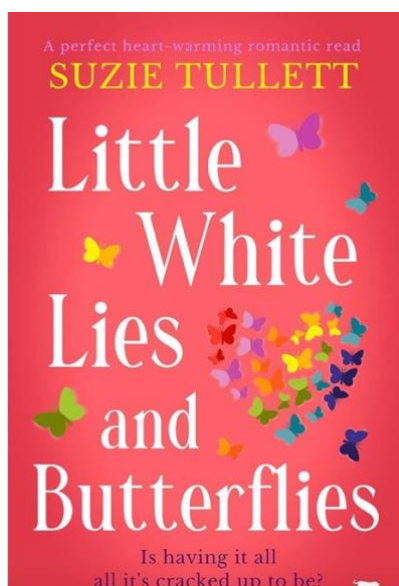


July 2025 - Little White Lies and Butterflies' - Suzie Tullett



The story follows Lydia, a woman who has dedicated her life to finding the 'perfect man' and is now facing her late twenties single. Disillusioned, she embarks on a trip to a Greek island. She has prioritised finding 'Mr Right' over career or personal growth, believing that the choice is between having a family or having a career - that a woman cannot have both.

She meets Sam, whom she initially dismisses as a love interest until she then predictably falls in love with when she realises, he can provide money and status that will allow her to be kept in style and comfort so she can be the 'homemaker'.

There are some twists and turns but all are predictable.

The book club members seemed unanimous in their opinions about this book. As one member aptly put it, 'It wasn't anyone's favourite book but we had a laugh talking about how awful it was!'.

Some comments from members:

"Suzie Tullett describes herself as a writer of contemporary humorous fiction and romantic comedy but this book felt like little more than an extended Mills and Boon story. The central character was thoroughly unpleasant and, as the novel was written in the first person, there was unfortunately no escaping from her. I have no idea why anyone would have wanted to spend any time around her, let alone keep asking her out.

I get the point the author is making about the difficulties for women in trying to juggle career, marriage and motherhood but these weren't discussed in any meaningful way and were, of course, resolved by the fortunate arrival of a rich handsome doctor. Lydia's relationship with her mother was marginally more interesting, but roast beef and Yorkshire pudding at a Greek wedding.....?? Really??".

"I really did not like this book! Vacuous, totally predictable from the beginning and poor attempts at humour. The outcome was clear from early on and if it had not been a book for the Group I would not have read past the first couple of chapters".

"This is a romantic fantasy with a very predictable ending. Girl meets boy. Girl quite fancies boy but doesn't initially think he is 'the one'. Boy and girl fall in love and are

set to live happily ever after. Supposed to be light hearted humour but I didn't find it funny and it was quite sarcastic at times. The author sends conflicting messages. Does she think her description of family life and the relationship between its members is normal? The heroine (Lydia) thinks she is perfect and is quite rude about other people. She believes there is a perfect man for her somewhere. Her mother thinks she is 'too judgemental', 'not realistic'. Lots of exaggeration. The chapter headings were quite interesting but the chapter didn't live up to their intrigue. On the plus side, it wasn't a very long book!".

"I don't mind a few swear words in the right context but I found Lydia's early use of them superficial and irritating. I made myself read the whole book quickly as a slightly masochistic exercise. It seems more like a coming-of-age novel than the 30-year old's obsession in herself that it was. Her over judgmental view of her family and men, her desire to find Mr Right just in order to kick back against her friends more modern feminist Me2 approach to relationships or marriage seems too staged."

"Lydia decides to escape her family, ex boyfriends, herself to a Greek island then events become almost unbearably predictable. The author's knowledge of Greek life, the islands, the people, the landscape, culture was a nice relief to read about."

"For me this story was a complete flop. On later reflection.....Maybe the point of the novel was to show how often the love and support of parents, stifling though it may seem at the time, is something that some children only become more aware of as they mature, and on reflection can see how well intentioned their parents were".

"I struggled to find something good to say about this book. The plot wasn't really believable, the characters all seemed very 'silly'. The Greek Island did not seem authentic. Mills and Boon novels sell themselves on the basis of fantasy. This novel would not satisfy their criteria".

Kathryn Baines