

'Gripping,
shocking...
an absolute joy'

Jane Fallon



JUST MY LUCK

What if winning
means losing everything?

ADELE PARKS

THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER

ADELE PARKS was born in Teesside, North-East England. She is the author of nineteen international bestsellers, including her most recent *Sunday Times* Number One bestseller, *Lies Lies Lies*. She's an ambassador for The National Literacy Trust and a judge for The Costa. Adele has lived in Botswana, Italy and London, and is now settled in Guildford, Surrey, with her husband, son and cat. *Just My Luck* is her twentieth novel in twenty years.

Also by Adele Parks

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Lies Lies Lies
Short story collections
Love Is A Journey

Just My Luck

Adele Parks

ONE PLACE. MANY STORIES

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For Jim and Conrad.
I won the lottery.

Contents

Cover	
About the Author	
Booklist	
Title Page	
Copyright	
Note to Readers	
Dedication	
1. Lexi	
2. Lexi	
3. Lexi	
4. Emily	
5. Toma	
6. Lexi	
7. Lexi	
8. Lexi	
9. Emily	
10. Lexi	
11. Emily	
12. Lexi	
13. Lexi	
14	
15. Lexi	
16	
17. Emily	
18. Lexi	
19	
20. Lexi	
21. Lexi	

22. Emily
23. Lexi
24. Lexi
25. Emily
26. Lexi
27. Lexi
28
29. Emily
30. Lexi
31. Emily
32. Lexi
33. Emily
34. Lexi
35. Lexi
36. Emily
37. Lexi
38. Emily
39. Lexi
40. Emily
41. Lexi
41. Emily
42. Lexi
43. Emily
44. Lexi
45. Lexi
46
47. Emily
48. Emily
49. Lexi
50. Emily
51. Lexi
52. Lexi
53

Acknowledgements
About the Publisher

THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GAZETTE

9th November, 2015

Elaine Winterdale, 37, a property manager, has been handed a suspended prison sentence for failing to maintain a faulty gas boiler that caused the death of two tenants from carbon-monoxide poisoning.

Reveka Albu, 29, was found dead with her son Benke, 2, by her husband Mr Toma Albu, 32, at a property they rented in Reading, on 23rd December 2014.

Following an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive, Ms Winterdale was today sentenced at Reading Crown Court for breaches of gas safety laws after she failed to arrange gas safety checks to be carried out at the property over a three-year period, despite assuring her employer, the owner of the property, that she had done so.

In June 2011, an employee of National Grid Gas visited the property to replace the gas meter. The boiler was labelled as ‘immediately dangerous’ due to ‘fumes at open flue’ and was disconnected. A report was left with Mrs Albu and subsequently a letter was sent to Ms Winterdale, which she failed to respond to or pass to the owner of the property.

The boiler was not repaired. For two and a half years the only heating in the home was from one borrowed electric fire.

On 22nd October 2014, Mr Toma Albu was away from home overnight and returned to find the flat warm; his wife informed him that after repeated petitions Ms Winterdale had finally arranged for the boiler to be reconnected.

On the evening of 23rd December 2014, Mr Albu returned home after a double shift to find his wife and son dead. Tests showed Mrs Albu’s blood contained 61 per cent carbon monoxide. A level of 50 per cent is enough to be fatal.

Ms Winterdale pleaded guilty to seven breaches of the Gas Safety Regulations and was given a 16-month prison sentence, suspended for two years. She was also given 200 hours community service, was fined £4,000 and was ordered to pay costs of £17,500.