

Love, Lucy

April Lindner

Reviewed by: Chi Mai, 16

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Talented, aspiring actress Lucy Sommersworth dismisses her dreams when she accepts her father's bargain: if she applies to his alma mater and majors in business, he will let her go on a trip across Europe. After three weeks of traveling, Lucy and her companion Charlene arrive in Florence, the next-to-last stop in their tour. Tension runs high on their first day of touring the city, culminating in Charlene's heading toward Santa Croce and Lucy's staying behind. Lucy decides to wander through the streets and encounters Jesse Palladino, a boy whom she'd previously met at her hostel, while he's busking. Jesse then takes her to see the Duomo, the first of many places that they'll visit together. Attraction grows between them, and when Lucy leaves for Rome, she invites Jesse along. There, the two make the most of their summer romance before Lucy returns home to Philadelphia. Now enrolled in college, Lucy finds it hard to forget Jesse ... and her desire to be an actress. Torn between the practical and the idealistic, Lucy learns that she can't just let things happen to her; she must act in order to achieve her happiness.

I'm a huge romantic, so reading about Lucy and Jesse's time together made me all soft and dreamy. And that ending ... it was just perfect. April Lindner's description of all the places they went was beautiful and essential to the story. Now I can't help but fantasize about going to Florence and having a whirlwind romance. This book is definitely predictable, and there were some parts that didn't sit well with me, but overall, it was great. The dialogue, the description of Lucy's travel, her character development, her friends at college, Jesse (what I'd give for every YA love interest to be like him!)—these were all very enjoyable. What I disliked was how Lucy told Charlene about Jesse's coming to Rome. She just sprung it on Charlene and essentially ditched her when they arrived in Rome. Charlene wasn't perfect either and did have her bad moments, but she didn't go as far as abandon their travel plans like that.

Although there wasn't anything explicit, it was implied that Lucy and Jesse got intimate with each other. The most appropriate age group for this book would probably be 13-14 and up. I think *Love, Lucy* makes for a sweet, delightful read if you just want to relax and forget about anything that's bothering you.

Recommended Titles

Field Notes on Love by Jennifer E. Smith

Amy & Roger's Epic Detour by Morgan Matson

Wanderlost by Jen Malone

Changes in Latitude by Jen Malone