



Until the Last Star Fades

Jacquelyn Middleton

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COULD YOU BE THE ONE WHO CHANGES EVERYTHING?

In her senior year at NYU, Riley Hope appears to be on top of the world. With a loving mother who makes Lorelai Gilmore look like a parenting slacker, ride-or-die friends, and a long-time boyfriend destined for the National Hockey League, she puts on a smile for the world. But behind it, she's drowning. Racked with fears for the future, she battles to stay afloat amid life in the shadows of a heartbreaking illness.

And then, Ben Fagan comes crashing into her life. Twenty-three-years-old, British, and alone in the Big Apple after a disastrous pilot season in LA, the struggling actor is looking for an escape: booze, mischief, sex—minimum commitment, maximum fun—anything to avoid returning across the pond.

As they form an unlikely bond, Riley keeps her reality from Ben so that he remains a happy refuge. But how long can she hold back the truth...and is Ben keeping his own secrets, too?

From the award-winning author of LONDON BELONGS TO ME and LONDON, CAN YOU WAIT?, comes a bittersweet story about love, loss, sacrifice, and the life-changing decisions we make.

Until the Last Star Fades Details

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From Reader Review Until the Last Star Fades for online ebook

Taylor Knight says

I loved the main characters so much and I thought Riley was so relatable. It was so refreshing to read about a character that deals with anxiety and depression, something I definitely relate to but rarely see represented in books.

I was so invested in the story and couldn't put this book down, which doesn't happen that often for me. I went out of my way to make time to read this book and it was definitely worth it. Jacquelyn Middleton never fails to write a book that I fall in love with but *Until the Last Star Fades* is easily one of the best books I've read this year.

poodles.ponies.peonies says

After reading "London Belongs to Me" and "London, Can you wait?", I had high expectations for Jacquelyn Middleton's new book: "Until the Last Star Fades". I was fortunate enough to receive an advanced eBook copy and it did not disappoint.

Once again Middleton has built a world full of well-developed characters and beautifully constructed relationships that draw you in from the first page. From the brilliantly-conceived meet-cute, to the hilarious banter between friends that I have come to associate with her work, this book moves along at the perfect pace. The pop culture references are spot-on and the frequent twists in the plot are masterfully composed.

While the slow-burn romance is swoon-worthy and the friendships enviable, this book also does not shy away from dealing with more challenging subject matter. Middleton doesn't pull any punches. She respects the intelligence of her audience and writes with an absolute honesty that makes her characters truly relatable and their journeys all the more beautiful.

I highly recommend this five star read for anyone who enjoys new adult contemporary romance written with humour, intelligence and honesty.

Synopsis:

"Touching, heartfelt and passionate, UNTIL THE LAST STAR FADES blurs the line between slow-burn romance and women's fiction, and is a must-read for hopeful romantics, devoted daughters, and the moms they cherish.

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Susan says

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UNTIL THE LAST STAR FADES is the perfect way to spend the day! All of the characters seem very genuine and relatable and I was emotionally invested in them all, right off the bat. Riley stole my heart as a woman struggling with mental illness. The story shows how an illness not only effects Riley but those around her. Especially Ben and the chemistry between the two is not something the reader can ignore. Hang on people! It will be a wild and crazy ride for sure! Ben comes with a irresistible British accent too. Oh yeah!!

While reading UNTIL THE LAST STAR FADES I felt as if I were right there in New York thanks to Jacquelyn Middleton's descriptive writing. The secondary characters are as wonderful as the primary ones and soon you will be thinking of them as your friends. Once I started reading, it was very hard to put down. I truly wanted Riley and Ben to find their happily ever after. Riley was carrying so much pain in her heart and I just wanted to reach out and give her a really big hug.

UNTIL THE LAST STAR FADES is a heart warming and beautiful romance novel that will leave you with all the feels. It is very easy to establish a connection with Riley and Ben and I really wanted them both to let go of the secrets they each have and put them behind them. Do you think that's possible? I thoroughly enjoyed reading UNTIL THE STAR FADES. It is funny and heart warming and filled with so many different emotions. There is so much going on in this story, but Jacquelyn Middleton does a wonderful job of weaving all the pieces together. All of the characters will have you feeling sad and then giggling on the same page. More than once I wanted to be hanging with this family and my new found friends! Once you finish devouring this story, you are going to want to tell everyone you know about this awesome book.

Alyssa | Swept Away By Books says

So heartwarming, sweet, touching and emotional.

Ellen ♦ Book Bellas ♦ says

”Sometimes the heart wants what it can't have.”

Sweet and full of heart! Something about this book really grabbed me and I very much enjoyed this funny, tender and sexy story. Riley Hope is a senior at NYU with a long-distance boyfriend and a lot on her plate. She takes care of her ailing mother who is struggling just to get by but never, ever complains and really has a beautiful, sunny outlook on life. Riley’s bond with her mother is one of the central relationships in this book.

A chance, cute meeting with a sexy Brit named Benjamin Fagan turns her life upside down. Riley begins to question her life choices as she and Ben become very close friends and she really begins to lean on him for support. Ben is a wonderful, hard-working, adorable guy who will steal your heart! Anglophiles rejoice because you will LOVE Ben.

This book isn’t just about romantic relationships but is also a very heartwarming, emotional and loving story about family relationships and the love between a parent and child. Although it is very funny and breezy in parts, other parts are very serious and the author is not afraid to tackle some very weighty subjects. The story is a long one but is very fast-paced and the supporting characters are all very charming. Riley makes some life-changing decisions all while keeping secrets from Ben and from her own mother. But Ben is keeping some secrets, as well.

”How will I get up each morning knowing it will be a day without you in it?”

This is a slow-burn romance and there are a lot of pop culture references, which I loved. The writing is charming, sweet and very funny. The story for me really came together when Ben, always the optimist and very upbeat, revealed his past to Riley. I also loved the way these two met by chance but fate brought them together. In my opinion though, the romance in this book really took a back seat to the relationship between Riley and her mother Maggie.

”What you see on the outside, never tells the true story of someone’s heart.”

This book is not your typical friends-to-lovers romance but has that something extra that kept me invested in the story until the end. The other aspect of the book that I loved was that the author tackled a subject called “smiling depression” which was dealt with in a very compassionate and realistic way.

I have not read the author’s other books. ‘London Belongs to Me’ and ‘London Can You Wait?’ but this book includes characters spun-off from that series. You do not need to have read those books to follow this story, but now I am intrigued so I can’t wait to read those books as well.

‘Until The Last Star Fades’ is perfect for fans of new adult contemporary romance as well as women’s fiction. The story was a little long in parts but overall I really enjoyed this heartwarming and unexpectedly charming romance.

”If you believe in nothing else, please believe in love. It can make miracles happen.”

Cristina | CristiinaReads says

⇒***The boundaries of wanting what you can reach, have been broken in this very emotional and in depth full of hope and fresh light of a romance novel...***

⇒The last time I read a book by **Jacquelyn**, it was a **twist of events that made me want to take my time in understanding her type of style in writing. When her publicist reached out to me to review this one, I already had it added** to my TBR so I was excited to dive into it earlier than what I was expecting. I am glad that I did because this **angsty romance is one that was beyond anything** that I had read in a while when it comes down to contemporary romances. Being filled with so many emotions that grasp around the idea of being **scared as an individual who has to think thoroughly on her future and being in a long time relationship, Riley struggles with trying to identify herself** and get to have a future filled with a passion that identifies her as a unique individual. This is something that I found touching of Jacquelyn to add, something so unexpected but also very realistic when it comes down to individuals in college. That's when Ben comes into the equation...

⇒A British cutie that had my heart filled **with so much tender love and compassion towards HIS passions, he slowly grasps into the heart** of the reader by expressing himself in such a fruitful and vibrant way filled with positivity and shine. Something about **Ben is very spiritual in a way that makes you wonder what sort of secrets he can possibly be hiding. After encountering with Riley on that one unexpected turn of events, Ben makes his friendship solid with her. While she deals** with her internal struggles in which I am glad Jacquelyn was able to so smoothly talk about, but also do it in such a serious tone of matter that makes you ache for the **same feelings that Riley goes through. Everything about her is a confusing puzzle that you need to internally solve with her while she slowly learns to grasp unto her inner** and true passions.

"Look for people who might be hurting, who are silent in their pain and aren't asking for help.
The best way to heal yourself is to help someone else..."

⇒The inner beauty that is about this **novel is that Jacquelyn is not afraid to talk about serious topics such as depression, death in the family, mental illnesses, and overall struggle that make her question herself and those who surround her.** With the help of Ben, and slowly becoming an independent young lady with a ferocious inner self, she learns how to let people in and her express herself OUT to the world in a way she never did before.

⇒This compassionate **romance novel is one that I am actually recommending to those whom I have met throughout my years of depression, because it is the one novel** that I have encountered upon that talks about serious topics of mental illness in a way that is one soothing, and two very in depth of the emotions of the characters. Overall, there is **no mistaking that passing out on this novel and not planning on reading it, will be a regret coming** from everyone. Thank you so much to Jacquelyn and her PR team for reaching out and letting me read her novel!

⇒ARC kindly provided by the publicist in exchange for an honest review...

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Meredith Mara says

'Until the Last Star Fades' brings seriously sexy romance without being all about the romance. It's a

beautiful love story that unfolds slowly amid life's hardships and obstacles.

Middleton has a knack for writing complex and relatable characters and doesn't shy away from putting them through the ringer. As in life, there are no easy solutions here for our main protagonists Riley and Ben. Riley experiences her fair share of pain, awkwardness, and despondency, as she navigates love, friendship, loss, her mom's cancer diagnosis, and her own debilitating depression. Scottish born Ben is an out-of-work and seriously out-of-money actor, who struggles with dyslexia and his past. Both Riley and Ben are well-rounded characters with personalities that shine through in dialogue and action.

Three things that really stood out for me in 'Until the Last Star Fades': Riley's healthy, thick-as-thieves relationship with her mom, Maggie — it's so refreshing to see that not all parent-kid relationships are hostile mine fields. Secondly, the honest portrayal of Riley's struggles with mental illness, namely, depression—pointing out that just because someone's adept at putting on a smile doesn't mean they're not dying on the inside. And thirdly, Riley's financial struggles. Riley is a poor student, lives in the tiniest of studio apartments, and is often unable to afford basics such as food. I found this so much more relatable and realistic and definitely something missing from many books featuring new-adult characters who rarely experience any kind of significant financial lack.

Bookies, 'Until the Last Star Fades' has got it all, the bittersweet and heartbreaking, the swoon-worthy and laugh-out-loud moments. A must-read for all fans of new-adult romance!

4.5/5 stars ??

Mia Book Addict says

It is easy for me to say that 'Until the Last Star Fades' is one of my favorite books, I read in 2018. I started reading this book as soon as I received it, I know my review is little late but this happens to me when I read Jacquelyn Middleton books. Why? To tell you the truth I had to wait a bit so that my emotions will settle down and also find a way to write this review so that it would make justice to this amazing story. I still feel that whatever I say won't be enough to convey my feelings but I will try my best.

Riley Hope is a senior at NYU and returning from visiting Josh, her hockey player boyfriend, she runs into a struggling British actor, Benjamin Fagan, who just had just wrapped up a pilot season in LA. However, things didn't go well for him, so he decided to try his chances in Big Apple. After their run in, they lost contact but not for long. Thanks to fate and the jobs Ben takes just to get by, helps them to cross paths again. Since Riley is already taken, Ben decides to take the friendship road with her. Even though Ben seems shady at the beginning of the story, he is a really nice, upbeat and hard-working guy that you will fall in love with. As for Riley, she is really smart, beautiful and her relationship with her mom, Maggie, is something you will adore. Both Riley and Ben seems happy, however, their loneliness and secrets they hide from everyone including each other, helps them to develop a special friendship. With their friendship grows, they start leaning on each other for support. As you can imagine their friendship will take a new turn and they will become more than friends but believe me their story will have a lot of ups and downs. The story might be slow at the beginning but after a bit you won't be able to put it down. Since I do read a lot of books, lately it got really hard for me to read something that I wasn't guessing what will happen next. However, I failed on guessing what will happen next with this book, which was amazing. I was just going with the flow :) I really don't like and enjoy 3rd person POV novels because mostly I feel like I cannot really connect with the story. However, even though the story is written from 3rd person POV, you can easily get in the story and relate/connect with the characters. The secondary characters, starting with Piper and Casey, are super fun but again, that seems like a Jacquelyn Middleton thing. Her first two books was the same way. Full of amazing

secondary characters that you cannot wait to read their stories :) I also love how Jacquelyn Middleton always points out psychological illnesses that we or people around us face. In 'London Belongs to Me', it was Alex, who were facing anxiety and panic attacks. In 'Until the Last Star Fades' it is Riley who is facing smiling depression, which I just learned about.

Through out the story I laughed, got pissed, cried, literally felt all the emotions at one point or another. I am happy to say, I am glad that I got a chance to review this book. I cannot wait to read Jacquelyn Middleton's next novel. I hope it will be Piper's story :) To wrap it all up, I can simply say I loved 'Until the Last Star Fades' and totally recommend it.

Would I recommend this book: Yes.

Would I re-read this book: Already did.

Would I read future books by this author: Yes.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

e-ARC kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

The review was originally posted on: <http://miabookaddict.com/>

Meghan says

This book had me laughing, swooning, and of course crying. UTLSF had me on an emotional roller coaster that I never wanted to get off of. This is a story of romance, family, and friendship. Riley and Ben's story deeply touched me through their happiest and hardest moments! Their love story melted my heart while also healing it. I saw a lot of myself in these characters and I will miss them and what they have to teach me. Jackie has an amazingly unique way of telling an incredible story while encouraging you to go make your own story incredible!

Ashley says

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All the heart eyes!

I can't begin to explain my excitement over scoring an ARC of Until the Last Star Fades! This was my most anticipated read of the latter half of 2018 and did not disappoint in the least. I'm going to dub Jacquelyn Middleton the Queen of Book Hangovers! After every book of hers, I always feel like I've moved away from dear friends I'm used to seeing daily. When I turn the last page, I mourn my loss of the characters. In each book, the characters are so realistic, I feel like they must be out in the world somewhere living real-life. Jacquelyn Middleton also renewed my love of long books because I'm able to get to know the characters in multiple stages and situations of their lives. Impossibly, nearly five hundred pages could have doubled and I would have still enjoyed my time with Riley and Ben. They are that well-written!

BLURB:

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Not only are the main characters in this novel absolutely stellar and likeable, with just the right amount of quirks, the secondary characters, much like in her two previous novels, are ridiculously fun. As soon as readers meet Piper, they will wish she was their friend in real-life. She's hilariously inappropriate, easy going, and offers perfectly practical advice. Everyone should be as lucky as Riley in finding a friend who is as straightforward as Pip, one who will stick with them through good times and bad.

Most impressively, I'm blown away by the author's ability to take on tough subjects such as depression, mental illness, cancer, and even death while continuing to have a predominately positive and lighthearted novel. I simply felt good while reading *Until the Last Star Fades*, something I didn't know I was lacking so severely in my reading lately. While I was with the characters during their struggles, I did not feel a complete sense of doom or dread. I knew their difficult times would be short-lived, but not in an overly predictable way. I didn't know what was coming next most times and was simply along for the ride.

This book gave me all the feels, something I always hope the books I read will help me attain. I laughed and smiled through most of this book, but also had to hide my tears and sniffles toward the end, both because I was touched by the story and sad it was coming to an end. I truly have not been so lost after a book concluded in the longest time. I could have continued reading forever!

I especially loved how relatable Riley was as the main character. She comes to feel like a sister through reading her story and getting to know her. She has moments of weakness, questions her own thoughts, and sometimes even overthinks. There were important moments of recognition that allowed me to realize I shouldn't be terribly hard on myself, as many people experience the same feelings of depression or anxiety I sometimes feel. I think Jacquelyn's characters are tremendously important for women to read, for a boost of confidence and a sense of unity with other women.

"Look for people who might be hurting, who are silent in their pain and aren't asking for help. The best way to heal yourself is to help someone else."

Until the Last Star Fades is chock full of great settings, delicious snacks that will leave your mouth watering, and the most wonderful British bloke who made my Anglophile-heart sing. I can't recommend this 5-star read enough! So, make sure to pop over to Amazon and pre-order the ebook now for \$2.99. And, if you've

yet to read Jacquelyn's previous works: *London Belongs to Me* and *London, Can You Wait?*, be sure to catch up on them now for some welcome tie-ins and updates on previous characters you will grow to love as well.

Marie says

After reading and loving Jacquelyn Middleton's first two books, *London Belongs to Me* and *London, Can You Wait?* her newest offering became one of my most anticipated books of 2018. *Until the Last Star Fades* is a beautiful story about love, loss, hope, friendship, and pursuing your passions. As with the London books, this one was full of fun pop-culture (and awesome '80s!) references, wonderful details about the setting (New York City in this case), and mentions of food that make me drool - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Smile fries, and Fun Dip, anyone?

I find myself taking my time while reading Jacquelyn's books because there are so many layers of complex emotion. I feel like I need time to process it all and let it sink in. I found Alex in the London books incredibly relatable, and Riley in *Until the Last Star Fades* was equally relatable in some similar and also new ways. I was deeply touched by the mother-daughter relationship between Riley and her mom, Maggie. In many ways, it reminded me of my relationship with my own mum, who's my best friend. It's so rare to read about healthy mother-daughter relationships, and it was nice to see a character who would do anything for her mother because that's how I am with my own mum. Another relatable aspect was Riley's depression; I saw myself in her immediately - in her need to put a smile on and make people think everything was fine, and to power through no matter how difficult things got.

Middleton knows how to do angst. She doesn't shy away from putting her characters in uncomfortable, painful, awkward, and sometimes even hellish situations and letting them flounder for a bit before finding their feet. There are no easy solutions here between the secrets and lies and a healthy dose of drama, all of which is done in a realistic way, especially considering the characters' ages. You truly get to know the characters and feel for them and root for them. Can I also just say I really appreciate the realistic portrayal of Riley's finances? As someone who has spent her life scrimping, saving, and going without, that was just one more thing I found relatable. Riley was basically living the poor student life in a tiny place where she had to decide between eating and other necessities. We don't see enough of this, especially in books with characters in this age range.

Now...let's talk romance. If I had to categorize this book, I'd call it women's fiction with elements of romance. The romance isn't the main focus of the story. I'm a total romance junkie - give me all the romance - but I have a special fondness for books like this when they're done well, which *Until the Last Star Fades* was. I love books that explore relationships other than romantic and sexual ones, and I appreciated that Riley had a well-rounded life - friendships, school, her passions - and that her personality really shone through on every page. And I loved Ben. He was adorable and sweet and hard-working and selfless. He saw a kindred spirit in Riley and wanted to make her happy, keep her safe, and also encourage her to pursue her dreams. I loved Riley and Ben's interactions, and watching them go from friends to something more made me smile, laugh out loud, and swoon. Jacquelyn Middleton has now given me two book boyfriends to love!

Until the Last Star Fades is a love story in its truest form. It's heartfelt and bittersweet and hopeful. It will take you an emotional journey you won't soon forget. With her knack for complex characters and vibrant settings, I can't wait to see what journey - both emotional and physical - Jacquelyn Middleton will take her readers on next.

alexandra ling says

3.5/5 –

this book was so cute! it brought out ALL the NY feels and it makes me want to travel there (and london) all over again. those are my two favorite cities and Until the Last Star Fades makes me wistful for my next visit.

one of my favorite aspects of this novel (aside from the NY vibes) was the focus on mental health. our lead struggles with anxiety and depression, and while i personally don't suffer from either of those, i felt Jacquelyn Middleton did a really great job at representing the lead's struggles. there's also a lot going on in terms of other medical stuff that i felt interesting as well.

something i want to point out/talk about is the pacing. personally, i felt it was paced a little awkwardly and often skipped days, months, or weeks then continue to skip again. i think the book writes almost like a script/tv show and it works if it were that – a tv show – but felt the filler time could've been improved. however, i know it's kind of hard when there IS nothing going on during the passing time so *shrug*

the romance, friendships, and family relationships were all wonderful. i loved them, but i also felt fairly lukewarm about it. they didn't give me ALL THE FEELZ UGH as i expected, but i still thought it was great nonetheless.

overall, Until the Last Star Fades is a super adorable and emotional read. i would definitely recommend it if you love meet-cutes, new york city, and strong family relationships.

disclaimer: i was sent this book via kirkwall books and compensated for the review. however, all thoughts are my own.

Jenny says

Though lacking a setting similar of Stars Hollow Riley Hope is essentially Rory Gilmore....bookish with a bad taste in guys and a super close relationship to her mom. Riley is struggling to finish up college while dating a hockey player. I have to admit I really disliked him (reminded me of Logan). She randomly meets a British guy, Ben, who might just be the distraction that she needs. She has her secrets but so does him. I have to admit at times I didn't trust Ben. He seemed too good to be true (maybe I'm just jaded since my college days were over a decade ago). I liked how relatable Riley is but at times I wanted to shake her. The mother/daughter relationship is what this book worth reading. There are a lot of parallels between their story and Gilmore Girls. I can't wait to discuss this book with my Gilmore Girls loving friends. It's my book club pick for January.

Work related notes: This is one of the those books that is kind of difficult to classify in the library. It is being marketed as an adult contemporary but when I read it it's more young adult in my opinion. Yes, there is sex but there is sex in some YA. It falls into the dreaded wasteland of the new adult genre. You don't want to classify it as young adult because then adults may not pick it up because not all adults will browse the YA section but then if you put it in adult some adults won't read it when they see the main characters age. The

solution: I'm going to pimp the book out to every reader in my library that I think will enjoy it. You may be asking yourself where is it going shelved at my library. I will go with the publisher's preference and put it in adult.

Gabby says

This romance was just okay.

This is a new adult romance that follows Riley, a twenty two year old living in New York who suffers from anxiety. One day she meets Ben, a British actor who just had a rough pilot season in LA. Riley is recently engaged to her hockey playing boyfriend Josh, and realizes she isn't as happy as she could be with him.

This story is okay as far as romances go, I didn't really love anything about the story - nothing was incredibly memorable or stood out to me. I liked that Riley had some anxiety problems, it made her a more relatable main character.

As for some issues I had with this book, **my main issue with this book is that it's waaaaay too long.** It's nearly 500 pages and that's just way too long for a story like this. So much of the story dragged. I also don't really care for romances told in third person POV, I know that's just me being nit picky, but I like to read from first person in a romance - 3rd person feels way to disconnected for me.

Another issue I had with this book was the cheesy dialogue, some of their conversations just felt so cliché and cheesy. Also, I feel like this author desperately wanted to remind us that Ben is British. It seemed like every other word he said is a British word and he kept apologizing and explaining the way he spoke to Riley and I just found him kind of obnoxious at times because of it.

Other than that, this book was just okay.

Thank you to the author for sending me this book for review!

Booksandchinooks (Laurie) says

I really liked this book! It covers so many topics - friendship, mother/daughter relationship, depression, and of course there's a great romance. The writing was great and I fell in love with the characters. Riley and Ben are the stars of the book but the other characters also brought so much to the story. The book takes place in NYC which is one of my favourite places to read about. Overall this is a great slow burn love story but the book goes so much deeper than that and explores other topics and relationships. I was sorry to see this book end!
