



Everything I've Never Had

Lynetta Halat

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Celeste Hebert appears to have it all, but there are many things she's never had, been forbidden from having.

One night. One song. One kiss. The perfect trifecta to unleash the floodgates of a forbidden attraction between the widow and her husband's bad boy cousin, Adrian.

Celeste endeavors to rebury the feelings that surface after this one night since her powerful family despises him. Kindred spirits, best of friends they attempt to douse their attraction; however, Adrian always seems to know exactly how to push her buttons and may prove too much to resist.

Having defied his family by making his way on his own terms, Adrian struggles to regain their acceptance. When he meets his cousin's wife and wants her for his own, he feels he's finally lived down to the title—black sheep. But, when his cousin dies unexpectedly, Adrian fights his attraction and swears to honor them both by helping her raise her boys.

Finding himself enveloped in a cocoon of love and acceptance, Adrian knows it's more than just physical attraction. However, unforeseen events threaten to destroy those he now holds dear and his newfound peace.

Will the ties that bind them be their undoing?

Everything I've Never Had Details

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From Reader Review Everything I've Never Had for online ebook

Vikki ~ *squee* lite ~ says

This one was really good in an unexpected way. I guess I'm so used to variations on the same story that I can usually sketch out the plot from the blurb. Not this time

Adrian was an awesome hero - strong, sexy, and totally devoted the Celeste and her children. It took me a while to understand the extended families dynamics - and it wasn't what I had anticipated. It took me a while to wrap my brain around the "Mafi" like situation.

I adored Adrian and Celeste together. They really are a fantastic couple. The bumps in them getting together were painful at times, but I was so thrilled when it finally happened. (view spoiler)

Of course there was one more twist I didn't see coming. The second half of the book is where Celeste shined. I was so impressed with her (view spoiler) fortitude and her ability to remain calm and rational under the most trying of circumstances. (view spoiler).

If you are looking for something different - something unexpected with great characters and a very satisfying love story - this is one for you.

Smitten's Book Blog says

Perfect!

I absolutely adored this book! It was so moving. I went into it quite blind, as I just skimmed over the blurb and I'd agreed to review it for the author, as I already knew I enjoyed her writing style. So I wasn't too fussed about finding out what I was getting myself into. I kind of like it that way sometimes.

And boy, was *Everything I've Never Had* a nice surprise!

5 stars for Celeste & Adrian!

"You and this family are the best thing that's ever happened to me. Every day when I wake up and when I lie down to go to sleep at night and about a billion times in between, I thank God for giving me y'all. Mostly, I thank God for your stubborn nature and for the fact that you didn't give up on me."

"You'll never be rid of me. You give me everything, Adrian, everything I've never had."

Everything I've Never Had is a beautiful stand-alone about Celeste and Adrian.

Thirty seven year old widow, Celeste, is getting by, after the death of her husband and lifelong friend, Tripp. She's doing a fantastic job raising her three adorable boys and giving them the secure, loving, stable life she had always craved as a child. However, growing up in her Mafia family, things weren't easy. Expectations were thrust upon her, she was never allowed to make her own decisions and growing up was difficult.

Adrian Hebert, Tripp's cousin and black sheep of the family. However, when Celeste loses Tripp, twenty nine year old Adrian is the one to step up to the plate. He is a God-send to Celeste and her boys, helping out with day to day things, providing a role-model and father figure for the boys and a friend and confidant for Celeste.

But neither Celeste nor Adrian can deny their physical attraction to one another and as time goes on, their resolve to remain friends crumbles and sparks begin to fly. But is there any way they can persuade their domineering families to allow them to be together.

And if they do manage to make a relationship work, can they overcome the most difficult of circumstances?

I know I'm not supposed to want him. He's my own slice of forbidden fruit - my deceased husband's outcast cousin.

There is so much to this book. It's definitely a book of two halves, and I enjoyed both equally. Lynetta Halat is an extremely talented lady and she will draw you into this book until you feel like you know these characters inside and out.

I love Celeste. She is an amazing mother, she is strong and admirable. The relationship she has with her three boys is just to die for. Celeste's children play a huge part in this book and they go a long way to making the story what it is. There is a wonderful family feel throughout. I loved the banter, the family dynamics, the love that rolls off of the pages. It's also incredibly sad in places, as obviously these are three young boys who have lost their father. It had me in tears on various occasion.

"Strength isn't the ability to feel strong, Celeste. It's the ability to overcome weakness."

Adrian is perfect! He's gorgeous, dependable, loyal, protective and he loves Celeste and her boys more than life itself. There is nothing hotter than a man who loves his children. So, how about a man who would die for someone else's children? Uber cute! He is a young man who has thrown himself into caring for this family that isn't biologically his and it's just heart-melting. He's also super sexy, plays guitar, is ripped and, oh yeh, he's a Marine! I know, right?! Yum!

"It's a little soon to talk forever, don't you think?"

"If it scares you, I won't talk like that; but, no, I don't think it's too soon. Our past might have been rocky, but I think our future is inevitable."

Celeste and Adrian's budding relationship is delicious. It's sensual, filled with sexual tension and forbidden fruit. They care about one another from the get-go, due to their past and the way they have come into one another's lives. Add the intense physical attraction to that and you've got emotions running riot, morals and intentions being questioned and two people who just can't keep their hands off one another.

Oh my...this is...everything. Everything I've never felt, everything I've never tasted, everything I've never had.

Whilst Celeste loved her late husband, Tripp, she grew up with him as her friend and their love was more of a platonic one. Due to the controlling nature of their families, Celeste and Tripp were married and accepted that that was their lot in life. He was a good man and Celeste knew she was lucky in that way.

"You had a lovely respect, which was respectfully lovely; however, you didn't have a love like married couples are supposed to have, Celeste."

But when Adrian comes along, she suddenly finds herself feeling things that she didn't even know she was capable of feeling. Feelings she didn't know existed outside of romance novels. She aches for him, she wants to breathe him in, she can't get enough of him... even if she knows she can never really have him for herself. And little does she know, he feels exactly the same.

"They're not going to come between us, though, because I'm crazy about you and have been for a long time."

"That's not good enough for me. Although, being crazy for me is a good start. It's just not enough for me since I happen to love you."

I always enjoy reading about a forbidden love. There is something so intense and emotive about two people who aren't supposed to be together but can't help falling in love, against all odds. And the passion and emotion between these two is palpable. I know a lot of people get frustrated by the back and forth of two characters fighting their feelings for one another, but if it's done well, it can create sexual tension that is off the charts, and that, for me, makes a book a huge winner. And in my opinion, that is what Lynetta Halat achieved with *Everything I've Never Had*.

"Are you freaking kidding me? You kissed Adrian "freakishly amazingly beautiful, broody, black sheep, I could take your clothes off without ever moving a muscle" Hebert, and he kissed you back?"

The second half of this book is heart breaking. Just when you think things are starting to straighten out... wham! I can't go into detail without including spoilers and I wouldn't want to lessen the impact of this beautiful story, so I'll let you discover what I'm talking about for yourselves. Just be warned, there will be tears.

"He hurts. I hurt."

There is a chapter in this book where Celeste, the three boys and Adrian all write one another letters and it is absolutely brilliantly done. I commend Lynetta for such well executed creativity. The letters are funny, emotional, sexy, sweet and heart-breaking. Again, it leads back to that fantastic family dynamic that the author really draws you into.

Fans of contemporary romance have to read this. It needs much more recognition. It's just brilliant. A whole host of characters which you just can't not fall in love with, a complex plot line that will keep you on your toes and a *lot* of juicy sexual chemistry for you get your teeth stuck into.

Everything I've Never Had Statistics

Steam Rating (out of 5): ♥♥♥♥

Ending: Happy Ending

Series: X

Can this be read as a standalone? Yes

Themes:

Grief

Forbidden love

Family

War

PTSD

Warning. This book includes...

Sexual content. PTSD sufferer. Attempted rape.

Writing: Fantastic

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Ashley Williams says

3.5 Stars

I really enjoyed reading Everything I've Never Had! It was a somewhat dark.. or maybe sad.. read. Halat is a good writer. I guess I just expected more from the story than what I got. There was a huge build up, with little hints about something that could go terribly wrong, in regards to her family finding out, and it didn't. The climax of the story, was a bit anticlimactic to me. It definitely pulled at your heartstrings, but I was hoping for some action.

I kinda like the hint of forbidden love/angst between the two characters. I like that they tried to avoid their attraction for the sake of the family. The up and down between them was great! With that being said I absolutely love Adrian!! He was a father to children that weren't his, and you really can't go wrong in my eyes there. His love was unconditional. I actually liked Celeste's character too. She was a good mom and great wife.

Overall, the book had me feeling warm and fuzzies, with a bit of sadness. This book had similar elements to another book I just finished, and I can't help but to compare the two. Perhaps if I hadn't read them in such proximity this book would have touched me a bit deeper. I definitely recommend reading it, as it has some great steamy and romantic elements to it!

J Too Many Books Too Little Time says

4--Adrian Loving--Stars!!!

This was a really good read. It didn't feel like the typical NA storyline.

Celeste comes from a powerful, protective and domineering family. Told how to act, how to feel, how to live....marrying Tripp, at the choice of her family, Celeste never experienced true love. The love of friendship and companionship and love of their children but never the all encompassing, butterflies in your stomach, gives you tingles kind of love.

Until Adrian. Adrian is Celeste's cousin by marriage. The blacksheep of his family, never giving in to the demands and choices his family tried to make for him. After the death of Tripp, Adrian steps in as the father figure in Celeste and her three boys' life. Over the years they become best friends. Adrian is there for Celeste when her family never was. He was her light in the darkness of her husband's death.

Celeste and Adrian are both attracted to each other and share a strong connection. But they both believe that because of their families they can never be together. Too afraid to give in to their feelings for fear of their families' reaction. Until one kiss changes everything for Celeste and Adrian.

“That kiss...that kiss was exceptional, and I'll never forget it. As I stand here and as long as I live, it was the best I've ever had, the best I could ever have.”

I was a little worried because the majority of the first half of the book Adrian and Celeste fight their feelings for each other and it was a lot of back and forth. Little bits here and there of them giving in to their feelings

only to pull back. One event allows Celeste and Adrian to see that all of the things keeping them apart aren't worth it.

“All I want to do is hold you and protect you and love you. Will you let me do that, no matter the consequences?”

Adrian and Celeste were really HOT together. Adrian has this alpha side that was so sexy. They didn't even have sex for the majority of the book but I still felt their connection and the chemistry between them was off the charts. I just loved them together SO SO much!

“Being with you, Adrian. It's everything I've ever needed....I feel like you love me for me. Not for what I have to offer you or what you can acquire or who you can make happy by being with me. And the things you make me feel--I thought I'd never be free to feel, so I don't regret us. I'll never be sorry for loving you.”

But the road isn't an easy one for Celeste and Adrian. They are faced with more challenges. Some of which really broke my heart. I loved the letters and guitar picks that were incorporated. In the end, the love that Celeste and Adrian had for each other gave them the strength to make it through everything they faced.

“Thank God! Oh my..this is...everything. Everything I've never felt, everything I've never tasted, everything I've never had.”

This really was a beautifully written story. The dialogue was fantastic and I loved the secondary characters. It was heartbreaking, yet heartwarming. I was seriously swooning over Adrian. I'd take an Adrian any day!! The sexy times were so well done and HOT. This was a standalone with a HEA!

♥ Barb ♥ says

I know I'm NOT supposed to WANT him. He's my OWN slice of forbidden fruit....MY deceased husband's outcast COUSIN.

He's AMAZING. He's PURE HEARTED. He's GORGEOUS.....Yes this is Adrian i'm describing....he is the sweetest guy ever!

This is the story about 29 yr old Marine/guitarist Adrian and 37 yr old widow/mom of 3/designer Celeste. It starts out with Celeste left alone to raise her 3 young boys after her husband of 14 years, Tripp passes away. Tripp's cousin Adrian steps in to help Celeste out and well....you can probably guess what happens? The family is against any relationship with these two...so the first 40% dragged a little...but it did not disappoint. I really enjoyed this one.....what i really mean is I enjoyed ADRIAN *sigh* I did mention he plays the guitar, right? Yep....he's PERFECT with a capital P.
YUM-OLA

4 STARS for SEXY ADRIAN ♥

ADRIAN

His scent is unique...it reminds me of the desert and the ocean all at once--HOT and QUENCHING.
Why does he have to be an assault on all of my senses?? Yummy~

CELESTE

My EYES meet his, and i'm LOST. Lost to his LOOK. Lost to this song. Lost to my fantasizing.

“All I want to do is hold you and protect you and love you. Will you let me do that, not matter the consequences?”

FOO FIGHTERS

Everlong Lyrics

*Hello, I've waited here for you... Everlong.
Tonight, I throw myself into,
And out of the red, out of her head she sang.*

*Come down and waste away with me, down with me...
Slow how, you wanted it to be,
I'm over my head, out of her head she sang.*

*And I wonder when I sing along with you,
If everything could ever feel this real forever.
If anything could ever be this good again,
The only thing I'll ever ask of you.
You gotta promise not to stop when I say when.
She sang:*

*Breathe out, so I can breathe you in,
Hold you in, and now, I know you've always been there
Out of your head, out of my head I sang.*

*And I wonder when I sing along with you,
If everything could ever feel this real forever,
If anything could ever be this good again.
The only thing I'll ever ask of you,
You gotta promise not to stop when I say when.
She sang:*

*And I wonder...
If everything could ever feel this real forever,
If anything could ever be this good again.
The only thing I'll ever ask of you,
You gotta promise not to stop when I say when.*

You're my LIFE, my LOVE, my HEAVEN...my EVERYTHING I'd NEVER had.

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

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Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says

4.5 stars

I've never been to New Orleans, but thanks to the descriptive beauty in the prose of Lynetta Halat, I feel as if I've just spent a couple of days right there, wrapped up in the lives of the Hebert Clan, their friends and loved ones and it was as if I lived this story...as if I became part of this story. I fell deeply in love with Celeste, Adrian, Archer, Paris and Finn. They completely and utterly stole my heart.

I'm mindful not to give anything away about this story because I really want readers to experience every captivating and moving moment the way this story was intended to be played out.

Celeste Hebert is a widow coping with life as a single mother with three beautiful young sons. I have to pause here for a minute and tell you that one of the true beauties within this book was the relationship between Celeste and her boys. I melted every single time there was an exchange or scene with them. I will take away some cherished memories from this book where these guys are concerned. They were funny, sweet, tender and very, very touching

"You and your brothers are my heart, Archer, and I need you to be very careful with my heart, OK?" – Celeste

Celeste is blessed to have her friend like Adrian in her life. Here is a man who stepped up to assist her in the upbringing of her boys when Celeste's husband passed away. He's a rock for Celeste and a friend and role model to her boys. But this man affects Celeste in other ways and denying that attraction gets more difficult

the more intense her feelings become for him.e time.

'I wish my kisses held healing power and with each one, every sadness, every insecurity, every pain of his would dissipate.' - Celeste

I found the way this man took care of Celeste and her beautiful young men was utterly touching. He may be slightly younger than Celeste, but where these boys are concerned Adrian shows a maturity, understanding and loyalty beyond his years.

"All I want to do is hold you and protect you and love you. Will you let me do that, not matter the consequences?" - Adrian

Despite her life experiences and the fact she has mothered three children, Celeste appears quite charmingly naive in way. The intense, raw and passionate feelings Celeste feels for Adrian comes as a shock to her. He elicits a side to Celeste she never knew existed...one that has laid dormant for so long. In return Celeste brings out the warmth and tenderness in Adrian.

"We all have our own hurt, our own pain even if it's not obvious to the world."

Due to family interference, lies, deception and intimidation from outside influences, not to mention lack of communication on Celeste and Adrian's part , these two have a lot of obstacles in their way on the path to happiness and if they are to have a chance, they need to stand strong, together, and fight for one another, ever if at times that fight may appear fruitless.

'He hurts. I hurt.' – Celeste

Celeste was such an engaging, strong and absolutely delightful heroine. Never underestimate this woman! She is true of heart and may come across quite demure, but Celeste possesses a tenacity you can't help but admire. You know this woman would fight to the death for her little family. They are her life and I adored her for the fierce love and protection she showed them.

Adrian, the tortured man who carries baggage of his own, finds a calm, a solace and a love he never imaged in Celeste and her boys. Adrian has known his pain, and has experienced horrors no man ever should. Horrors that lay hidden deep below the surface.

"That kiss...that kiss was exceptional, and I'll never forget it. As I stand here and as long as I live, it was the best I've ever had, the best I could ever have."

The saying, you never know what goes on behind closed doors is never truer than in this book. It's not only Adrian and Celeste's relationship we get to delve into but those of her friends Farah and Bonnie. To be able to peek inside the lives of these wonderful characters, to witness their happiness, their pain and their struggles really does move you.

'Taking one last look at myself, I decide that that was the one and only time Adrian Herbert, or any man for that matter, would make me hurt like that.' - Celeste

I didn't just read this story. I visualized it – I could see, breathe and felt every happy, sad, heartbreaking and sometimes tortuous moment. When these characters hurt, I hurt. The letters....let me tell you, I felt as if I was hanging over each shoulder, reading right along with them and experiencing every word written.

"You made me feel better than good. Cherished. You make me feel cherished." – Celeste

I think it's clear to see how completely intoxicated I was with this story. So I guess you're wondering why not 5 stars? Well, there were a couple of scenes that whilst they tugged at my heart I felt I would have loved to have seen them fleshed out a little more. As much as it would have destroyed me emotionally, I really would have loved for this author to have taken me to the moment, and not just experience it after the effect. This author has an amazing talent and her way of describing a scene can completely transport the reader and take them to "there" and for me personally, I would have loved for her to have taken me there. As painful as it would have been I wanted to be present in some of those difficult scenes, to allow me, as the reader, to experience every painstaking, heartbreaking moment first hand. Whilst I know it would have left me emotionally drained to have read them, I feel confident this would have handled it with a mixture of strength and sensitivity.

" Strength isn't the ability to feel strong, Celeste. It's the ability to overcome weakness."

Everything I've Never Had is my first foray into the work of this author, and I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to experiencing more of her writing in the future. Prepare to love, laugh, cry, swoon and most all..."feel". Beautiful. Captivating. Passionate. Engaging. Emotional. A must read!

Arc supplied by author in exchange for an honest review.

Lisa says

ARC Given to Blog for Honest Review

4.5 'mimi' 'Give Me My Blues' Kisses

OMG I loved this book. Loved it. Straight up, lots of reasons why I loved it but that doesn't even begin to really *justify* my love for it...I just freaking did. The characters were amazing, the angst was off the charts, the love...omg **their** love...yeah. I just freaking couldn't put this book down. Like finished it in 24 hours kind of thing.

Celeste Marie Dubois Hebert...at 37 she is a widow and a single mother to her three boys (Archer, Paris and Finn – but I'll get to them in a minute) and she wow'd my socks off. Losing your husband to cancer is hard...period. Add in the fact that she grew up with him, basically spent half her life married to him and he was kind of all she knew. They didn't have this all-encompassing, passionate love, but what they had meant the world to her. She's also got an over bearing family - yeah...not just mom and dad, there's a whole slew of people ready to run her life for her...and they kind of have been, for a while. I have to say, I really enjoyed watching Celeste's development through the course of the book. If it was even possible, she grew stronger in my eyes...and I'd like to think that was thanks to a certain super hot and dreamy Marine/Guitarist.

'It's that moment. That moment when we think everything is happening on course. No ripples, no waves. We're just trying to get through another day, feeling like all the little things overwhelm us and they do because they end up making up our day. We get so focused on the little things that we forget the bigger picture. Sometimes we forget to appreciate the little things that truly matter because our vision is so clouded by all of the mundane. The here and now become our obsession, and we forget the concept of our finite state because with all the little things vying for our attention it feels like we'll go on forever.'

Adrian Gabriel LeBlanc Hebert is amazing. I love him. Do you want the laundry list of reasons why I love him? Good...

1. He's a marine - I LOVE a man in uniform - **Oorah!**
2. He plays the guitar & is in a band – that should need no further explanation
3. He has a motorcycle – yum!
4. And a truck - double yum!
5. He loves kids – it might just be the way he is with Celeste's kids, but still...damn! Panty melter alert!
6. He has gorgeous blue eyes
7. He's **T, D & H** - tall, dark and handsome...triple yum!
8. He likes to hold hands
9. He has a very talented mouth ;-) He can sing you perverts! And do other stuff :-P
10. He's sweet and romantic and kind and passionate and so many other freaking things!

I could literally write a list a mile long with the things I loved about Adrian. Because I am seriously struggling to think of anything I didn't like about him. That's not to say this man is perfect, he did piss me off a couple of times...but he can't be 100% perfect, we all make mistakes and while his mistakes hurt...and some hurt pretty deep...they are not unforgiveable mistakes. I think the one thing that made me love him the most was the fact that not once from page one till the end did his love for Celeste ever waiver. Ever. I never questioned him...even though there were parts where Celeste did, I knew better.

'But when I make eye contact with those ocean-blue eyes of his, images of kissing him, joking with him, him playing with my boys, him holding my hair back while I was sick all come rushing to the forefront. All my emotions are jumbled with these memories. Like seaweed they weave their way through my brain and tangle themselves so thoroughly with everything that I am that all I can see is love when I look at him—and it's not friendly love or familial love—it's all-encompassing, I-want-to-spend-the-rest-of-my-life-loving-you love.'

So Adrian and Celeste may have had insta-attraction...but their love is a **beautiful** thing. It's cultivated over 2 years of the tragedy of losing her husband, Adrian being there for her and especially for the boys, sharing things with each other, bonding, building this friendship and relationship over time. They had this incredibly strong foundation so while yes, there was a tremendous steam factor with their attraction, you were more in love with them as a couple. But please don't get this dirty book whore wrong...there was *plenty* to lust over. Oh boy...some of those kisses...just damn. Oh...and this is not a wham-bam-thank you ma'am book! These two make you *work* for it...

"It's just because you can't have me, Adrian. I'm nothing special."

"Oh, baby, you have no idea." He runs his nose up my throat, scenting me as he goes. I lean my neck back, giving him more access even as my brain screams at me to run—not walk—out of this room. But when he says, "You're everything to me." My head falls back even further and my eyes close again as I feel him slant his head and attack my jaw, throat, and neck with closed-mouth kisses. I hear myself moan and give myself one more little jolt to try to spare myself from this delicious torment that will only end in frustration.

Adrian works his way back up my throat, but this time, it's his tongue that leaves a scorching path of devastation. I feel as though I've been flayed open and am just a quivering pile of nerve-endings. "Oh my God, Adrian, what are you doing to me?" I manage.

"I could ask you the same thing," he murmurs against my throat. "You're driving me insane. We shouldn't be here. Doing this. Yet, here we are again. And I can't stop."

So I think what did me in was the angst. The push and pull, the flow of their relationship, the longing and desire and oh my sweet goodness the passion. They had it all and I **felt** every last ounce of it. I ached with Celeste, I pined for Adrian and I couldn't get enough. Their reason for not being together while slightly frustrating is still understandable. Adrian's reasons and logic were completely understandable, just slightly *grrr* inducing. I felt for Celeste because every time she would get that resolve to stay away from him, move on or at least try to, all it took was a touch, a smile, a look and all her strength came crashing down. It's that kind of love you cannot deny.

‘He draws my forehead to his lips and places a light kiss there. “I love you so much, Cel. I didn’t think it was possible, but every day that we’re together I fall more in love with you. I...it blows my fucking mind.”’

So there are a lot of characters to love (and dislike and sometimes hate) in this book but I would say there are three that almost stole the show. Archer Finn and Paris...Celeste's sons. OMG...LOVED them. They each have a very unique personality and were just these fabulous little characters...I almost want each one of them to have a book...just because! No other specific reason...yeah, I'm a dork like that. Another couple that deserves their own book...Bonnie (Celeste's best friend) and Garner (Adrian's best friend) – tell me that isn't genius in the making?!? Now, seriously...I would beg for that book...Bonnie is just a riot and her relationship history combined with her relationship with Garner...even though we only get to see glimpses of it is just brilliance.

“‘Anyway, how many of you have ever been in love?’ Lots of hooting and hollering. “Yeah, well, this one is about the kind of love that compels you, that takes you on a ride like no other. The kind of love that wraps you tight in its embrace before it sinks its teeth into you.” Lots of catcalling and whistling. “Yet you gravitate toward its hold and scream with joy from its sweet torture, knowing you wouldn’t have it any other way.” The bar is a riot of emotion, and I’m blown away by my otherwise quiet leading man.’

What else did I love besides the characters...the plot and story line were original, I mean it's the same 'unrequited love'...we can't be together and I'm protecting you so I can't tell you why...but there were a few twists to it, so it wasn't a rinse/lather/repeat scenario. The concept of her being older, him being younger was *really* different and I **loved** that! And I don't know if you caught the whole last name thing...yeah, the family dynamics are another interesting aspect to the story. My absolutely favorite part was the epilogue...drum roll please...**ADRIAN'S POV!!!**...OMG, LOVED it. SO freaking much and we got to see them in the future, but *oh my* it just melted my HEA loving heart. But there was one thing that kind of made my eyebrow arch...there is a man, he's involved with Celeste's late husband – he plays the most minor of all roles I can ever think possible...and while I thought I could see his purpose, I kind of thought it was a little bit of a stretch and by the end of the book...it was the only thing that stuck out as odd to me.

‘His voice is as strong as his body as he proclaims, “I was never anyone else’s to have. You own me, Celeste. Always have. Always will.” My heart melts, yet my fear ignites. I can’t lose this. I can’t lose him. Pulling him to me, I devour him as he carries me into the bathroom.’

Clearly...I am over the moon for this book...I mean I didn't even touch on the writing, which did it for me in every way possible. The style, the flow, the dialogue – OMG the banter back and forth was perfect! Just all in all, *Everything I've Never Had* completely exceeded my expectations. *Sigh* So there comes a time at the end of a book when I **know** I need to let go...the book is over and I must move on. I will move on, because I have to. But I can definitely say Celeste and Adrian will stay with me. I will never forget their story, their love and just **them** as characters.

Anas Attic Book Blog says

Enter the giveaway (September 2014) at Ana's Attic Book Blog

With all of the books nowadays featuring 17-23 year olds, it is a true pleasure when one comes along that sweeps you away and features an older heroine. The beautifully written *Everything I've Never Had* by Lynetta Halat did just that.

Celeste is 38, a widow, and the mother of three boys. Part of a very powerful and dangerous family, Celeste's marriage was arranged. She loved her late husband and the father of her kids, but she was never *in love*.

Since his death from cancer, her husband's cousin, Adrian, soldier and the black sheep of the family, has been stepping in and helping out. He has become a father figure to the boys, and a best friend to Celeste. They both want more, but there are plenty of obstacles. Adrian and his father have been ostracized from the family, he is 30 - 8 years younger than Celeste, and neither one has shared their "more than family" feelings with each other. The rest of the family will do what ever they have to keep them apart, and they are both scared to go against them.

"I know I'm not supposed to want him. He's my own slice of forbidden fruit--my deceased husband's outcast cousin. And with the way our families were connected, that was not something I could ignore"

But when she sees him playing rhythm guitar in his band...her attraction becomes so strong she has to get away. But he follows, and they share an epic kiss that changes everything.

"Oh my...this is...everything. Everything I've never felt, everything I've never tasted, everything I've never had."~Celeste

"That kiss...that kiss was exceptional, and I'll never forget it. As I stand here and as long as I live, it was the best I've ever had, the best I could ever have." ~Adrian

They still fight their attraction, and even date other people in front of each other while trying to keep their hands off of each other.

But they just can't stay away...even when with the other dates.

*"I've never wanted a woman the way I want you. Never."
"It's just because you can't have me, Adrian. I'm nothing special."
"Oh, baby, you have no idea." He runs his nose up my throat, scenting me as he goes..."You're everything to me."*

When they finally stop fighting each other, HOLY MOLY, it gets H-O-T. My kids play guitar and bass. I have picks all over my house. Let's just say and getting all flushed when I see them now.

So much more happens, and I don't want to give more away. There is a military aspect to this book that many will appreciate as well, and it was all handled very well. This book had a great ending, though it is different than what you expect, and a perfect epilogue.

Likes:

- Beautifully written.
- Older heroine with kids.
- Forbidden attraction that they fight like crazy.
- I totally love Adrian. He is such a great guy and amazing with the boys. There is nothing sexier than a man who is great with kids.
- Guitar picks. Nuff said.
- The letters, and guitar picks in them.
- The very real issues our soldiers face.
- The magnetic pull between the couple was palpable.
- There was a very long build-up to their relationship before the book began. They were friends first.
- It felt like a long, meaty story.

Dislikes:

- I wasn't all that clear why they didn't stand up to the family sooner.
- I would have liked a little more together time.
- I almost wish something a little more epic happened.

Rating 4.5 stars 3.75 heat (there was good sex and build up, just not much)

Everything I've Never Had is a beautiful story with likable, relatable, and down to earth characters. It was a pleasure reading about an older heroine with kids for a change, and they only added to the love story inside. Though I usually don't like to mention another author in a review, something about this story, (though the characters talk nothing like it) reminded me of a Kristen Ashley book, without the gobs of action. Perhaps it's the older characters, the manly alpha, and the history between the couple. To me, this is the highest of compliments. Beautifully written and unique, I highly recommend you check this one out!

Connect with Lynetta Halat

Amazon | Goodreads | Facebook | Twitter

Also see her at Wicked Book Weekend 2014: Ft. Lauderdale

Purchase Everything I've Never Had by Lynetta Halat

Everything I've Never Had">Amazon | BN.com

Please visit my blog Ana's Attic Book Blog and join my page on Facebook

Jess-i-ca ~Sometimes a Gif Witch~ says

[had to deploy! The military spouse in me wanted to boohoo for Celeste (hide spoiler)]

Megan says

I was lucky enough to be a beta reader for Lynetta. I'm always amazed at the picture she can write into her words. She has a way of making you get lost in the words she writes. She gained my attention with Every Rose and captured my heart with Everything I've Never Had!

Celeste

Adrian

Celeste is the daughter in a powerful family. She is a widow raising three boys and navigating life while trying to balance the world she lives in with the way she wants her boys to grow up. Adrian, her husband's sexy badass cousin who oh yes... is in a band... steps up to help her with raising her family. Sparks fly but even with all that chemistry, being together isn't as easy as you'd think it would be.

"I might shatter into a million pieces," he grinds out but drops my hands. "I'll put you back together again," I promise."

I can't give too much description as I normally would because I fear I'd spoiled this book for someone and I would hate that. There is so much story packed into this book. The letters toward the end of the book sealed this book as a favorite for me. It all felt so real. The family bond that they had was so heartfelt. Losing a parent as a child is difficult and I think Lynetta traveled those waters brilliantly. This book is so much more than I could have ever imagined it would be from the synopsis.

"Our past might have been rocky, but I think our future's inevitable."

Adrian and I had a love hate relationship. There were moments when I could beat the _____ out of him! Seriously?! Once we got past that I loved him... Then I did punch my screen toward the end thinking I was going to have to go to fictional jail for killing my current book boyfriend, but thankfully our falling out was resolved peacefully and both Celeste and I got an HEA.

"That kiss...that kiss was exceptional, and I'll never forget it. As I stand here and as long as I live, it was the best I've ever had, the best I could ever have."

Lynetta is a wonderful author. Her writing is so authentic and down to earth. I can't imagine what else she has up her sleeve, but I can't wait to read it.

Chopette says

DNF. I can't do it, I keep trying to read this book but I just can't do it anymore. Before I read this I saw all the 4 and 5 star reviews and thought I was about to have my mind blown. Instead all I got from it was blah blah blah. The characters were not all that likable and to be honest were rather forgettable. I may have only read 50% of this book but that 50% was just the same things over and over again. I had to remind myself a few times that this wasn't a college book, they were meant to be adults! This did not hold my attention at all and although I don't like to not finish books I really can't continue with this one.

Patrycja says

Everything I've never had is not what I expected it would be. I anticipated amazing love story about burning feeling that eats you alive, but I got something entirely else and now I'm not really sure what to think about it. This novel can easily mesmerize and is definitely beautiful, but I felt the need for something more. I loved and admired most of the book, but something was poking me in the head, telling me there needs to be something more and fortunately last 100 pages had this „it”.

Celeste lost her husband, now she's left with three boys to take care of. Fortunately her husband's cousin Adrian is there to help her. The way he takes care of her and her children, the way her body acts around him, the way she feels toward him is forbidden. How can she feel attraction toward Adrian, the best friend of her dead husband?

One night they share passionate, sizzling kiss that seals their feelings. Both of them lust for each other, but if it's only lust should they jeopardize everything? They agree to not act on their feelings, but when sexual tension is thicker and thicker and their love for each other grows, it's harder to say no.

I really enjoyed few first chapters of Everything I've never had, they were everything I thought they would be full of sexual tension, love and longing. After that things started to go in other direction, which worried me, only to change all plot in the last 100 pages.

The things I loved were heartwarming, sexy and extremely passionate. I adored Celeste and her strength to fight for her family. The magnetic pull between Celeste and Adrian is straight from fairy tale. They share explosive chemistry that easily pulled me into the story. Sex was amazing. And writing really could touch you. Adrian was the sweetest, the sexiest man I've read about in long time, and the way he takes care of kids made my motherly instinct kick in with full force.

So what was my problem?

I waited for something explosive, something that would make me surprised and go all gaga over it, but it did not happen. I enjoyed reading EINH, don't get me wrong, but it didn't totally satisfied me. Fortunately last

100 pages make me give it few brownie points more.

This story is definitely exceptional and beautiful, because every romantic journey like that is enthralling. I was touched in places I never thought existed, but my hideous greedy monster was bawling with need for more and I can't argue with him, because then he's making me hate myself and every book I pick up don't do it for me. So my rating will be 3.5 stars (shsh!! You dirty monster. He wants me to give it only 3 stars.)

Anne OK says

A new-to-me-author that proved to be a winning choice in this well-written story that presents a taste of refreshing uniqueness. This one is packed with dramatic gut-wrenching subjects with a little hint of infiltration by the mafia starring a powerful cast of characters. It's the kind of book that is irresistibly satisfying and one that tugs at your heart, as well. It also includes some very addictive sexy romance at its best. And if that wasn't enough, the treasure trove of unusual and unique names alone made me sit up and take notice.

Elizabeth (Liz) says

Author Lynetta Halat's second book, *Everything I've Never Had*, was a gorgeous, sexy, emotional, atmospheric masterpiece of contemporary romance!! If you can't tell from that opening statement, I love, love, love this story! Celeste and Adrian drew me to them from their first scene, and I was swept up into their love story and carried along for the ride, almost becoming a part of it myself.

Celeste, a mother to three uniquely interesting boys, lost her husband to cancer. Their relationship was one of deep friendship more than anything else. Her husband's cousin, Adrian, several years younger than Celeste, was a godsend to Celeste and her boys. He stepped in and stepped up after her husband's death. A mutual attraction had been brewing between the two for quite some time, but neither was sure how the other felt, and they didn't want to destroy what they already had. Those repressed feelings bubbled to the surface one night while Adrian was playing guitar with his band, made up of former Marine buddies. A desperately passionate kiss followed soon after.

Celeste's and Adrian's families had been connected by business for years...shady business, but business nevertheless. To say they knew where to apply pressure to both of them would be an understatement. Their families had made it a lifelong priority to push both Celeste and Adrian in different ways, and that didn't stop simply because the two began to grow closer. If anything, it became worse. Adrian had been labeled the black sheep of the family merely because the others had a falling out with his father, and they maintained that old belief that the sins of the father shall be visited upon the son. They demanded he have no personal relationship with Celeste, and set out to insure he wouldn't even think about it. But, when two people find the other halves of their souls, oftentimes, not even those most determined manage to keep them apart.

Everything I've Never Had was set in New Orleans—one of my very favorite places in the world—and the combination of that fact and Lynetta Halat's talent for setting a scene and creating atmosphere gave this story such a lush, old-world feel, even while it was thoroughly contemporary and current. I don't know how to

explain it any other way. I hope other readers are able to feel that, because it provided the book with yet another layer of authenticity and depth.

The love story between Celeste and Adrian was so beautiful, so sexy, and so fraught with emotional highs and lows. I adored this couple, the boys they both loved so much, and the strength they were able to find together.

5 Stars!

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