

HEX AND THE SINGLE GIRL

By Valerie Frankel

Avon Trade, 2006

Reviewed by :: Emily Veinglory

If you are anything like me you approach chick lit with some trepidation. Of course the heroines of these tales are often thin, stylish and privileged—but they are also often so arrogant I would rather push them off a cliff than commiserate with the trials of chipped fingernails and straying boyfriends. Thankfully the heroine of ‘Hex and the Single Girl’, Emma Hutch, is just the thing to renew my faith in the chick lit genre.

Emma uses her peculiar telepathic ability (she can put thoughts into people’s heads) to run a small business as a match-maker. Meanwhile her own love life is conspicuously absent. Emma loses her savings to a corrupt company and is on the verge of losing her apartment. Then cool, blonde Daphne strolls in and asks for help catching the attention of gorgeous William Dearborn. Deep down Emma knows that Daphne is not really her sort of client, but she lets her financial straits bend her ethical standards.

Valerie Frankel has a breezy humorous style loaded with wit and wonderful characters. The plot winds its way through a series of disastrous encounters between Emma and William, and the plot is well thought out and about as complex as light fiction should be allowed to get. Emma goes all out to keep her house and help her friends and clients, and fate takes some very strange turns to finally give everyone a happy ending with someone to love.

The book also features a small set of short stories at the back that although readable seemed to me to be nothing but an unwelcome distraction. If Avon insists on giving added value I would rather get a sneak peak of this author’s next full length novel. On a minor note it would also be nice if cover artists were given some hint as to what the book is about and who is in it. Emma, a very buxom brunette woman who always wears black and is a telepath not a literal Wiccan witch is shown as a skinny girl in pink with a frog. If I had been browsing a bookstore I would never have picked up this book assuming the cutesy cover reflected the contents.

If you are looking for chick lit that is fun entertainment, without being cloying or populated by the kind of girl who made your life hell in high school, ‘Hex and the Single Girl’ is the book for you.

4 ½ Kisses