

Attachments

Rainbow Rowell

Reviewed by: Sierra Irvine, 19

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Beth Fremont and her best friend, Jennifer, have an unusual way of sharing their personal lives with each other, through their work email accounts. Though they are aware their emails are being monitored, that doesn't stop them from communicating each day. Lincoln O' Neill just happens to be the lucky person in charge of monitoring the company's emails, a step down from the "internet security officer" position he envisioned. Though he knows he needs to report Beth and Jennifer, he can't help but be amused by their everyday chatter and before he knows it, he's fallen for Beth with no way to introduce himself.

Attachments is an interesting light read and a great addition to the chick lit genre with a man's perspective. The highlight of this book has to be Beth and Jennifer's emails, which are insanely funny and entertaining to read. The book cuts between a traditional novel and the emails, which are typed out as actual emails, which I found to be a unique little touch. The plot itself is nothing too out of the ordinary, detailing the start of a romance between two young adult office workers, but it's interesting enough to keep you wanting to see how it ends. I think the book manages to do what it sets out to do with its romance plot and while I never expected something to the intensity of a fantasy or action novel, I was a little disappointed with some things.

Despite this book being created as a light read, it has some major problems even for its genre. The first and biggest weakness of this book is the characters, specifically Lincoln. While you get a good sense of Beth's personality and character through her emails, the same can't be said of Lincoln, whom we see most in the traditional sections of the story. Lincoln is what I simply call a weak romance protagonist, there's nothing special about him that I'll remember a few months after reading aside from some questionable actions he makes. As I mentioned earlier, I do think the plot of the book is okay, but the way Lincoln is portrayed is what makes this plot more like a horror than a romance. Something about a grown man stalking a woman's emails and then proceeding to intrude on physical aspects of her life, is unsettling to say the least. Given that this book was written in 2011, I can see how at the time it may have been passable but in today's climate I don't think this plot or some of the more jarring lines of dialogue would be something many would come to find romantic or cute.

Overall, *Attachments* is an okay romance book with a few red flags. It is certainly one of the weaker pieces of fiction that Rainbow Rowell has managed to come up with over the years and I would highly recommend reading one of her other works before this one. In terms of audience, I would recommend this book for a young adult audience due to some of the language and the more mature setting. I would not recommend this book as a gift as there are many greater options in the chick lit genre, and if you do find yourself interested in reading, I would rent over buying.

Recommended Titles:

Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell

Well Met by Jen Deluca

All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven

Landline by Rainbow Rowell

Dash and Lily's Book of Dares by Rachel Cohn