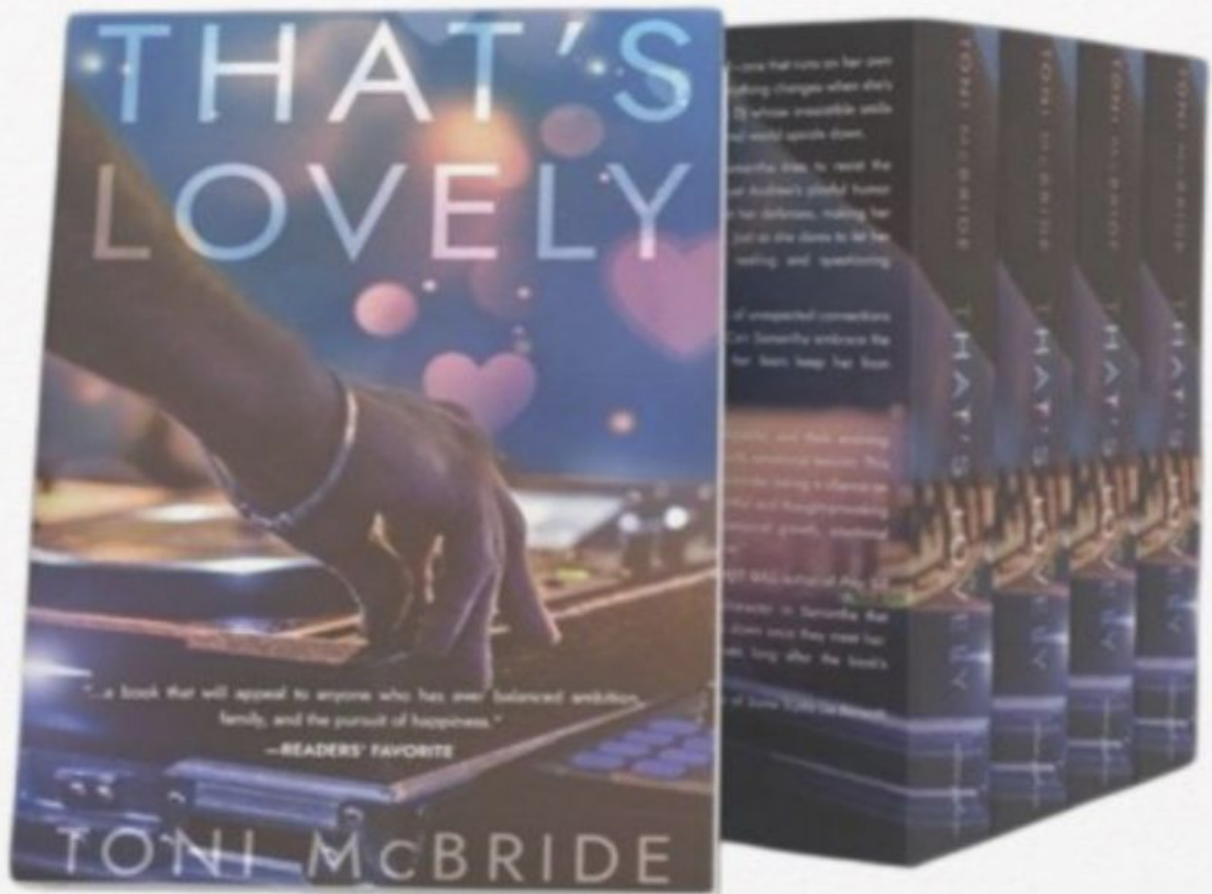


# THAT'S LOVELY

TONI MCBRIDE

BOOK ONE - THE LOVELY SERIES



- BOOK CLUB GUIDE -



# PRAISE FOR THAT'S LOVELY

## BOOK ONE - THE LOVELY SERIES

"THIS HEARTFELT STORY OF SELF-DISCOVERY AND LOVE IS A REMINDER TAKING A CHANCE ON LOVE CAN BE BOTH A RISK AND A REWARD. A DELIGHTFUL AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING READ FOR ANYONE WHO ENJOYS STORIES ABOUT PERSONAL GROWTH, EMOTIONAL HEALING, AND THE MESSY, WONDERFUL NATURE OF LOVE."

CHARNJIT GILL AUTHOR OF PRAY TELL

"MCBRIDE HAS CREATED SUCH A COMPELLING CHARACTER IN SAMANTHA THAT READERS WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO PUT THIS BOOK DOWN ONCE THEY MEET HER. SAMANTHA AND ANDREW'S JOURNEY WILL RESONATE LONG AFTER THE BOOK'S CONCLUSION."

REBECCA COLT ASLAN, AUTHOR OF SOME TRUTHS LIE BENEATH

THAT'S LOVELY IS ABOUT THE RESILIENCE, GROWTH, AND UNEXPECTED JOYS THAT CAN ARISE WHEN LIFE'S PLANS TAKE AN UNFORESEEN TURN. MCBRIDE'S ENGAGING STORYTELLING AND AUTHENTIC CHARACTERS MAKE THIS A BOOK THAT WILL APPEAL TO ANYONE WHO HAS EVER BALANCED AMBITION, FAMILY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

READERS' FAVORITE

I REALLY ENJOYED THIS STORY OF A STRONG, INDEPENDENT FEMALE HEROINE WHO IS NOT ONLY RESILIENT BUT FIERCELY PROTECTIVE OF HER FRIENDS. FINDING LOVE SEEMED LIKE SUCH A SURPRISE TO SAMANTHA AND THE STORY IS TRULY "LOVELY." CAN'T WAIT FOR THE SEQUEL!

KATANEH DUBBELDE, GOODREADS REVIEWER



# ABOUT THE BOOK

IN THAT'S LOVELY, SAMANTHA HAS BUILT A LIFE SHE'S FIERCELY PROUD OF — ONE THAT RUNS ON HER OWN TERMS, WITH ROMANCE NOWHERE IN SIGHT. BUT EVERYTHING CHANGES WHEN SHE'S UNEXPECTEDLY PAIRED WITH ANDREW, A CHARMING DJ WHOSE IRRESISTIBLE SMILE AND INFECTIOUS ENERGY TURN HER CAREFULLY STRUCTURED WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

DETERMINED TO KEEP HIM AT ARM'S LENGTH, SAMANTHA TRIES TO RESIST THE MAGNETIC CONNECTION FORMING BETWEEN THEM. BUT ANDREW'S PLAYFUL HUMOR AND SURPRISING VULNERABILITY CHIP AWAY AT HER DEFENSES, MAKING HER QUESTION THE WALLS SHE'S BUILT AROUND HER HEART.

JUST AS SHE DARES TO LET HER GUARD DOWN, BETRAYAL STRIKES, LEAVING HER REELING AND QUESTIONING EVERYTHING SHE BELIEVED ABOUT LOVE AND TRUST. CAN SAMANTHA SUMMON THE COURAGE TO EMBRACE THE BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXITIES OF VULNERABILITY, OR WILL SHE RETREAT BACK TO HER SAFE, SOLITARY LIFE?

THIS RELATABLE, HEARTFELT STORY EXPLORES THE MAGIC OF UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS AND THE MESSY JOURNEY OF LETTING SOMEONE IN. CAN SAMANTHA EMBRACE THE CHAOS AND TAKE A CHANCE ON LOVE, OR WILL HER FEARS KEEP HER FROM DISCOVERING SOMETHING TRULY LOVELY?





1. The first thing that is mentioned is Samantha's dislike for meeting new people because you are always waiting for the other shoe to drop. Do you think that is a problem women feel more than men and do you think that is why women have a smaller circle of friends?
2. Samantha's brother and his best friend decide to open a club and convince Samantha to become a third partner. What do you think of those dynamics?
3. The scene in front of the restaurant where Samantha loses her parking spot and the scene with the biker dude sending her that drink she didn't want. The way those scenes played out, would you have been brave enough to do somethings like that?
4. The introduction to Andrew at the club by her brother and Gabe. Do you think that since they knew her personally, they could have handled it better? Maybe set a mock interview or even a dinner meet and greet so Samantha could feel like she was a part of the process?
5. Though gender roles are shifting with the passage of time, it is still more common to find men at the helm of most businesses. When Andrew was hired without Samantha's approval, do you think there was an innate sexism on their part?



6. Samantha is immediately reluctant to accept Andrew as a meaningful employee of the club and despite seeing his success on the first night of DJ'ing. Do you think it was his introduction to her as a "surprise" employee that bothers her? Or was there an immediate, initial attraction that caused that?
7. Given Samantha's experience of owning and managing a business, do you think that her continued reluctance to develop a deeper relationship with Andrew stemmed from a history of unfulfilling relationships? Or was it caused by an underlying understanding of the pitfalls of having a romance with someone she is employing?
8. Music is such a big part of the book and it's what eventually led Samantha to let down her guard. Do you think subconsciously Andrew knew that was the way to get to her to at least get her to talk to him?
9. The scene with Andrew after the club was closed and locked. Do you believe that Samantha acted intentionally? Or was it an act of fate and exactly what was needed to push them together?
10. Andrew first believes that Samantha and Jonathan are poking fun at him because he is English. Do you think many immigrants feel vulnerable in this way when adapting to a new culture and interacting with new people? Why or Why not?



11. What did you think of the power dynamics between Andrew and Samantha? Their relationship begins with Samantha having more control simply by being his boss. Does the entrance into a romance shift who has the more dominant role in their relationship?
12. When Andrew invited Samantha to the set and Samantha noticed Nvette flirting with him. Do you think that Samantha then knew Nvette was going to be trouble?
13. Both Samantha and Andrew experienced the death of a loved one. How do you think their losses helped to shape their futures?
14. After the incident, when Samantha walks into Andrew's apartment, after she thought he betrayed her, she finds out the events that really happened to cause the break up. Do you think it was right for Samantha to hold that knowledge from Andrew as long as she did?
15. What do you think of the promises Andrew made to Samantha about their relationship? When reading it, did you think these were believable promises or just talk? Do you think these promises exaggerated Samantha's reaction when she felt betrayed by Andrew or do you think it will make Samantha gullible for future betrayal if they stay together?



16. Once Samantha learned the truth about Andrew, do you think she was justified in trying to get revenge? Or, do you think she went too far and should have just moved on? What do you think about the steps she took to get her pay back?
17. Samantha often reacted toughly. Knowing her actions were provoked by retribution - Do you think they were justified? Why do you think this?
18. What role do you think having a relationship with Andrew played in Samantha's growth? What do you think was the most influential thing in her personal development and why?
19. What did you think of the chemistry between Andrew and Samantha? Did you root for them?
20. Do you have a favorite side or least side character? How did the side characters contribute to the story / romance?



21. Do you have any favorite moments from this story? Do you have a favorite chapter, scene or quote? If yes, please share which ones and why.
22. What do you think was the spiciest moment in the book? What did you like about it?
23. Were there any characters you liked or identified with the most? Who were they and why?
24. Are there any characters you would give advice to? Which one would you speak to and what would you say?
25. Could you imagine this book being turned into a movie? Who do you imagine would be the best cast for each character? Did you imagine anyone in particular when reading the story? Who were they and what made you think of them in one of the characters?

**That's Lovely**





## ADDITIONAL NOTES

**That's Lovely**

# TONI McBRIDE

TONI McBRIDE WAS PRACTICALLY DESTINED TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH A UNIQUE LENS—AFTER ALL, SHE’S THE PRODUCT OF BRITISH WIT AND SOUTHERN CHARM. WITH A MOM FROM MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, WHO MARCHED FOR PEACE IN THE DISARMAMENT PROTESTS, AND A DAD FROM BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, WHO FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, ACTIVISM AND PASSION PRACTICALLY RUN IN HER DNA. NOW, SHE CALLS NEW JERSEY HOME, PERCHED BETWEEN THE NONSTOP ENERGY OF PHILLY AND NYC—CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE ACTION BUT FAR ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY HEAR HERSELF THINK.

A DEVOTED WIFE, MOM OF TWO, AND PROUD RUTGERS ALUM, TONI SPENT YEARS SHAPING YOUNG MINDS AS AN EDUCATOR BEFORE FINALLY SURRENDERING TO THE VOICES IN HER HEAD (THE FICTIONAL ONES, OF COURSE). WHEN SHE’S NOT JUGGLING LIFE’S BEAUTIFUL CHAOS, SHE’S ESCAPING INTO STORIES FILLED WITH HUMOR, ROMANCE, AND A FEW UNEXPECTED TURNS—BECAUSE LOVE, LIKE LIFE, IS UNPREDICTABLE, MESSY, AND ABSOLUTELY MAGICAL.



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