



## **The Bucket List**

*Georgia Clark*

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From the author of the critically acclaimed “lively and engrossing parable for women of all generations” (*Harper’s Bazaar*) *The Regulars* comes a deeply funny and thoughtful tale of a young woman who, after discovering she has the breast cancer gene, embarks on an unforgettable bucket list adventure.

Twenty-five-old Lacey Whitman is blindsided when she’s diagnosed with the BCRA1 gene mutation: the “breast cancer” gene. Her high hereditary risk forces a decision: increased surveillance or the more radical step of a preventative double mastectomy. Lacey doesn’t want to lose her breasts. For one, she’s juggling two career paths; her work with the prestigious New York trend forecaster Hoffman House, and her role on the founding team of a sustainable fashion app with friend/mentor, Vivian Chang. Secondly, small-town Lacey’s not so in touch with her sexuality: she doesn’t want to sacrifice her breasts before she’s had the chance to give them their hey-day. To help her make her choice, she (and her friends) creates a “boob bucket list”: everything she wants do with and for her boobs before a possible surgery.

This kicks off a year of sensual exploration and sexual entertainment for the quick-witted Lacey Whitman. Ultimately, this is a story about Lacey’s relationship to her body and her future. Both are things she thought she could control through hard work and sacrifice. Both are things she will change by choosing to have a major surgery that could save her life, and will give her the future she really wants.

Featuring the pitch-perfect “compulsively delicious” (*Redbook*) prose of *The Regulars*, *The Bucket List* is perfect for fans of Amy Poeppel and Sophie Kinsella.

## The Bucket List Details

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Author : Georgia Clark

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## **From Reader Review The Bucket List for online ebook**

### **Jessica says**

I received this book for free through an ARC giveaway on the author's Instagram page.

Please note, that despite the cute cover, this book does contain a lot of sex talk and sex scenes.

Omg this book was amazing. It was serious, yet funny. Sexy but sweet.

This was a very unique read. I've never read anything like it before. It was like a chick lit book, but less superficial and more deep than they typically get.

The book deals with a very serious topic, being BRCA1 positive. The way the author handles it is incredibly well done. She did a phenomenal job tapping into the emotions and anxieties that come with the diagnosis. You can tell the author did a tremendous amount of research.

I loved how sex positive this entire book was. Like I mentioned before, there is a lot of sex in this book, but it is never seen as a bad thing. It even calls out some double standards.

I also loved the diversity. The main character's two best friends were both POC. One was Asian and the other was British Indian who was also a lesbian. Even many of the love interests/sexual partners were POC too, including an Iranian fashion designer. I've read quite a few books set in New York City, but none had this much diversity.

The romance aspects felt very real. All the decisions the main character made regarding her love life felt plausible. Sometimes romances can end up being too far fetched, so it was nice to see one that was more grounded.

Lastly, the final 30 pages of the book were incredibly heartfelt and I just loved it! There was a lot of emotion and heart.

Overall, if you're looking for a different kind of chick lit book, I really recommend this one!

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### **Kailey C says**

4.5 stars

I really, really enjoyed this one. I found it to be pretty uplifting, even though it dealt with a very serious topic. There were definitely moments where I teared up or really felt for the brevity of the situation, but overall I very much enjoyed the tone of the novel.

This one was a little long, but I found it picked up in the 2nd half and I was eager to know how it'd all work out. I liked Lacey's journey - her friendships, her job(s), her lovers/sexual escapades, hook-ups, etc were all explored and I enjoyed how they were interwoven. The NY fashion scene is always a backdrop that I enjoy reading about as well. Although this book was about the main character having the gene for breast cancer, I

found it pretty lighthearted overall. It absolutely made me appreciate what I have, but also made me wonder what I'd do in her situation. The supporting characters were also lovable which made for an easy read. I'd classify this as chick-lit/rom-com that has a deeper purpose- would recommend to anyone who likes those genres!

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## **Tasha || TashReadWhat says**

I was so excited when Atria Books shipped this one to me! The blurb does not do this book justice what so ever and I am so happy I read it.

Lacey Whitman is your typical broke twenty-something-year-old living in NYC and working in the fashion industry when she finds out that she has tested BRCA1 positive. With the earth-shattering news, Lacey and her friends create a bucket list of all the things she has to do/experience with her breasts while thinking about getting a mastectomy.

When she embarks on her sexual exploration, she's also embarking on the self-realization and romance train. Figuring out who she is as a person, what/who she does/doesn't like, and who are her real friends? I fell in love with all of the characters, as well. They were all so unique, but so significant in this story and in Lacey's life.

All in all, Clark did an AMAZING job writing this serious, light-hearted and sexy novel. It's written in a way, that when the reader is hit with something "heavy," they're then hit with something to lighten the mood and make you smile. The book makes you think about what you would do if you were in this situation yourself and makes you appreciate life a little more because at the end of the day it's so precious. I highly recommend this light-hearted/super sexy romance!

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## **Simone says**

I actually knew someone who decided to go for the double mastectomy after being diagnosed with one of these gene mutations. She had already been married and had kids and decided that life is probably better without natural breasts than eventually getting cancer. After a few weeks of being away from her job, she was right back there working at full steam as if nothing had happened.

I'm pretty sure everyone knows this, but sometimes life gives you a set of challenges and your objective is to navigate through these challenges...or die. This is the kind of decision Lacey needs to make for herself, but like any normal human being it's more than just a decision to have breasts or not. It's a huge lifestyle change and you need to be willing to change.

I loved how honest and serious this book was despite the book and Lacey's tone and voice. I found myself really invested in what happens to Lacey and almost wanted to reach into the book and talk to her about what she's going through. Lacey just seems to me like the type of person who would hide what she truly feels to protect her friends, her loved ones, and even herself. However, a big diagnosis like testing positive for the BRCA1 gene mutation is very big to hide on your own.

And Georgia Clark really takes the care to make sure the reader understands how difficult and big this

decision is. When I first started reading this book, I was already decided that I would get a double mastectomy if that was the case for me. However, as I continued to read this book I had to double guess myself. It would be a huge transition especially when you've been comfortable with your own body for quite some years. Losing your breasts is a big change and similar to that of losing an arm or a leg.

But the seriousness of the book is met with a huge amount of brevity in the form of several sexcapades. Lacey's boob bucket list includes many different sexual encounters all of which are attempted to be met throughout the novel. I don't want to give away the list, but it contains such things as nude sun bathing and having sex with a woman (Lacey's character is a straight cis female). It all seems like fun and games, but at the same time you know that this is the last time you'd be able to do these things with the breasts you've had since you were 15. It really felt like an homage to your breasts and how the life after this one will be slightly different.

I thought this book was the kind of book that will make you think about real women issues like breast cancer as well as give you a little bit of fun. Not everything in life is serious and even though a double mastectomy isn't a Saturday afternoon in the park, it's also not the end-all of your life. I think that's what I loved about this book. Cancer is scary. Getting preventative surgery can save your life, but it doesn't also mean your life is over. If that makes sense.

I will say the only thing that really annoyed me about this book is the words-separated-by-hyphens. I think that Georgia Clark was trying to convey Lacey's personality with this style of verbiage, but after a while it was a little fatiguing to see a lot of descriptive phrasing replaced with this. It's a style choice that bugged me, but really didn't take away from the story as a whole.

I received a copy of this book from Atria Books for free in exchange for an honest review. My opinions have not been influenced by the publisher or the author.

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### **Georgia Clark says**

Spoiler alert: I wrote this. Can't review my own book because weird, but can say I love this story dearly and hope you will to. Thanks for swinging by, and for keeping the love of literature alive!

ps. This book has sex scenes. If you don't like 'em, this ain't for you!

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### **Lindsay Williams (Bibbidi Bobbidi Bookworm) says**

Have you ever read the summary of a book, expected one thing, and then gotten something very much different from what you thought it would be? That was basically my experience with reading *The Bucket List* by Georgia Clark.

But oh, what a wonderful thing that was!

I expected straight "chick lit." I expected a bit of drama, a few laughs, some romance, and although I knew the book was about the breast cancer gene, I still expected it to be fairly light reading.

The reality is that this book was absolutely nothing like anything I have ever read before. Yes, it was chick lit. Yes, there was a bit of drama, a few laughs, some romance, and it was still fairly light reading. But there was SO much more. There was also a lot of sex--HOT sex--and far more depth and emotion than I expected. This is not straight-up chick lit. This is one of those rare books that I'm not quite sure how to classify, actually, and I'm not quite sure how to capture, with words, the way *The Bucket List* made me feel.

*The Bucket List* begins with Lacey Whitman receiving the news that she has tested positive for BCRA1 gene mutation, otherwise known as the "breast cancer gene." She is presented with two options: she can choose a wait-and-see approach and get tested every few months or she can opt for a preventative mastectomy, which would reduce her chances of actually developing breast cancer to a very minimal percentage.

Lacey's decision is a struggle for her for many reasons. She's only 25, has a high-pressure job in the fashion industry, and doesn't have any family to lean on for support except for a sister who resents her for having to raise her after their mother died--from breast cancer--and didn't want her to get tested for the gene in the first place. While she weighs her options, Lacey decides to develop a "bucket list" of things she wants to do to celebrate her sexuality that she has never been brave enough to do. She wants to sunbathe topless. Have a threesome. Wear a revealing dress to a public function. Have sex in a public place.

The amazing thing about *The Bucket List* is that it handles a very serious and dramatic topic with truth and honesty, but it still has all the lighthearted and sexy moments that one would expect in its genre. And those sexy moments are definitely sexy--and graphic--but they don't make the book smutty. They don't take away from the heart of it. Instead, they serve as their own powerful moments in Lacey's journey of self-discovery.

Meanwhile, Lacey also has to deal with work pressures, romantic problems, family drama, and squabbles with friends. Georgia Clark has done a masterful job of showing that even though life sometimes deals devastating blows, it also keeps moving forward. She portrayed Lacey's struggle with her decision in open and honest terms and didn't gloss over the scary or tragic parts at all.

And somehow, in the midst of it all, Clark also managed to craft a book that qualifies as chick lit while still being an intersectional feminist wonder, despite featuring a straight, white female as the lead character. *The Bucket List* is a powerful statement on friendship, happiness, sexuality, life, and love...all at the same time. Well done, Georgia Clark.

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

Yayy <3 <3

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**Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says**

#### **4 brave stars to The Bucket List! ?? ?? ?? ??**

Lacey Whitman is only twenty-five when she discovers she inherited the BRCA1 gene mutation, a gene strongly predictive of breast cancer. Like anyone who discovers she has the gene, there are two choices: increased medical monitoring beginning asap, or having a preventive double mastectomy. Lacey is adamant she does not want to choose the latter, but the former is not much more appealing. She has led a sheltered life prior to moving to New York and feels she will lose her sexuality along with the mastectomy. Her friends come together to help her create a bucket list of things to experience prior to having a possible surgery. There are many laugh-out loud moments balanced along with the serious tone of the burdensome decisions Lacey faces.

Thus, Lacey begins a year of marking things off her very much sensual, sometimes racy bucket list. I will leave the rest to your imagination, or better yet, if you read the book, you can follow along on her adventure.

There is a twist to this. Lacey is learning to accept herself, including her body, and as she stares down the path of her future, she has to choose if she will be empowered, or if she will be a victim- both before and after the surgery.

The Bucket List is a smart, often times witty, escapade. At the heart of this book is female empowerment, especially when it comes to our bodies. We need more books like this. Sometimes we read about main characters who are insecure. While that is where Lacey starts, and it lets those of us who feel insecure also feel validated, we, too, need models of women working past that.

I appreciate that Georgia Clark wrote this story, her research into the possible mental and physical health changes associated with inheriting the BRCA1 gene, including interviewing women affected, and I applaud her choices in the coming of age of Lacey. The Bucket List has emotion and tenderness with some humor for levity in what can be an earth-shattering, fear-inducing place. While this is not every woman's story who finds herself carrying the BRCA1 gene, and I don't think it is meant to be, it is one woman's journey towards self-acceptance, and a heartwarming one at that.

Thank you to Atria/Emily Bestler Books for the complimentary copy. All opinions are my own.

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#### **Jessica says**

This was a surprisingly good book. I only say surprising because I'm not huge on chick lit (as I assumed this was) and I was unsure if the topic would be interesting to me. It was! The main character was very compelling and I kept having to remind myself that she was 25 which excused many of her dumb decisions but also lends a specific outlook and perspective. I loved the subtle feminist/intersectional/progressive/LGBTQ viewpoints; they added to the overall fresh and modern feel of the book.

Really unique, I learned a lot, and enjoyed the ride. Well done.

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#### **Kate Moretti says**

Georgia Clark is always smartly hilarious. I loved THE REGULARS and THE BUCKET LIST is an

awesome follow up novel. A funny, poignant, sexy about a woman who discovers herself in the wake of an looming cancer diagnosis. A coming of age tale for the modern woman, add it to your late summer reading list!

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### **Amy says**

I honestly don't think the blurb for this one accurately conveys exactly what type of story this one really is, I feel like it doesn't totally prepare you for both how emotional it is and also how sexy it is. Bit of a weird combo, right? No doubt about that and while it sounds strange it works in an odd way.

It took me awhile to warm to this one, initially I found it a bit hard to switch between some tender and touching moments where Lacey deals with her feelings about a possible double mastectomy and then onto the next chapter where she's off on one of her sexcapades as part of her boob bucket list. It was a big leap to say the least and the sex scenes aren't the type left up to the readers imagination but instead are graphic and racy making the transition pretty bold.

As I kept reading this I did become more accustomed to the style and vibe of the book and I enjoyed it more as I found a groove. It was one of those reads that just kept getting better the further along I read, so for me it was worth it in the end. This was really witty and felt hip and modern, definitely a book a twenty something could relate to as Lacey herself is edgy and cool but there was enough depth and maturity that someone older (ahem cough ME) could still relate on some level. The overall message was fantastic, very female positive and kick ass without being cheesy. It's definitely not your average chick lit book and I admire the author for making some bold choices and tackling an extremely scary and serious subject matter in a really interesting way.

The Bucket List in three words: Provocative, Empowering and Honest.

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### **Jennie Shaw says**

The second I finished *The Bucket List*, I hugged it. Like, literally. I clutched it to my chest and wailed. Luckily, I was home alone and therefore didn't terrify anybody. This book is my new everything. How could it be so funny and oh-girl-no-ing and sexy and honest, all at the same time?! Like, what sensation DIDN'T I experience while reading *The Bucket List*? (This is obviously rhetorical because I felt just about every emotion I'm capable of feeling.)

I mean, I should be peeved with Georgia Clark because I don't super-love feeling emotionally vulnerable, and tend to give a wide birth to books that strive to tug at my heartstrings. Clark lured me in with hilarious wit and, like a frog boiling to death, had me connecting with Lacey so strongly that now I'm a mess. Ughhhhhhh. The ultimate uplifting nature after so much sadness and personal growth was too much for me to handle!! Curse (and bless) you Georgia Clark! \*shakes fist while stifling sob\*

In short, this book is awesome. Read it.



Thanks to Atria for an ARC.

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### **Corinne Sullivan says**

Expertly paced and beautifully told, *THE BUCKET LIST* delivers a perfect balance of poignancy and hilarity. Georgia Clark has the uncanny ability to create characters that already feel like friends and to explore dark decisions with just the right amount of empathy and verve. An absolute knock(ers) out!

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### **Booksandchinooks (Laurie) says**

I really enjoyed the many different nuances of this book. Lacey has just discovered she has the same gene her mother had which ultimately took her life at a young age. Her mother died of breast cancer and Lacey now has a very high chance of this happening to her. Lacey is a twenty something, fun, bubbly character but she is taking her health issues very seriously. After deciding she will get a preemptive bilateral mastectomy she decides to make a bucket list of all the sexual situations she wants to experience before her surgery. She admits her sex life has been less than exciting so she determines she wants to rectify this. Although the book covers a very serious issue there is a lot of humour too as Lacey methodically knocks things off her bucket list. Lacey also begins to realize she has been very deceitful to many of her friends and coworkers and these relationships are in peril. I really liked the writing style and found Lacey's story very compelling.

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### **Carola Lovering says**

I simply LOVED the latest from the very talented Georgia Clark. She leads us through Lacey's world with compassion and humor - this book was funny, raw, emotionally gripping, and a page-turner that made me think. A beach read with a big heart.

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