

***Twenties Girl* by Sophie Kinsella**

If you are like me, you may be ready for a bit of lighthearted break! You can read only so many suspense/thrillers (or in my case, gothic horror novels) during a pandemic. So, I turned to a type of genre that I sample occasionally – British chick lit. According to Goodreads, “Chick lit is genre fiction which addresses issues of modern womanhood, often humorously and lightheartedly. Although it sometimes includes romantic elements, chick lit is generally not considered a direct subcategory of the romance novel genre, because the heroine's relationship with her family or friends is often just as important as her romantic relationships.” The setting of chick lit fiction can be anywhere, but I’m partial to ones set in the UK.

So, in desperate need of lighthearted fare, I picked up *Twenties Girl* by Sophie Kinsella. Kinsella is best known for her chick lit “Confessions of a Shopaholic” series (and its 2009 film counterpart). Kinsella, however, does have several standalone novels and the *Twenties Girl* is one of them. I LOVED this book. In my opinion, Kinsella’s writing is engaging and humorous. The main character is often in quite outlandish mishaps – which may not be realistic but provides a nice diversion and does keep you wondering what in the world will happen (i.e., go wrong) next.

In this novel, Lara Lington is struggling – she’s not over her recent boyfriend, her business partner left her in the lurch, and – after a family funeral for a great aunt Sadie she never knew – she is now haunted by the ghost of Sadie. This is no quiet, meek phantom. She’s loud, demanding, outrageous, and forces Lara to step out of her comfort zone. The plot lines include tracing down a missing necklace belonging Sadie, trying to save her business, getting over her past boyfriend, getting to know someone new, and uncovering the true story of Sadie’s life and lost love. That seems like a lot, but Kinsella deftly weaves all of it together into a satisfying, lighthearted, and quite touching read.

I enjoyed this so much, I also picked up *I’ve Got Your Number* and *Can You Keep A Secret?*. I recommend both of these as well. As we march into a summer unlike any other, I remember Sadie’s signature line in the book: tally-ho!

Cindy O’Neill