



Cool Beans

Erynn Mangum

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Everything seems to be going perfectly for Maya Davis: She has a great job at a coffee shop, gets along with her parents, and is happily single. That is until her best friend starts dating Maya's high school sweetheart. This funny, heartwarming fiction story by best-selling author Erynn Mangum uses the power of story to challenge teens to discover the relevance of faith in their relationships and their lives.

Cool Beans Details

Date : Published April 15th 2010 by NavPress Publishing Group (first published April 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9781600067112

Author : Erynn Mangum

Format : Paperback 298 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Christian, Fiction, Young Adult, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance

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From Reader Review Cool Beans for online ebook

Abby says

I really enjoyed this book! It was a great read like 5(err or way more than that ;)) chapters before-you-go-to-bed book!

Things I liked! It was funny! I really didn't laugh as much as I thought I would-but there were a couple of scenes that had me nearly waking up my whole family with my laughter ;) On a more serious note I liked her journey and walk with God and just how honest the whole book seemed with her struggles on her end with her relationship with Christ. I absolutely really enjoyed the ending as well and will def. re-read sometime :)

Now things I didn't like-

-The pastor! he was way too....sarcastic and just his whole manner seemed immature! maybe it just came across that way for me but I think a pastor needs to be a bit more serious(on a random note I am a pk lol)

-it was weird to me how close maya and jack were! like how do you even get that close to a guy with out having "feelings" didn't seem to add up to me! but you know it works out in the end ;)

-on a last note I wish there was not light swearing, like please can we not say omg ten million times!

Overall cute book!! I was worried with it being geared more for adults that I wouldn't enjoy it but I did!

Janet says

I have wanted to read this for a long time but now that I have I am wondering what the book was about.

This is a story of a young woman named Maya Davis and her roommate Jen, her best friend Jack, her family, her young adult bible study group. Oh her dog! Don't forget her dog.

It just felt like there wasn't much of a story that anyone would care about. It was like she got up and went to work at the coffee house with her best friend Jack, she went to dinner at her parents once a week.

Just nothing out of the ordinary. I live her life - when I am reading a book I want a little excitement. This one was just a little boring.

Anne says

I really enjoyed this book. It was a fresh, funny, and NORMAL! I'm sorry, but normal is so under-rated. This was a simple story of a twenty-something girl who has a few problems that aren't too weird, is a fun-loving Christian, and...well...just has a pretty normal life. I was very happy with it. Even though, I don't drink coffee (love the smell, hate the taste), that part of the story didn't get too overwhelming. I was afraid that it might. I was cool with it though. The characters were great. Mangum didn't give very much physical description, which I was kind of disappointed with. She made you imagine everything. I like knowing what a person looks like, but I will admit, I hate long descriptions of rooms and clothes. That usually gets on my nerves unless it's very well done. Either way, I wish she would have given more descriptions of her characters. The characters themselves were great. The storyline was good, nothing overly dramatic (which I was thankful for) and once again, NORMAL! I will be checking out the next in the series.

Laura says

Title: COOL BEANS

Author: Erynn Magnum

Publisher: NavPress

April 2010

ISBN: 978-1600067112

Genre: Young adult / contemporary / chick lit

Everything seems to be going perfectly for Maya Davis: She has a great job at a coffee shop, gets along with her parents, and is happily single. That is until her best friend starts dating Maya's high school sweetheart.

This funny, heartwarming fiction story by best-selling author Erynn Mangum uses the power of story to challenge teens to discover the relevance of faith in their relationships and their lives.

COOL BEANS is the first book in Ms. Mangum's A Maya Davis Novel series. This is out of print (in print) unless you buy it used but it is still available on kindle. I greatly enjoy Ms. Mangum's books, chicklit for teenagers – but they appeal to this mom too. I also have two girls who love her books and can't wait to read them.

I enjoyed Maya's sense of humor and her sarcasm and the way she struggled to relate her life with God. The only thing I didn't really like is that she went on and on about how she needs to tell her best friend she is dating an old boyfriend and she just doesn't. . . and what was with the old boyfriend (dating something like five years) not recognizing her?

I have to say I loved Jack. Absolutely loved Jack. I can't wait to read Latte Daze. If you like chicklit or first person/present tense books, you will love COOL BEANS. Highly recommended.

304 pages. Available in ebook and paperback (from second-hand sellers). 5 stars.

Incorrigible_bibliophile says

Maya was pretty cool as a character because she's so normal. She could me, or my best friend. She's just a mid-twenties girl trying to find her way in life and with Christ. Her best friends Jen and Jack were pretty cool too and it made you wish that they were real so you could join the group.

Maya's inability to woman-up and take responsibility for her actions at times annoyed me more than a little and is ultimately why I didn't love this one. However, I do think that this is probably an accurate portrayal of how a majority of girls would handle this situation.

I love Mangum's writing style and I would definitely try out some of her other books.

Jerry says

The Good: Maya herself is a likable character who finds herself in one predicament after another; she admirably deals with each problem thrown her way. All the lists she made were a nice touch; actually, doing that could help me out quite a bit. Though I'm not exactly the target audience for this book, I could understand some of Maya's struggles.

The Bad: While it's great that Maya is single for most of this book, I've read stories like this before, so, I can be pretty sure wedding bells are in her future. (Those who have read the entire series: Am I wrong?) Why can't a Christian novel feature a protagonist who is content in his/her singleness, or who feels called by God to refrain from marriage? There are plenty of people who do just that! Also, the movie and television allusions got old after a while; as much as I like audiovisual entertainment, I still don't want to be bombarded with references to reality shows and romantic comedies. Those who are out of the loop when it comes to Hollywood productions are likely to be confused.

Content Concerns: Nothing worth noting in this department.

Conclusion: It may sound strange for a guy to be reading a book like this, but, keep in mind that my favorite movie is *Harriet the Spy: Blog Wars*. While good for what it is, seeing where the story seems to be headed, I'm not sure if I'll continue on with this series.

Score: 3/5

Laura says

What I loved: When you read as much as I do, it's hard to find an author who has a fresh, unique voice. Erynn Mangum has that voice. I loved her style in the Lauren Holbrook series, and that style was definitely in *Cool Beans* as well. Second, few authors can weave spiritual truths into their novels without sounding preachy. Erynn is good at this. She delved into the topic of honesty in this book, and I felt like I was learning with Maya, not hearing a lecture or sermon. Finally, the book is funny. While the topic of ex-boyfriends, first loves, and being honest are serious topics, this book is balanced with funny coffee jokes, an annoying Parrot, and the flirtations of a romance in the making.

What I didn't like: There was only one thing that I didn't like about this book. One night, Maya is at home waiting for Jen to get home. The book says Maya gets home from work at 11:03 p.m. She then gets annoyed on the next page because it's 10:30 and Jen isn't home. Then it's 12:07 (pm, should be am), and Jen isn't home. I was confused because then I thought Jen hadn't come home all night...then the next page mentions the morning. So, I think it was just typos, but it confused me. This is something an editor should have caught. Again, if this is the biggest problem in a book, then the book is great.

New Teens- One Star (and a half)

Early High School Teens- Two Stars (and a half)

Older High School Teens- Three Stars (and a half)

My personal Rating- Three Stars (and a half)

Awww! This was so cute and funny! I laughed so hard reading "*Cool Beans*" and I loved all the Spiritual Content! The only thing was I had to lower the ratings because of all the Minor cussing—but if that doesn't bother you then your rating would be higher. Also, as someone who has a beagle (like the main character in this novel) I loved Calvin! "*Roo!*"

Link to review:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

Sis says

Erynn Mangum writes awesome Christian Chick-Lits, especially when it involves coffee!!:) (My favorite drink!)? This Book made me laugh and think about my own relationship with God and how at times I've been missing out on what he has planned for me!!:) Great to read again and again!!:)

Penny Benoit says

A solid 5! I loved this book. I loved the characters, the story line, the writing style; I loved everything about it. I am very excited to read the next book in this series, and then the third and final book in this series. I am hungry for more of this story and I am hungry for more from this author. I have already downloaded some more of Erynn's books and I have put the rest on my Kindle wish list to buy later. I have found a new friend in Maya and a new favourite in Erynn.

Lorraine says

Rating 3.5

This is a light, quick, sometimes humorous, Christian romance that would appeal to teens and young adults. It focuses on Maya and her relationships with Jennifer, her roommate, Jack, her work buddy at Cool Beans coffee shop, Zach, her older brother, and Travis, her ex-boyfriend. Maya is likeable and quite realistic. She is going through a faith crisis as she deals with her roommate and Travis. Jack and the single adult pastor, Andrew, at her church both are quite helpful in working through this. There were some nice gems of Christian wisdom throughout that would make it a good book for young adult readers.

Victoria says

LOVE THIS SERIES! Do ya think it's time for reread yet?!?

UPDATED: how did I read this in one day?! Wow I'm impressive.

Holmes Girl says

I'm torn about this story. I knew it was Christian fiction & that's fine. I'm Catholic & have no problems with a story where the characters have a strong Christian faith it's clearly expressed. However, many of the Christian references were awkward & unnatural.

Examples: "Oh Maya, he's so cute & a Christian and my age." Seriously?! Is that something a person, especially a 20+ year old finds out about an individual as soon as they ask them out? (In most cases, highly unlikely). The character, Travis is explaining how he met his friend at church. Ok, but for a guy who's athletic, why not having met him at the gym/health club, or perhaps he's a co-worker, etc. why church? It seems odd. Of course, let's not forget that a Bible study group takes place at the coffee shop. It's during these situations that I think the author was trying too hard to get across it was Christian fiction. While the Bible verse quotations seem to flow with the story, the various other overt Christian references detracted from it; & in many ways slowed the read.

I did enjoy Maya's voice. Her conversations with her dog felt normal & fit her often quirky, simple, slightly neurotic personality. I laughed out loud a few times at how she perceived her predicaments & the comments that would come out of her mouth or just pop in her head. I did like the coffee shop atmosphere.

There were enjoyable characters & even though the ending was standard "Hallmark movie" obvious, I enjoyed the story at times. Many will find this a feel-good, chick lit book & thus will enjoy it immensely. If I could keep from getting a headache from the falling Christian anvils I might consider reading more of this series; but I don't think that will happen.
