



# Star Struck

*Jane Lovering*

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## **Star Struck** Jane Lovering

Our memories define us – don't they?

And Skye Threppel lost most of hers in a car crash that stole the lives of her best friend and fiancé. It's left scars, inside and out, which have destroyed her career and her confidence.

Skye hopes a trip to the wide dusty landscapes of Nevada – and a TV convention offering the chance to meet the actor she idolises – will help her heal. But she bumps into mysterious sci-fi writer Jack Whitaker first. He's a handsome contradiction – cool and intense, with a wild past.

Jack has enough problems already. He isn't looking for a woman with self-esteem issues and a crush on one of his leading actors. Yet he's drawn to Skye.

An instant rapport soon becomes intense attraction, but Jack fears they can't have a future if Skye ever finds out about his past ...

Will their memories tear them apart, or can they build new ones together?

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Predominantly set in the Nevada desert, this is a novel which will have the readers crying with laughter!

## **Star Struck Details**

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Author : Jane Lovering

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Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Fiction, Contemporary

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## **From Reader Review Star Struck for online ebook**

### **Celia Lewis says**

#### **Oh my - what a story!**

Incredible interesting characters who make sense as they struggle with how they manage past painful experiences. Wow! This was such a satisfying story. Yorkshire meets Hollywood. Highly recommended!

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### **Robyn Koshel says**

From the first line, I thought – this is classic Jane Lovering. Her trademark wit leaps off the page and starts the book off with a smile.

Jack Whitaker is a jaded script writer who is dark, brooding, disobliging and a tiny bit curmudgeonly. He isn't your first pick for a Romantic hero. As Jane Lovering often extols the virtues of the Beta-male; I agree. Gethryn is the Alpha-male of the story, but he is so slick and full of himself- my money would be on Jack any day of the week.

Skye in many ways is like a blank page and since her accident, she has become a new person. Skye has a wicked crush on greasy Gethryn, and takes her time to figure out who she should be with.

Jack is such a contradictions- on the outside her is stern and enigmatic; but on the inside he is full of insecurities and doubt. That is Jack's appeal, he is cerebral, creative and very delicious.

Jack understands Skye- and they compliment each other like bookends. Their scars are both physical and emotional; and it is that combined empathy that draws them together. It is very touching how they deal with each other.

Underneath all the sarky comedy- there is a serious under current about loss and learning to forgive yourself. No one or nothing is as it seems- it is all about how you perceive things.

There is rather a few earth shattering twists towards the end that you will not see coming. I have to admit I was a bit shocked by them.

Star Struck is full of complex emotions. The genius of Jane Lovering is that one minute she can make you laugh and the next make you cry. This book is going on my list of favourite books of all times. I loved this book!

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### **Karen Whittard says**

We have all had a massive crush on a celebrity we all wish we could meet them and they would find us drop dead gorgeous. Skye is lucky enough for this to happen to her. She also has every other guy falling for her too. I quite liked this book. Most of the time lived all the characters. But sometimes u was like oh come on this never happens I. Real life. But it was an enjoyable read none the less

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### **Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says**

Originally posted at: <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.c...>

Skye needs this trip to America. She's been in hiding and mourning ever since a devastating accident that stole much of her memory, confidence, and two of the most important people in her life. But time has passed, and she needs to live again, to move on. So she ventures across the globe with her friend Felix to a convention. It's a chance to see a place she'd been wanting to go to for years, and to meet some famous people. There she meets mysterious Jack.

Jack's a writer, and he's got his own drama. He's a bit dark and unknown, which drew me to him in the first place. I knew instantly he had a past, and secrets. What were they? Well I had to read on to uncover them. He seems withdrawn, sometimes unfocused. But meeting Skye opened up a part of him he must not have had open for quite some time now. They don't hit it off immediately, but when they do...well, it goes up from there.

The beginning of the story started out slow. Not for a few chapters did the pace start picking up. I was interested enough in Skye's journey to keep reading. Her friend Felix is a riot. He's witty and smart mouthed, but he keeps Skye grounded and knows how to help her. He's been there for her since the accident. Sometimes the point of view switches are hard to catch on to, as Skye's is in the first person, but Jack's is third. I'm glad that I was able to read the story from both points of view, but the switch from first to third didn't always flow well.

All in all, I enjoyed the story. It had plenty of conflict and action. The characters are memorable and believable. If you enjoy contemporary romance with a splash of wit, then *Star Struck* might be what you're looking for.

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### **Blodeuedd Finland says**

This book is not straight out contemporary romance, instead as I wrote it's more romantic fiction. The feeling of the book is darker, there are a lot of issues and people struggle. The tone is this mix of serious and more.

Skye is really messed up. She is afraid of crowds and wants to stay inside. She was in a horrible accident which killed her fiancé and best friend and the trauma is still with her. Poor Skye, so broken, and not remembering one bit about her life before. I did like her, because she was nice, I felt her pain. I understood that she could not brave the real world. But she is not in that dark hole long because she will learn to cope in this book. Her friend is taking her to this convention for a sci-fi series. Oh yes Felix, her friend, I did not know what to make of him. He was so bossy and cheerful, but he is dealing with sadness too and we will learn more.

While in Nevada she meets Jack who helps her since she was scared during the car trip. Mysterious Jack, we got a lot of hints that he was hiding something and he sure was. Everyone is a bit broken in this book. Even Gethryn who is the sexy lead actor of the show, the guy Skye has been lusting after.

But I liked that, broken people, trying to move on, trying to move past it, to cope and to survive. Some hiding it better than the rest. It made it real and the romance, well no one is falling in love at once. Skye has to deal with herself before letting someone in. But yes there is a HEA, or the road to one. There is a romantic

feeling over the book after all.

Conclusion:

A different sort of romantic book. I really liked the setting since I am a nerd after all, good characters and excellent secrets.

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### **Amees says**

Good story, plenty of guilt from most people, a few secrets (some you can guess at, some not).

Well written, easy read.

Believable, real characters with good back stories.

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### **RLA says**

Not only does this book have a story centred around a Sci-fi TV show convention - something I am fascinated by - but it is also by Jane Lovering, who's last book I read I really enjoyed.

The story starts off very dark, and doesn't really change from there throughout, but the author still manages to inject some very honest and funny moments. There is something about her style that is very appealing - it flows naturally, is chock-full of dry humour, as well as very emotional.

Both the hero and heroine have stories that are deep and tragic, and their personalities are richly portrayed - I found myself equally frustrated and cheered by them. Their love-story weaved into an already full story feels real and beautiful.

Jane Lovering isn't afraid to write about some of the more unpleasant aspects of life, but does it all with wit and aplomb that makes this book sparkle.

Hard hitting but it will also make you laugh, definitely worth a read.

Originally posted at <http://everyday-is-the-same.blogspot....>

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### **Samantha March says**

Skye Threppel was in a horrific car accident that took the lives of her fiancé and best friend, and left Skye without all her memory. Skye has more than physical scars to remind her of the accident – she has the internal ones that haunt her as well. The memories that have been lost, the confidence that was stolen, and a new life that she is trying to adjust to. Felix, her best friend's brother who is also still trying to deal with the accident and death of his sister, suggest the two of them head to Nevada where a TV convention is being held. Skye has the chance to meet her favorite actor, and possibly the trip could help the both of them move on. But once there, Skye meets sci-fi writer Jack Whitaker, and a possible romance blooms. But will Skye be able to overcome Jack's past? And when Skye is suddenly filled in on her own past and the way she was before the accident, everything changes.

As I was reading *Star Struck* by Jane Lovering, I didn't quite know what to think. I really liked Skye as a main character, I thought she was nice girl that went through something terrible and I thought she was brave and relatable on some level. Felix I wasn't quite sure what to make of. A raging sexpot ready to jump in bed with either man or woman, and sometimes I wasn't sure how good of a friend he was to Skye. The romance between Skye and Jack was pretty hot, but when the big plot twist came, I again just didn't know what to think. When Felix confronts Skye about her past, it's actually very dark and downright depressing. I was a little put off with Felix and the whole revelation, not sure which direction I was about to be taken in. But in the end, Lovering did a great job at pulling me back in, keeping the suspense up, and giving a proper resolution to all the characters. This book was a bit of a roller-coaster to me, but overall the story stuck with me and I would recommend.

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## **Rea Cobb says**

I have just finished *Star Struck* by Jane Lovering. This is the first book by Jane Lovering which I have read and also the first book published by Choc Lit and I have to say after reading this book I will definitely be keeping my eyes open for more books published by Choc-lit if this book is anything to go by. I also hope to now read some of Jane Lovering's other books.

### Plot

Our Memories define us don't they?

And Skye Threppel lost most of hers in a car crash that stole the lives of her best friend and fiancé. It's left scars inside and outside, which have destroyed her career and her confidence.

Skye hopes a trip to the wide dusty landscapes of Nevada- and a TV convention offering the chance to meet the actor she idolises- will help her heal. But she bumps into mysterious sci-fi Jack Whitaker first. He's a handsome contradiction- cool and intense, with a wild past.

Jack has enough problems already. He isn't looking for a woman with self-esteem issues and a crush on one of his leading actors. Yet he is drawn to Skye.

An instant rapport soon becomes intense attraction, but Jack fears they can't have a future if Skye ever finds out about his past.....

Will their memories tear them apart, or can they build new ones together?

### My Opinion

The day this book arrived on my doorstep I had mixed feelings. The cover was very eye catching and would defiantly be one that I would pick up in a store. I then read the Prologue as I do with all my books when they come through and after reading the Prologue I was a little hesitant about starting this book as it really didn't sound like my kind of read! The prologue instantly felt like I was reading some kind of Star Wars book which I do not enjoy (sorry to any Star Wars fans!)

There was no need to worry as straight from the off of the first chapter the book got off to a great pace and had my full attention. Although the story is based around the convention of *Fallen Skies* we are not bombarded by information about the actual series it is more to do with the actors and screen writer's personal lives that we see.

Our heroine in this book is Skye Threppel and Skye is very easy to read and we warm instantly to her from the first chapter. Having had an accident and losing her memory and confidence Skye doesn't leave the house if it can be helped. Her nervousness about leaving familiar and safe surroundings, and getting into awkward situations become clear with her panic attacks. It is all the little details like these that gives Skye's character a sense of vulnerability.

I loved the suspense we feel around Jacks character, there is a secret about himself he is hiding and Jane Lovering manages to keep this under wraps all the way to the end and it is this along with the great storyline which kept me gripped all the way through this book.

The ending to this book is wrapped up nicely without feeling, rushed but not leaving us on a cliff hanger. This is a must for your To Be Read piles. A great storyline with a mixture of interesting characters, and a splash of suspense thrown in to top it off. The recipe for a great book!

Review also on my book blog <http://reabookreview.blogspot.com>

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### **Rhoda Baxter says**

Having read (and loved) Please Don't Stop the Music, I decided to read some more of Jane Lovering's work and downloaded Star Struck.

Skye Threppel is an actress disfigured by a car accident. Not only did the accident take away her career, but it also took her best friend, her fiancé and huge chunks of her memory. Since then, the two main stays of her life are her best friend (and brother of her late friend) Felix and the TV series Fallen Skies. When Skye goes to a Fallen Skies convention hoping to meet her idols, it leads to a slow revealing of her past.

Jay Whitaker is a man with secrets. His scars are less obvious than Skye's, but no less disruptive. He has taken the emotional scars from his past and used it to power his writing. Meeting Skye he senses a connection that runs deeper than he ever expected.

Skye is flaky and drug addled for the first part of the book, but there is enough mystery to keep you reading until her valium wears off and her character starts to grow. Jay is dark and brooding. He has an annoying tendency to deliberately not tell people stuff – thereby making an easily solved problem a crisis. Eventually, Skye points this out to him and he blames the fact that he writes drawn out conflict for a living. I'm not sure that excuses it, but it's a neat get out.

Felix is a fantastically bonkers character – I loved him. There are a number of twists and turns in the plot where your feelings towards the characters swing from one extreme to the other. The characters are realistic and the setting is wonderfully evoked (Okay, I've never been to a Sci-Fi convention – but I can easily believe the setting in the book, which is what matters).

Overall I really enjoyed the book. Although... it's left me with a strange hankering to watch Firefly.

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### **Emily says**

3.5.

Enjoyed the book and it was easy to read. Particularly enjoyed the romantic interest. However, found the protagonist's short coming over the top/annoying/repetitive at times.  
Really easy, chick lit type novel.

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### **Shaz Goodwin says**

This is Jane Lovering's second Choc Lit novel (the first being 'Please Don't Stop the Music' published February 2011).

Our introduction to Star Struck is with a prologue on the set of sci-fi TV programme 'Fallen Skies'. The prologue ends with writer Jack berating himself in his thoughts for being a drunk and a waster.

The story begins as best friend Felix is playfully presenting tickets of the convention of television serial 'Fallen Skies' to Skye. Straight away we know that Skye is not in a good place psychologically or emotionally. We get to learn that she has been involved in a road traffic accident that has left her brain damaged with only fuzzy memories of her childhood and no memories of the year leading up to the accident. Everything she knows is from photographs and information Felix has told her.

Felix gets Skye to Nevada in the hotel where the convention is taking place and it is in this setting that we journey with Skye as she tries to push herself out of her comfort/safety zone and learn more about who she really is. I thought it was quite heart-rending watching the fear and confusion she feels.

As Skye and Jack spend more time together, we get to know that his emotions are blunted by something that has happened in the past and as the story builds, we get to know that Skye's past isn't all that she's been told it is.

I was wary of Felix from the beginning of the story. His mask slips quite often, which left me wondering what part he played in the past and what his role would be as we progressed further into the story.

There is also intrigue from the way the star of the TV show, Gethryn, interacts with Jack. My question I wanted answering was 'What had Jack done to Gethryn in the past to engender such strong feelings?' I had to keep reading to find out!

The bond between Skye and Jack is there from the very beginning. The way Skye and Jack's relationship shimmers and builds was quite entrancing. I loved all the introspection! This relationship felt innocent while at the same time sizzling! Not an easy feat to achieve.

I really enjoyed the figurative language that author Jane Lovering uses ie; sometimes the shadow cast by what had gone before hung long and low over his life like a sundial at evening. How beautiful! I also liked the descriptive words ... saturnine for me, conjures images of a face and bearing that is weighed down with responsibility and obligations.

I thought it was very unusual to set a story at a convention in a hotel. Despite the majority of the story being played out in one place, it worked really well and only adds to the intensity of the feelings.

Star Struck is a psychological and emotional healing journey for more characters than just Skye and Jack.



The emotions at times are deep and dark – the author has her characters delving into their shadow selves and bringing them out into the light so that they can move on to a future they can live with – a future that includes their scars. It is more than a love story! It might even prompt you to look at your own life and accept who you are.

Even though the writing is beautiful I am giving *Star Struck* my three fairy rating because I more-or-less guessed where the story was headed and what would happen.

I would like to thank the publishers Choc Lit for sending me a copy to review.

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## **Leah says**

Earlier this year I read Jane Lovering's debut novel with Choc Lit called *Please Don't Stop The Music*. I absolutely loved it. It was such a refreshing read and I loved the fact the characters weren't perfect, that they had their flaws, and their troubles and I loved the plot and loved the entire book. I was over the moon when I read Jane would be releasing a second novel this year titled *Starstruck*. I thought it sounded like quite a unique read and I adored the cover – showing the vast Nevada desert, and a pink convertible. I couldn't wait to get stuck in and, thankfully, *Starstruck* was just as enjoyable as *Please Don't Stop The Music*.

I love books set in Nevada. Well, actually, I love books set in Vegas. I've never actually read a book set anywhere else in Nevada, but I found it a welcome relief that *Starstruck* shied away from the glitz and glamour of Vegas and instead focused on the wide landscapes of Nevada itself. It made more sense, actually, and the subtle setting helped alleviate the characters more. I must admit, when I heard the book was set around a TV convention for *Fallen Skies* (I almost typed 'Falling Skies', for the new US show!) I was a bit worried it would be all Doctor Who-y, with everyone there being all kinds of nerds and geeks and the like. (I am nothing, if not, a big stereotypical person.) Thankfully that isn't the case and although there are costumes involved(!), it's nothing as bad as I expected it to be. That sounds awful, actually, expecting a convention to be bad, but... I think you know what I mean. Right? Either way, the convention wasn't a big coming together of geeks and nerds. Not in the Doctor Who sense, anyway.

Much like *Please Don't Stop The Music*, *Starstruck*'s two main characters – three main characters, in fact, are incredibly flawed. There's Skye, who lost her best friend and her fiance in a car crash that also wiped her memories and left her with a horrible scar on her face; there's Felix, her bed-hopping best friend and other sole survivor of the horror smash; and then there's Jack, TV writer for *Fallen Skies* with his own demons to battle and face. A lot if kept secret from the reader, sadly. As is the case, all secrets about the main characters must be kept until 20 pages from the end. With numerous hints through-out, that all was not as it seemed, that they had these big massive things to keep hidden, etc. etc. Don't get me wrong, I understand why the secrets must be kept, but I think the novel could have opened up a lot more than it did. A lot was left unsaid, if you will, as once it all came out, there were only a few pages left to wrap it all up. I didn't necessarily feel as if the full weight of all of these massive secrets was dealt with, particularly everything Felix came out with. It was a brilliant book, but I think it could have been even better if it had dealt with the secrets a bit sooner, to allow a bit more fall-out.

Despite the screwed-up nature of Skye, Felix and Jack, I found myself riveted by them; by their secrets. (Despite my complaints, a good secret does rather keep you reading and it wasn't the secrets I had a problem with, more the fall-out.) In most Chick Lit novels the heroines do have some flaws, but it's never anything terrible, never anything that would make me gasp. It's usually pretty basic stuff, really. But Jane Lovering

isn't afraid to make Skye, Felix and Jack real, proper people, with the kind of problems and issues you only usually read about in *Take a Break* (or *Pick Me Up/Chat/That's Life*, whatever your magazine of choice is!). Jane truly brings all of her characters to life and despite all their hesitancy to be honest, I liked Skye, Felix and Jack. Wanted to know more about them, wanted to follow their lives forever and I found myself entranced by them. Sure, they're screwed up. Sure they're not Chick-Lit-cookie-cutter perfect, but they're very, very real.

*Starstruck* was a brilliant novel and despite my wanting more of a fall-out, I still think the novel was brilliant. I felt that once I got going and once the novel really kicked in that I struggled to put it down. I just wanted to read one more chapter, one more chapter, one more chapter. It was highly addictive and it was a thoroughly enjoyable read, with tons of drama (proper drama) and action and emotion. I could feel all the characters' pain, and as the novel hurtled to its conclusion, I did wonder just what big secret was going to be unveiled next! What hit our characters would take, but despite all the secrets, it didn't seem outlandish in any way, it was all very natural. Jane Lovering is an excellent new Chick Lit author. She's found herself a nice niche and I can't wait for her third Choc Lit novel, and hopefully one will be forthcoming because Jane Lovering is a brilliant author and to not have a new novel from her soon would be a crying shame!

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### **Maarit Aaltonen says**

Jane Lovering did it again; made me just fall in love with her characters, just like before! I just love her way to build up the atmosphere slowly and so beautifully, and make us see the complexity of the human lives in all its forms! Pls, Jane, never stop writing these stories!

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### **Georgina says**

<http://www.chicklitaholic.blogspot.com>

While never having read any of Jane Lovering's previous novels, I had seen a large amount of other great reviews for *Star Struck*. I knew that if all of my friends and fellow chick lit bloggers were enjoying the novel it was highly likely that I would too. Therefore I was excited to read the novel and form my own opinions.

Skye is a recluse, scared to be away from her daily routine, not even wanting to leave the house. Why? Well Skye was in a car accident that left her with scars on the inside and out. The car accident also took her memories as well as her best friend and fiancé. When offered a trip to Nevada for a sci-fi convention, Skye hopes that this will be the trip that will help her to heal. Skye wants to go in order to meet the actor she idolises, Gethryn Tudor-Morgan, but she ends up bumping into Jack first. Jack is a sci-fi writer with lots of secrets in his past. With all his problems Jack is not looking for a woman he has enough problems without adding a relationship to the mix. Even so Jack seems drawn to Skye and cannot help the friendship that develops between them. Jack, however, fears that if Skye finds out about his past, they will never have a chance at a future.

I have to admit that before I picked up this book, I was a little put off by the concept of Skye heading to a sci-fi convention for *Falling Skies*. I felt that it would become too much like a sci-fi novel or else I would be bored by the novel being focuses around this. That was so far from the truth! The way in which Jane Lovering adds the concept of the sci-fi convention actually makes the novel unique and provides a setting

that I have never seen in a chick lit novel before. Jane's writing style also made this aspect entertaining and humorous, whereas it could have become nerdy! The pace from the first chapter was fast and meant that I was instantly swept away with the novel. Almost as soon as I was done with the first few pages I knew that my initial worries were not needed. While I do not want to give anything away about the book; there is a lot of drama that I did not in any way see coming around the middle of the novel onwards. I love it when a novel surprises me with twists and turns that shock me and I had no hint that they were coming.

I really enjoyed reading about the characters within *Star Struck*, in particular Skye, Felix and Jack, due to them being so flawed. The imperfections made each of the characters extremely interesting and added a large amount of depth and layers to each character. I felt that this made each character seem more realistic, as most people have their flaws. While at times I did not like all of the characters, in particular Felix, who treats Skye in ways that made me doubt his friendship at times, I found myself wanting to find out more about them. All of the characters have secrets and I was riveted throughout, wondering what each of their secrets could be. Even though I have never been in the same situations as any of the characters I found myself relating to all of them especially Skye. I was rooting for Skye throughout the novel to gain more confidence and realise what she is really capable of.

I did find however that even though some aspects of the novel surprised me, others such as the romance elements did not. Again I do not want to give too much away if you have not read this novel, however it is extremely easy to see exactly how the relationships in the novel will pan out. I would have liked there to be a little more mystery surrounded what would happen in terms of the relationships in order to make the storyline a little more interesting. Additionally, while I actually enjoyed the novel being set at a sci-fi convention, I feel as though this concept will put some readers off. All I can say about this is, please don't let it.

Overall, after putting aside my initial worry over this novel, I really found this an enjoyable novel. I was gripped from the first page onwards, finding myself not wanting to put *Star Struck* down. It was fast paced, emotional, entertaining and I did not want this novel to end. I cannot wait to read more from Jane Lovering, and will defiantly be picking up *Please Don't Stop The Music*, her previous novel with publishers Choc Lit, in order to read more from this sensational author. Go out and buy this one, you won't regret it!

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