



Someone Else's Love Story: A Novel (P.S.)

By Joshilyn Jackson



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Someone Else's Love Story is beloved and highly acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author Joshilyn Jackson's funny, charming, and poignant novel about science and miracles, secrets and truths, faith and forgiveness; about falling in love, and learning that things aren't always what they seem—or what we hope they will be.

Shandi Pierce is juggling finishing college, raising her delightful three-year-old genius son Nathan, aka Natty Bumpo, and keeping the peace between her eternally warring, long-divorced parents. She's got enough complications without getting caught in the middle of a stick-up and falling in love with William Ashe, who willingly steps between the robber and her son.

Shandi doesn't know that her blond god Thor has his own complications. When he looked down the barrel of that gun he believed it was destiny: It's been one year to the day since a tragic act of physics shattered his world. But William doesn't define destiny the way others do. A brilliant geneticist who believes in facts and numbers, destiny to him is about choice. Now, he and Shandi are about to meet their so-called destinies head on, making choices that will reveal unexpected truths about love, life, and the world they think they know.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Author One-on-One: Christina Baker Kline and Joshilyn Jackson



Christina Baker Kline is a novelist, nonfiction writer, and editor. Her novels include *Orphan Train* and *Bird in Hand*. She lives in an old house in Montclair, New Jersey, with her husband, and three boys.

Christina Baker Kline: Your characters seem to have broken the "rule" that men and women can't be friends. Do you think this is possible only in novels?

Joshilyn Jackson: You might be asking the wrong person. When I was nineteen, I met a gangly, dark-haired, geeky guy with big feet and a weird sense of humor. He quickly became my dearest friend. In those days, I would have said, "Of course they can!"

Seven years later? He'd grown into the big feet and become one helluva man. Reader, I married him. Twenty years and two kids later, I still like him best.

The man/woman thing is powerful, and it can be so sneaky. Attraction can grow between the most unlikely pairings, given time and shared experiences and discovered connections. It doesn't always happen, but it's a risk. Better not to mess around with it if you're sure you do not want it. You can't get sex back to sleep once it's good and woken.

Someone Else's Love Story has two sets of man/woman best friends, and I didn't want attraction to intrude on the dynamics. I tried several ways to remove it entirely from both equations, but it didn't work until I attacked sex where it is most powerful—in its mystery. I took away wondering and speculation; both pairs of friends have already had sex with each other before the novel begins.

Men and women can't get around sex, true, but I thought perhaps these two friend-pairs had elected to move

through it. Through it, and into something else.

CBK: This is a story about family and friendship, truth and secrets, and love. But it is not necessarily a love story. Do you think that on some level all stories are love stories?

JJ: Yes. Not all stories are romances, certainly, but all good stories are love stories, in one way or another. "Only connect," E. M. Forster said, and at these words, a great Amen rises in me.

CBK: Your characters have definite musical tastes—The Pixies, early David Bowie, They Might Be Giants. Are you promoting your own favorite bands through Shandi?

JJ: I am a visual arts person, a museum person. I am much more interested in seeing than hearing. I have embarrassingly pedestrian musical tastes; I listen to cheery pop with my eleven year old daughter. I like music that doesn't ask me to pay much attention to it. As I write this, Pandora is playing "Jungle Love" for me. I am chagrined to report that I just thumbed it up.

All the bands mentioned came from hanging out with my husband, my niece Erin Virginia, and my cool friend Lydia. I know this music because it matters so much to them, and they matter so much to me. I used their bands and songs to say things about the characters---not me.

CBK: Your contemporary novel deals with an ancient concept: the miracle. Do you believe in miracles?

JJ: Absolutely. *Someone Else's Love Story* is full of huge, overblown miracles. A virgin birth, a holy sacrifice, more than one resurrection. But they are all fake. They are all explained away and undercut. They are dust.

The real miracles are smaller. There are at least two in this book, so tiny it is easy to miss them. They are very true and dear and frail and human. They spark and pop for only a moment before they begin to diffuse and spread themselves like mist into the story. They change everything.

From [Booklist](#)

In her sixth novel, an inspiring story of love, faith, and redemption, Jackson delivers another page-turner. Sweet 21-year-old southerner Shandi falls "in love with William Ashe at gunpoint, in a Circle K" when the hulking geneticist positions himself between the drugged-out gunman and single-mother Shandi's three-year-old son. Although William's heroic feat is not exactly born out of altruism, and he suffers a bullet wound in the process, it's enough to earn Shandi's undivided love and attention, and she throws herself into caring for him when he is released from the hospital. Jackson hooks readers right from the outset as she seamlessly moves from the dramatic holdup to a subtle and often moving exploration of the various guises of love and faith. All of the characters—from atheistic William, who suffers from Asperger's syndrome; to Shandi, who possesses a warmth and compassion that belie her youth; to their respective best friends: the sardonic Paula and the poetry-spouting Wolcott—are so vividly drawn, they fairly leap off the page. Highly readable, with a lightly drawn philosophical and religious backdrop, this is a perfect choice for book clubs. -- Joanne Wilkinson

Review

"Witty, cleverly constructed and including a truly surprising twist, *Someone Else's Love Story* turns out to be a nuanced exploration of faith, family and the things we do for love." (People (3 ½ stars))

"Witty and insightful...a novel at once funny and touching." (Publishers Weekly)

“An inspiring story of love, faith and redemption...All of the characters... are so vividly drawn, they fairly leap off the page.” (Booklist on SOMEONE ELSE'S LOVE STORY)

“That rare woman’s novel that is sure to please readers of popular fiction as well as literary fiction. A terrific pageturner!” (Susan Elizabeth Phillips, New York Times bestselling author of THE GREAT ESCAPE)

“*Someone Else’s Love Story* is worth reading, even studying. Expressions of love come in many forms, as Jackson shows.” (Omaha World-Herald)

“Finely drawn characters make the miraculous plausible, from the opening hostage scene in a North Georgia convenience store to an ending that hits the mark of ‘surprising yet inevitable’ mastered and articulated by Flannery O’Connor.” (Atlanta Magazine)

“A surprising novel, both graceful and tender. You won’t be able to put it down.” (Dallas Morning News on SOMEONE ELSE'S LOVE STORY)

“*Someone Else’s Love Story* is never predictable, full of humor and heart and characters you can’t help but love.” (Greenville News)

“[T]here is love at [this novel’s] heart... there is much to gain from a closer read.” (3 out of 4 stars) (USA Today)

“Joshilyn Jackson is a brilliant storyteller and has a unique gift of bringing quirkiness to her characters and a lot of twists and turns to her tale.” (Wichita Falls Times Record Review)

“There are scenes that will make you gasp, pause or even tear up as Jackson’s characters fumble toward imperfect enlightenment. *Someone Else’s Love Story* will delight and surprise with its unexpected compassion, empathy and humanity.” (BookPage)

“This charming page-turner serves up a twist I never remotely expected, followed by an utterly satisfying conclusion.” (Bookreporter.com)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brandon Li:

The book *Someone Else's Love Story: A Novel (P.S.)* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave the great thing like a book *Someone Else's Love Story: A Novel (P.S.)*? Some of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim in which book can give many information for us. It is absolutely appropriate. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you may give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book *Someone Else's Love Story: A Novel (P.S.)* has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and massive function for you. You can search the enormous world by open up and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Robert Ford:

The knowledge that you get from Someone Else's Love Story: A Novel (P.S.) is the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but Someone Else's Love Story: A Novel (P.S.) giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by anyone who read that because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this particular Someone Else's Love Story: A Novel (P.S.) instantly.

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Deanna Reed:

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