

## Random Love: A Novel

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*The boy from college you thought you forgot about...*

*The feelings you thought you were too old for...*

*The choices you still get to make.*

If there's one thing you shouldn't say when a man tells you he loves you for the very first time, it is "I'm stunned." But when those three little words hurtled unexpectedly at Lisa Grant, she *was* stunned. And she said so. Out loud.

Stunned that love was even possible at the advanced age of 45. Stunned that it could feel so different from what passed for love with her ex-husband (explaining why that marriage lasted a nanosecond after college.) But mostly stunned that the declaration came from old college buddy Seth Austin-Smith, famous in 1985 for dropping out of college to pursue fame, fortune and frequent rotation on MTV as the front man of the New Wave band Joe's Got a Problem.

But building a middle-aged relationship proves far more complicated than hooking up in college. It requires stepping out of the careful structure of her life in Chicago and into the messy tangles of Seth's L.A.-based musician existence. Add to the mix Seth's sullen twenty-something daughter; the girl's mother who is also Seth's landlord and a former groupie whose other children may or may not be fathered by Rick Springfield and the lead singer from The Tubes; Seth's control-freak ex-wife who seems a little unclear on the meaning of "ex;" Lisa's well-meaning but opinionated friend; and her brother who's own romantic troubles spill into hers.

All of it forces Lisa to confront the nature of love, the choices she's made and some long-unanswered questions about what *really* happened at Live Aid in 1985 that ended Lisa and Seth's relationship the first time.

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