forward through conversation between girlfriends. Again, this is a staple of romance stories, but the characters are well-drawn and easy to relate to.

the clever hook of

the main character and her friend using animal code words to refer to the boys that have captured their interest. The other is that the story is in no hurry to get the main character together with her man. Stories are driven by suspense, so the longer the coincidences and conversations are drawn out, the better—if they are written efficiently and that works.

3rd place/