, Emily's son, he doesn't speak much but I fell in love with him.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *The Secret Shopper's Revenge*, as well as there being some wonderful revenge on deserving people and introducing us to some wonderful characters, there was also some romance, too! The even better thing about the book is that the book reads easily as a standalone, with no horrible cliff-hanger despite there being a sequel out (and a third book on the way). However, I am still looking forward to reading *The Secret Shopper Unwrapped* (and *The Secret Shopper Affair*), as there's so much more we can learn about our three angels. I also seriously hope that Charlie is unmasked, despite liking the secrecy, I also would very much like to know who he is. Just for curiosity's sake. I would definitely recommend the book to all, it's a brilliant concept for a novel and makes a change from all the hairdresser's/PA's/nanny's we see in Chick Lit (not that I am complaining, I love hairdresser's/PA's/nanny's) and I thought it was executed brilliantly.

Rachel Shaw says

My partner bought me this book from our local charity shop as it had Shoppers in the title and he knew i read a series of books with shopping in the title (sophie Kinsella) and the covers were similar.

I really enjoyed reading this book i laughed out loud quite a lot and couldn't put the book down. I thought the books ending was predictable but it wouldn't be a chick book if not. All in all a great read that i would tell other people to give it a go.

Lindsay says

I don't normally do chick flicks. However, I have read one of Kate Harrison's books before and this one was just as good. (Think it did me good to get away from the fantasy and crime I usually read!)

I enjoyed that the story came from 3 angles. 3 women who all had different stories who ended up together supporting each other through their issues. There were some funny moments and needless to say the ending was happy. ?

Siddhi Palande says

I don't know what's with me and the obsession with novels pertaining to shopping. It comes across as a gender trait perhaps. Nonetheless, I picked the book from Bookchor, an online portal to buy used books. I haven't read the works of Kate Harrison before and I don't remember reading books from Orion publishers. I wasn't skeptical but rather too excited when I sat down to read this book. I was blown away by the cover, (splashed with pinks, blues and glitters) and the feel of the pages. As I began reading I was up for a revelation.

The story of the novel surrounds three broke girls - Emily, Sandie and Grazia. Their life has cheated on them and they need to avenge their pride. Each one is fighting her own battle and destiny brings them together. They become the shopping angels and that's the turning point of their lives. Not only does secret shopping bring them opportunities to shop in the uppity malls of London but it also helps them achieve the other goals in life.

Secret shopping hasn't been a new term for me. I have had interview calls to be a secret shopper but the name didn't ring a bell when I bought the novel. As I went on reading I realized I was entering a whole new meaning of shopping here. The book is flawlessly woven. The characters are engaging, as is their storyline. You see a fine balance of characters there - Emily is a dreamer, Sandie is a hard worker and Grazia too practical. Their team brings in freshness, humor and fun. It rejuvenates you while you read, a spa for your mind, I say.

I need not scribble more about this novel because it is indeed read worthy. Pick up and test it. Go on.

Publisher: Orion Books

Available: Amazon, Flipkart, Bookchor

On the scale of readability I rate it 8 on 10.

I give 4 out of 5 stars.

If you have read this one, do let me know your reviews in the comments below.

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Angela Joyce says

Cute and creative, but since when is a British size 14 "chubby"? I hope this doesn't hurt any readers who might be former anorexics and just getting OK with their healthier weight... you know?

Shona says

Having worked in a supermarket and been subjected to mystery shoppers before I thought why not read this book and see what it would be like to be a mystery shopper.

The story features around three women. Emily a new mother who joins the secret shoppers to allow her to stay in London instead of returning to the country to be the country bumpkin she ran away from. There is also Sandie. Someone who was sacked from her dream job and who had to get a job to survive, and Grazia the woman who recruits Emily and Sandie. She is living in London a widow of a famous artist who has left her with thousands of pounds of debts.

The book takes us through the friendship that is built between the three women as they take on their jobs and help survive their lives.

London is sometimes not the glittering world that it is set out to be, but with friends surviving this city can sometimes be made that little bit easier, especially when revenge is sweet.
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Readingee says

I hate to be such a bummer at the start of a new year, but I found this book really average. This was sort of the first time I decided to venture into the "Adult Fiction" section of my library, and I have to say I am kind of disappointed.

For me, I thought the plot was really creative, and it had a lot of potential, but I think it could've been fleshed out a little but more! I have to say, from the beginning to the middle I was intrigued by the plot line, Harrison played around with some good ideas, and I particularly enjoyed when readers found out Sandie, who served Emily in the store, was also part of the secret shoppers.

It was towards the end where the novel lost me a bit, abruptly switching between character perspectives, appeared jagged, and I felt sometimes the concept of continuity lacked. The little showdown between Duncan and Will seemed a bit unnecessary and a bit rushed...

The ending was sweet, and concluded the novel well. Overall, I wish I started the year with a better novel, but I hope this simply leaves room for bigger and better novels!

Cora Tea Party Princess says

This was a very satisfying, easy to read chick-lit.

The story flowed very well and the characters were passionate and relatable.

Secret Shopping was a fun thing to about and I'm sure I'll now inspect and judge shops (and the staff) differently from now on.

The best part of this book was the end, even if I think it's a shame that the three women are no longer working together. It all wrapped up pretty well and I even gave a little cheer for Emily at the end.

Emily was my favourite character to read, which is just as well as she seemed to be featured more than the others. She developed more during the book too. There were times when I wanted to grab her by the shoulders and shake some sense into her, but thankfully that was resolved in the end too.

Carrie says

I can't help judging a book by its cover sometimes; the pretty pink and black cover of this book stood out in the library and tempted me to pick it up. It isn't any of the covers displayed here; if it had been I might never have read about Emily's, Grazia's and Sandie's tale of revenge.

I enjoyed the stories of all three women, although Emily's was my favourite, so I was glad that the novel was mainly about her story. The writing style was easy to read, enjoyable 'chick-lit' (I hate that term) although not as witty as Sophie Kinsella, the queen of the genre in my opinion. I see there is a sequel being published later this year, so I'll be looking out for it.

Stacey says

I feel like this book took me an absolute age to finish. But I got there in the end and I really enjoyed the overall storyline. Before I started this novel, I was in a bad book rut. Every book I picked up to start, I just couldn't get into for some reason. Then I would try again with a different book, and it will finish in the same way - I couldn't get into it! So, instead of reading the usual books I do (chick lit's set in cafes, countryside, living by the sea etc), I decided to read something a little different.

The Secret Shoppers Revenge by Kate Harrison is set in London and is about 3 completely different women. Emily has just had a baby and is struggling to keep a flat in order when her husband leaves her for another woman. Sandie has just been fired from her dream job and the events that follows her after this makes Sandie re-think about living in London. And Grazia (probably my favourite of the characters) has just lost her famous artist husband Leon and is still learning to live her own life now that her slightly controlling husband has gone.

I'll admit that I found this book to be a little slow in the beginning, but when the secret shopping started, I really got into it. I love all things beauty and fashion, so reading a book that is based around these two things was really refreshing for me and I'm so glad I gave it a go. It's different to what I usually read and even though some characters irritated me a little (Emily when she just can't. stop. listening. to. her. husband! I felt so sorry for Will when they were at the train station!), I really enjoyed it overall. It's quite a hefty book and once you get that initial slow start out of the way, you'll soon be whizzing through the pages.

There are a few twists and turns throughout the whole novel which made it really interesting and I was hooked nearer to the end of the book (especially regarding Grazia's storyline with her husband and his

paintings!!!). Overall, it wasn't my favourite novel ever but it did its job and it was a nice read. Would I rush to read something by this author again? Probably not but if I come across another novel of hers I would pick it up - you can never judge a book by its cover!

Nicole says

Enjoyed this book, and enjoyed how it was easy to get through. It was funny and interesting to read about the secret shopping, never really knew that much about it. The developing friendship between the three women was nice to read about - different women from different walks of life brought together by circumstance. Loved how umm what was her name, the girl who worked in the shop, was finally proven right. The mother's story I liked but found a bit too predictable. Would have preferred to see her turn into a fab woman who loves being single, however guess that's just me!

All in all an enjoyable and easy read.

Kim Roger says

This was a fun, light hearted read. I loved the idea of the secret shoppers and how they are like shopping angels trying to get good customer service praised and point out flaws with bad customer service.

I also loved how the three girls were all completely different from each other but worked so well together and became such good friends, especially Grazia who was a bit stubborn and not quite as friendly to begin. I love how honest she always was though!

Didn't realise when I started this that there's 2 other books. Not sure if I will read them or not but will add them to my list and see.

Sofie says

Het duurde wat lang voor ik echt in het verhaal zat en meevoelde maar eens het zover was was het zeker de moeite!! Toch een aanrader.
