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The Hating Game: A Novel



Synopsis

Debut author Sally Thorne bursts on the scene with a hilarious and sexy workplace comedy all about that thin, fine line between hate and love. **Nemesis** (n.) 1) An opponent or rival whom a person cannot best or overcome. 2) A person's undoing. 3) Joshua Templeman Lucy Hutton and Joshua Templeman hate each other. Not dislike. Not begrudgingly tolerate. Hate. And they have no problem displaying their feelings through a series of ritualistic passive aggressive maneuvers as they sit across from each other, executive assistants to co-CEOs of a publishing company. Lucy can't understand Joshua's joyless, uptight, meticulous approach to his job. Joshua is clearly baffled by Lucy's overly bright clothes, quirkiness, and Pollyanna attitude. Now up for the same promotion, their battle of wills has come to a head and Lucy refuses to back down when their latest game could cost her her dream job. But the tension between Lucy and Joshua has also reached its boiling point, and Lucy is discovering that maybe she doesn't hate Joshua. And maybe, he doesn't hate her either. Or maybe this is just another game.

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Customer Reviews

PLATINUMI recently attended a Writers Retreat where one book in particular was mentioned, and I use the term mentioned very loosely, what actually happened was they demanded we all read it immediately. Suffice to say, I purchased the ebook that night and dove in, immediately I was smitten, utterly invested and truly in love with every single word written by Sally Thorne. "Watching you pretend to hate that nickname is the best part of my day." Lucy Hutton always dreamt of working in the publishing industry, as an avid reader her love for all things books was greater than anything she'd ever known, being hired by Gamin Publishing was everything she had ever imagined, but when her beloved company was on the brink of collapse and amalgamation with another struggling publishing house, Bexley Books, became her reality, her career goals stayed alive, just barely, with a host of personnel cuts and the loss of her best friend Val, her work world was rocked. The day she met Joshua Templeman seemed like a possible new beginning, but his cool disregard of her almost immediately sent shockwaves through her usually cherry demeanor, a war began that day and with every day that past their mutual dislike of each other grew. "You've broken me down so completely, I can't even handle it when a guy tells me I'm beautiful." The Hating Game written in the first person point of view painted Lucy as both incredibly smart, and extremely funny, every snarky thought, every snappy comeback, every moment of despair mixed with joy as Joshua became Josh in front of her eyes.

Lucy Hutton is executive assistant to the Co-Chief Executive Office of Bexley & Gamin, a struggling publisher. As a matter of fact, since the struggle is so real, Gamin Publishing merged with Bexley Publishing about a year ago, and that's when Lucy met her nemesis, her own personal Newman, Josh Templeman. Let the games (and this review) begin. -Excellent writing: Was rated a "MUST read" by a bestie. When she recommends, I listen. I was NOT disappointed in the slightest. The writing is sharp and flows so well, with excellent banter that allowed the chemistry to crackle and makes you smile throughout. -Lucy is a very likeable fully fleshed out heroine: Told in first person POV through Lucy's eyes, I found myself really enjoying Lucy's humor and empathizing with her desire to succeed and beat Josh. Lucy is a smart, small funny heroine whose desire to be liked sometimes holds her back from co-workers taking her seriously. Except for Josh. He brings out the worst, and best, in her and it was fun to read. -Workplace romance: There's something about a romance that's set in corporate world, and the inherent humor in that, are some of my favorites and The Hating Game mines that office setting just enough to make the competition between Lucy and Josh believable. The differences between Bexley & Gamin employees from clothing to personalities certainly features in the plot. The promotion angle gives it the impetus for Josh and Lucy's

relationship to shift into another gear and made for an effective long term obstacle, since it's right up to the very end that I was wondering how they were going to resolve it.

The Hating Game by Sally Thorne 5 stars!!! My hostage. My blackmailed, unwilling captive. Stockholm Shortcake. There is nothing like a good hate/love book to get your reading mojo well and truly pumping and that is exactly what The Hating Game delivered. Sally Thorne captured everything about those office relationships where competition takes on a whole new meaning and to think that this is her debut novel, I was totally blown away. Enemies to lovers is one of those tropes that literally has me salivating. You learn more about a person through their actions in that kind of environment, especially in the work place. It is harder to hate than it is to love and there is often a very fine line between the two. Sometimes there is that genuine hate, because let's be honest, there are a lot of douches and b****es in the world, but more often than not we hate as a veil of our true feelings and that was definitely the case with these two. Shortcake, if we were flirting, you'd know about it. Because I'd be traumatized? Because you'd be thinking about it later on, lying in bed. Two publishing houses struggling in the economic climate merge to ensure the viability of at least one of them, two CEOs, two assistants. One male assistant, one female assistant who knock their a**es out week after week to be the best. This was all about one-upmanship. Who could work the longest hours, who was more efficient, who has the best ideas etc.: Their competitiveness was the source of many hilarious scenes, yet so relatable having been in a similar environment myself.

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