



Taking Chances

Molly McAdams

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Her first year away is turning out to be nearly perfect, but one weekend of giving in to heated passion will change everything.

Eighteen-year-old Harper has grown up under the thumb of her career marine father. Ready to live life her own way and to experience things she's only ever heard of from the jarheads in her father's unit, she's on her way to college at San Diego State University.

Thanks to her new roommate, Harper is introduced to a world of parties, gorgeous guys, family, and emotions. She finds herself being torn in two as she quickly falls in love with both her new boyfriend, Brandon, and her roommate's brother, Chase. Despite their dangerous looks and histories, both men adore Harper and would do anything for her, including taking a step back if it would mean she'd be happy.

Taking Chances Details

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From Reader Review Taking Chances for online ebook

Nora says

I'm blown away reading these reviews. I'm sorry, but am I the ONLY one who found this book painfully predictable and poorly written? Am I the only one who saw the picture-perfect characters and situations completely unrealistic? I may be a happy girl with a happy life, but even I was rolling my eyes SO OFTEN at the cheese factor. Why did I keep reading? Because I never start a book and don't finish, it's just a thing. (Some tiny spoilers in this review but nothing major. Just general ranting).

Anyway, the story is entertaining for sure (love triangle, woohoo!), but I just don't think this book was well-written or well thought out at all. The characters are all soooo super gorgeous, which is referenced over. And over. AND OVER. God forbid Harper doesn't go back to looking perfect a day after having a baby. WE GET IT. Everyone is completely in love with Harper, which I never understood because there is NO in-depth character development. I finished the book and all I knew about Harper was that she falls in love incredibly fast and moves from guy to guy incredibly fast and everyone thinks she's just the bees knees. I have no idea who this girl is. When I read a novel as long as this one, I should feel some connection to the main character. Nothing here. She spends a lot of time bemoaning her situation, which doesn't help me like her either. "Oh my god, two guys love me and I love two guys, waaaaah life is so hard and they're both so sexy how could I ever choose." Yawn.

All of the other characters just struck me as so cliché. This whole book was cliché. I won't ruin the "crazy plot twist", but I can tell you I saw it coming a mile away. Nothing in this book surprised me, which is a problem. I read this book after reading about 10 amazing books, so that also may be why I was so dissatisfied with this story.

Every situation is just wrapped up with a neat little bow all too often throughout the book. It's ridiculously unrealistic. And I feel like everyone is making speeches every other page. Brandon makes a speech about how much he loves Harper after having one date and making out constantly. Chase makes a speech about how much he loves Harper and how much he wants to be with her but he "just can't". Harper makes a speech about how confused her poor little heart is. Bree makes a speech about how awesome Harper is and everyone loves her just so much. I CAN'T TAKE IT.

Of course, everyone is super rich and no one faces any real struggles. Harper has tons of money, Brandon has tons of money (from his awesome totally rad underground fights, guys!), Bree and Chase's family has tons of money, on and on and on. Does no one else find this boring? Yay, we all have nice cars and homes and who cares about two babies before age 21 because we're super loaded, yeah! Ugh. Lame. I took it as poor writing and zero creativity. It's way more fun to read about perfect situations, right? Sure.

The whole issue with her dad is weird to me. It was just solved waaaaay too easily at the end. I won't say how, but I was pretty much like, how convenient. The Carter thing was also dumb, he served no purpose except to be ANOTHER person that was COMPLETELY obsessed with Harper because she's gorgeous with great boobs and aww look she's so cute and tiny (sidenote: She couldn't get off the kitchen counters? Was that part supposed to be funny? Maybe if it made any sense, she's 5'2" not a toddler). Nothing going on in the personality department with the chick, so I'm assuming it's physical. Lord knows that was made clear.

So the sex scenes. There's a lot of sex, and making out, and touching, and heated glances, and "husky voices" in this book. They are actually written pretty well and are really hot (if also unrealistic at times - of course Harper is amazing in bed when she has ZERO previous experience). I can appreciate the romance. But even so, I would never recommend this book to anyone. If you want to read something amazing that will leave

you breathless at the end and completely impressed with the author and wondering how your life can go back to normal after reading something so incredible, read anything else.

Alexis *Reality Bites* says

Spoiler Free Review

3.5 to 4 STARS out of 5

Genre: YA/New Adult-Mature content

Passengers please lower your harness and fasten your seatbelts for safety. This book hits sharp turns has high peaks and fast drops.

****smiles** *Please enjoy the ride!***

Emotional Roller-Coaster does not even begin to describe this book. My face leaked from every hole it has I'm talkin can't stop cryin nose blowin mouth drooling weeping. YES it is that intense. Don't say I didn't warn you.

'I wanted to have dysfunctional relationships and flings but did that happen? Nope. I felt like Elena from the Vampire Diaries. She has two insanely hot men who are in love with her and would do anything for her. One of which, she would give almost everything to be with, and the other she continues to push away, even though she can't ever actually stay away, so she won't have to admit she was in love with him too. At least my guys weren't brothers. Thank God for that.'

-Harpers inner monologue in Taking Chances

Dear God make me a bird so I can fly far far away

After eighteen years of growing up under the strict rule of her Marine father properly titled 'Sir.' Harper is finally breaking free. She is now on her way to college clear across the country from North Carolina to the sunshine state. San Diego California. Harper is described by one character as being pure as the snow. She has never had a boyfriend and has never been kissed. AT EIGHTEEN! ****Throws hands in the air****

Unbelievable right?!

After unpacking she takes a nap. She is later woken up by her procacious roommate Breanna. She tells Harper that her brother is having a party at his house and they will be in attendance. After ruling out **everything** in Harper's wardrobe Breanna decides they need to hit the mall.

The two girls bond quickly and Harper has a hidden crush on Chase; Breanna's brother. Chase is tall blonde with surfer boy hair and piercing blue eyes. He also has a few tattoos. But the guy is a player. Everytime she sees him he is sporting a new chick on his arm lap or wherever else they can hang off him at.

Then she meets Brandon one of Chase's many roommates. Brandon is tall with a buzzed cut and sports a cute dimple in his cheek when he smiles. OH and he is also tatted up. When Brandon returns his interest in Harper Chase decides he is not feeling it so he tries to run interference. He knows he is not good for her and as far as he is concerned neither is Brandon. Unfortunately the choice is not his. Harper is not having it and she let's Chase know that she can do what she wants. *Then she goes and does exactly that.*

Now this is just the first 11% of the book...

After that you will be taken on an emotional ride as Harper becomes torn in between these two guys. She experiences heartbreak and she hands out heartbreak to not one, not two, but three guys.

-Cheating takes her from one guy

-And lies take one from her

She lost one. Lose some to Win some, right?!?

Thoughts

In all honesty I am a BIG mixed bag of emotions with this book... This is mainly due to the fact that I have a love/hate thing for the heroine Harper. At times I could not stand her. Sorry correction most times I could not stand her. The guys in this book allowed me to enjoy it their witty banter and alpha ways got me all hot and bothered in the best of ways.

Also the author did an amazing job with showing the importance of family and friendship. I loved the parts that showcased the family ties the most.

If you loved Thoughtless by S.C.Stephens and/or Beautiful Disaster by Jamie McGuire then you should enjoy this book. Just make sure you have the kleenex handy. But no worries twice out of the three times i cried they were happy tears.

My Ratings

Characters- Lovable except Harper

Writing Style- Good

Plot/Storyline- Good

Steam Factor- Medium/Moderately Steamy

Overall- I liked it!!!

Now go forth and Read. Then tell us all about it on Goodreads!

Marie says

I tried guys, I tried. For those people who have messaged me and told me to not be so critical when I haven't finished the book. Well I tried. AGAIN. FOR YOU.

And AGAIN, I JUST COULDN'T.

There's just so many things wrong with this book. Even if I read it to the very end I can most assure you Taking Chances lovers that my views will never change. I ask that you respect my views and if you do not well.... write your own review.. simple.

I COULDN'T FINISH THIS.

IT WAS TOO HEARTBREAKING, I CHOKED UP AS MY HEART BROKE INTO A MILLION TIMY PIECES, I AM STILL SITTING HERE SHOCKED AND GASPING FOR BREATH WITH TEARS STREAMING DOWN MY FACE.

This is where the spoilers come in, so if you haven't read this...

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I'm sorry Chase is what?? DEAD? NO NO THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING. AND THEN THAT SKANKY TRISH HAS THE NERVE TO WALK INTO HIS HOUSE WHERE HIS PREGNANT GIRLFRIEND IS ON THE FLOOR DYING AND HIS FAMILY IN PIECES ONLY TO TELL THEM THAT SHE DRUGGED HIM, SNUCK INTO HIS BED AND TOOK PHOTOS BECAUSE SHE WAS JEALOUS AND WANTED HIS GIRLFRIEND- HARPER TO LEAVE HIM.

THIS WAS HIS LAST CONVERSATION WITH HARPER BEFORE HE LEFT AND DIED IN CAR CRASH BECAUSE HE WAS TOO DISTRAUGHT TO THINK CLEARLY:

We walked into the living room, and I almost chickened out when I saw Chase sitting on the couch. He lifted his head when he heard us come in and started to stand but Robert held him down. His eyes were puffy and red, and his cheeks were still wet. Robert tried to smile warmly at me, but it came out more of a grimace, and Claire looked like a wreck. She wrapped her arms around me and began crying. It took me a minute, but after recounting Bree's worry that I wouldn't come back, I realized why everyone else was upset too. Mom and Dad thought I would leave and take their grandchild with me.

I squeezed her waist and whispered so only she could hear me, "I won't take your grandson away from you Mom, promise."

"Oh honey, I'm glad for that, but that's not what I'm worried about. I'm hurting for you Harper, I love you as if you were my own daughter." She kissed my cheek, then the three of them left, leaving Chase and I alone in the room.

"Baby -"

"Don't. Call. Me. That." I hissed through gritted teeth.

"Harper please, I messed up." A choked sob escaped and his tears started falling harder. "I don't remember anything, you have to believe that I wouldn't do that to you."

"Why her Chase? The one person I hate! How could you do this to me? How could you do this to our baby?!" I fell into a chair near me and kept my eyes on him.

"I didn't. I mean I don't know, I don't remember anything! I was at the party and the next thing I know I'm waking up to Breanna and Konrad screaming at me and Trish is in my bed with me. But I swear I wouldn't touch her, I wouldn't touch anyone. I love you!"

So the tramp got back in his bed after we all left, completely distraught? Classy. “You really expect me to believe this? You know how I feel about her Chase, and then you invite her to a party I just happen to not be at? Everyone thinks you came back to me last night, and yet she walks out of your room this morning wearing your shirt and you were practically naked in the bed?”

“I didn't invite her, she invited me over again and I told her no with the excuse of the party. I didn't know she was going to show up.”

“Why did you have to have the party as an excuse? Why can't I be excuse enough? You should have told her a long time ago that she needed to stop, that you were in a relationship and going to be a father and her flirting with you wasn't okay! Instead, you let her continue to flirt with you and invite you over to her place in the middle of the night. When I was around she would be hanging off your arm, and you think I'm going to believe that you didn't sleep with her when I wasn't around?”

“I thought she was gay! But I wouldn't sleep with her baby you have to believe me!”

“You're still sticking with that? That is exactly why I don't believe you, you can't even tell me the truth when you know I've seen the pictures.”

His face fell, and eyes grew wide, “What pictures?” He whispered horrified, when I didn't answer he shot off the couch, his deep voice so loud I almost covered my ears, “WHAT PICTURES HARPER!?”

“Come on Chase, they were taken with and sent to me from your phone.”

He yanked his phone out of his pocket and checked it for a minute, “I don't see anything.” He mumbled.

I powered up my phone and waited for it to stop chiming from the dozens of texts and voicemails I'd received from Chase, Bree and Mom. When they were done I opened the texts from Chase and scrolled through the ones he had sent me after waking up this morning, until I got to the pictures. I held my phone out and waited for him to come get it. He took it with a shaking hand and after a moment that felt like a lifetime sucked in a sharp gasp.

“Oh God. No. No, no I wouldn't.” His legs gave out and he hit the ground hard.

“Well, you obviously did.” My voice was shaky, but I kept myself calm.

“I don't remember this, I wouldn't do this to you! You know I love you!”

“Maybe you were just that drunk.”

“I didn't drink last night, I swear! Ask Bree!”

“Chase,” my voice was low, almost soft, “just stop lying to me.”

“I'm not lying!” He scooted closer to me and placed his hands on my thighs, “Please believe me!”

I removed his hands and took a deep breath, “Chase, if you still want to be in the baby's life, I would love that. But I can't continue to be in this relationship, besides, we both know it has been doomed from the beginning.”

“No it hasn't!”

“I can't trust you Chase. Especially after this.”

“Harper. We. Are not. Breaking up.” He gripped my hands in his, his whole body shaking. “I was going to propose to you after graduation tomorrow!”

I recoiled at the thought of him asking me to marry him while he'd been cheating on me. “We need to.” I continued, “You obviously still want to live your old life, and I need to not have to worry about what you're doing when I'm not with you.”

“I don't want my old life! I don't want anything without you! You are my everything Harper. You and our baby are my everything.” His head fell into my lap while his body was overtaken by sobs.

I sat there silently and ran my fingers through his shaggy blond hair until he calmed down and looked back up into my face, “Maybe sometime later, after you've had a chance to think about what you really want, we can give us a shot again.”

“Princess please, please don't do this. I can't lose you.”

“You don't have to,” I whispered, “we can remain friends, you can be at all the appointments and I will continue to live here if that's what you want. But Chase, you have just shattered my heart, over what will probably only be one night with Trish. Because of that, I can't be yours right now. I can't be the naïve girlfriend at home with a baby, while you're off with other “I'm not lying!” He scooted closer to me and placed his hands on my thighs, “Please believe me!”

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“I won't be, I only want you.”

I sat there a moment, concentrating on deep breaths in and out, “It's going to take a lot for me to believe you again Chase, but I'm willing to give you the opportunity to earn my trust again. We're going to have to start over as friends though.”

“I don't want to be your friend Harper!”

“It's that or nothing Chase.” I tried to keep my tone composed for the both of us.

“Baby I'm so sorry. I promise I wouldn't have done that to you, I don't remember anything from last night.”

“I told you, I'll give you a chance if you want it. But I need a few days before we can try to be friends. I

really – I'm hurting Chase, I feel like you just confirmed every fear I've ever had of being in a relationship with you. And I'm still not sure how to begin to deal with this.”

He kissed me firmly, and cupped my face, “I will get to the bottom of whatever happened. I love you Harper, more than you could ever imagine.” He brought his mouth to mine again, and I let our lips move against each other for a few moments. I couldn't help it, I didn't know if or when we would have this again.

Chase's phone rang, snapping us out of the moment. He started to press ignore, but did a double take and answered, “WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO TO ME?! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!” He stormed off into the kitchen, face bright red from anger, “No! You just ruined my life, do you understand that?! Don't fucking apologize to me! Harper is the only person you should be apologizing to, but understand understand that if you ever contact her, or me for that matter, again, I will make the rest of your life a living hell!” He ended the call and threw his iPhone against the wall, shattering the case and sending pieces towards me. “Oh God, Harper. I'm sorry!”

I shrunk into the chair when he came near me, he still looked like he was about to kill someone. When he saw my movements, his face fell, his anger quickly fading.

“I have to go, before I mess this up more.” He brushed his knuckles along my jaw, “I'm sorry for everything. I can't say that enough Harper, I'm so, so sorry. Please don't end us though, I will earn your trust again somehow, just don't do this.”

“Don't make this harder for either of us, you know how I feel. Let's give it a few days, and we'll see if we can start again as friends. No matter what happens to us Chase, I want you in his life.”

“I love you Princess.” With tears falling freely from his eyes, he kissed me quickly and walked out the door.

DON'T TELL ME YOUR HEART WAS STILL WHOLE AFTER READING THAT AND KNOWING THAT WHEN HE LEAVES WILL BE THE LAST ANYONE WILL SEE HIM ALIVE.

KNOWING THAT HE DIED A BROKEN MAN ALL BECAUSE THAT SKANK FALSELY MADE OUT HE SLEPT WITH HER. EVERYONE HATED HIM.

BEFORE HE DIED WAS THE WORST FEW MOMENTS OF HIS LIFE. AND THE WORSE THING? NO-ONE BELIEVED HIM. NO-ONE GAVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT THAT HE DIDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING. THEY ALL JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS, CHOOSING TO BELIEVE THE WORST AND HE HAD TO LEAVE HIS OWN HOUSE TO TOP ALL OF THAT.

IM SORRY IM ALL CHOKED UP AND I AM FUMING. BECAUSE I CAN SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW. SHE WILL GO BACK TO BRANDON AND FORGET ALL ABOUT HIM. BUT I WON'T I WAS IN CHASES CORNER FROM THE BEGINNING AND IT IS WHY I CANNOT READ ON.

IT SHOULD'VE BEEN- I KNOW IT'S HORRIBLE SINCE HE'S DONE NOTHING WRONG BUT- IT SHOULD'VE BEEN BRANDON WHO DIED.

CHASE HAD A BABY ON THE WAY, A GIRL HE WANTED TO MARRY AND SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE WITH. HE CHANGED THROUGHOUT THIS BOOK, HE BECAME A GOOD MAN, HE WAS FAITHFUL AND BECAME A DAD SINCE HE FOUND OUT HE WAS GOING TO BE ONE, HE PROVIDED FOR HARPER EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD HER OWN MONEY.

I REFUSE TO RATE THIS BOOK, PURELY FOR THE FACT THAT I REFUSE TO FINISH IT. UP UNTIL THEN IT WAS GOING TO BE A FIVE STARER BUT NOW.. HOW CAN I RATE A BOOK I HAVEN'T FINISHED AND THAT IM BIASED OVER THE FACT THAT CHASE HAS DIED.

I DONT MIND THE CAR CRASH BUT WHY KILL HIM OFF? TO MAKE HARPERS CHOICE EASIER? SHE DID LOVE THEM BOTH..

I WOULD HAVE KILLED TRISH, KILLED HER SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY. SHES TO BLAME FOR ALL OF IT, THE JEALOUS MURDEROUS, BITCH OF A HUMAN BEING. SHE IS THE LOWEST OF THE LOW.

I THINK THIS IS THE LONGEST REVIEW EVER AND ALL I'VE DONE IS SLAG TRISH OFF AND SAID HOW I FEEL.

IM SORRY BUT THIS HAS TRULY MADE ME FEEL A LITTLE BETTER. NOT MUCH, BUT A LITTLE.

Ava says

I have never - never - been more enraged in a book.

I didn't finish reading it. I quit at about sixty percent and skimmed the rest. I couldn't bear to do it. I'm not brave enough. The book outraged me. You're going to be hearing a lot of these words, so prepare yourself.

Synopsis

TAKING CHANCES is incredibly cliché and must've been done a billion times before. A lot of 'New Adult' books simply follow the same trend, but the only one I've found worth reading is *Easy*.

The book follows Harper, an eighteen-year old who needs to be featured on *Breaking Amish*. She's homeschooled, lives with her father (she calls him 'Sir') on the base, and her best friends are a bunch of young Marines.

She's basically missed out on everything girls her age should've at least done, and decides to go to college at San Diego State University to escape her controlled life. She quickly befriends her roommate - a kind-hearted promiscuous girl whose brother, Chase, is a hot underground fighter.

After introducing Harper to Chase and Brandon (another fighter), Harper turns into a party-girl and ends up in the most ridiculous love triangle I've ever read with Chase and her *boyfriend* Brandon. A night of lustful passion ends up completely turning Harper's life around.

Basically, that means that Harper cheats on her boyfriend Brandon and has sex - twice - with Chase. Without protection, since she claims she doesn't care and just needs him. Now, darlings, what sometimes happens when someone has sex without taking a birth control pill or using protection?

Harper ends up pregnant. What else? Of course, she's shocked and sickened that she's knocked up. Meanwhile I'm just laying on my bed trying hard not to laugh. What the fuck did this girl expect?

And while she's doing it with Chase, she actually has the fucking nerve to think:

"I wasn't meant to do this with Brandon."

AHAHAHAHA, what the hell *is wrong with this woman?*

The phrase "I love you" is used over **one hundred and nineteen times**, and over seventy of them are Harper telling Brandon and Chase she loves them - or Brandon and Chase telling Harper they love her, after they've learned she cheated on them.

Let that sink in for a moment.

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN.

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN.

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN.

Are you *kidding* me? Every other page, it's SOMEBODY going on about how much they wuvvvvv Harper.

Throughout TAKING CHANCES, various women try to steal Chase or Brandon from Harper by sending nude pictures and such. One night, Harper finds Chase in bed with another woman and refuses to believe him when he tells her that he genuinely doesn't know what's happening. This is around the time when Chase and Harper are sort of planning to live together and get married for their baby and what not.

You'd think that Harper would actually wise up and realize that's she's surrounded by a bunch of jealous bitches who want to steal her popularity and her men, according to her, but she's too stupid to think for one moment. So the first thing Harper thinks when she sees Chase and the girl is:

"I recoiled at the thought of him asking me to marry him while he'd been cheating on me."

What. The. Actual. Fuck.

She has absolutely no right to fly into a rage because he'd "supposedly" been cheating on her. She did it, many times, and still has no regrets because she was "in love with Chase and Brandon", and apparently that makes it all better.

"I was more in love with Chase than I realized, but I couldn't live without Brandon."

That is the biggest load of bullshit I've read all year.

And Chase actually ends up dying - so not expecting that - when he runs a red light and hits a semi-truck

trying to prove that he didn't cheat on Harper.

TAKING CHANCES continues with Harper's pregnancy and the aftermath of Chase's death. She turns to Brandon when Chase dies, and seemingly doesn't give a shit after that. Everything she does is supported by "Chase would've wanted this," when if I was Chase I would've been like this:

Harper ends up getting married to Brandon at nineteen (or twenty, I forgot), and her child is born alongside Chase and Brandon's happy families.

Two months after Chase died.

TWO MONTHS. His family got over it so quickly! And they *encouraged* Harper to move in with Brandon as soon as possible, which makes no effing sense.

By the way, you ought to know that Brandon's family was not the least bit upset when they discovered she cheated on him and wasn't pregnant with Brandon's child.

Harper gets knocked up by Brandon- this time before she's twenty-two, I believe, and Chase is referred to as "Uncle Chase" by Harper's children. This is wrong. Even if Brandon is the one of the child's adopted father, Chase is not some random dead uncle - HE ONE OF THE CHILDREN'S FATHER.

Characters

Harper "Harpy" (I call her that) is a disgusting hypocrite, and for someone who grew up under her father's thumb, she sure grows up pretty fast. Despite no previous sexual experience, of course she's *amazing* in bed.

Seems legit.

Obnoxious, unlikable, immature, naïve, snobby - this only begins to describe her. Everyone - and I do mean everyfuckingone - adores and loves and CHERISHES Harpy for reasons unknown to me. She gets away with everything, and people worship the ground she walks on. Every man who sees her falls head-over-heels in love with her, because she's supposed to be "perfect".

SPESHUL SNOWFLAKE.

She thinks of marrying both Brandon and Chase so often in such a short period of time it made me sick. One day she's in love with Brandon, the next she's making out with Chase and confessing her love, and then a week later she's telling Brandon how she won't *be able to survive* without him.

Apparently, she is the most beautiful girl anyone has ever seen, and the lengths taken to empathize her perfection are enraging and unreal.

"[...] everyone said I was the cutest pregnant woman they'd seen. My legs and arms hadn't changed a bit, my hips were not even a fraction of an inch wider, the only difference was my chest and stomach [...] I looked like a normal Harper again... until I turned to the side or faced front."

Somehow I really fucking doubt that. You can't get pregnant, have the baby, and look exactly the same - like a petite Victoria's Secret model, mind you - the next day. It's impossible and incredibly stupid.

She calls every single girl who lays an eye on her two men sluts, whores, tramps, skanks - anything she can possibly make up.

"I didn't recognize you without that tramp on your arm."

"Go find another brainless bimbo to screw."

"You really thought you could marry a whore?"

"Oh I'm sorry, but I don't have any STDs. I'm not your type."

And I really hate saying this (as someone who fights for equality it pains me to write this), but if anyone is a slut, it's Harpy. Not because she wears short clothing or sleeps around without a partner, but because she bounces back and forth between love interests and leads them on. Being "in love" with the man you cheated on doesn't grant you a free pass to "it's fucking fine" land, you idiot. She does end up continuously cheating on both boys for weeks.

Plus, she keeps on claiming that her child is in her stomach.

I'm pretty sure I lost brain cells reading this.

Harpy spends most of her time feeling bad for herself and her woe-is-me attitude got annoying real fast. She even compared herself to Elena from *The Vampire Diaries*, which really was the last straw. How could this girl even *begin* to even- UGH. UGH. UGH.

Chase was a typical douchebag with absolutely nothing charming about him. He screwed girls on his couches, not his bed or even his room, because of course, they're too shitty for that. Chase was about as unsexy as you could get, and as typical bad boys do, he went mad without Harpy. His favorite thing to do was preach about how "special" and "different" she was. He was possessive, controlling, and I absolutely hated him. He even tried to pull the "you-can't-wear-this" card on Harpy like Travis from Beautiful Disaster.

Brandon is dull, boring, and supposed to be sweet. Now typically, I'll always fall for a properly-written gentleman, but Brandon is just... plain. I don't know what anyone saw in him. And he was too nice to Harpy - trust me, if I found out she'd cheated on me, I'd be so much more upset. He forgave her so fast it was unbelievable. After all her crap he suffered through to discover she was pregnant with another man's child? I would've been pissed.

The surrounding characters blend together and have no importance in my mind. And everyone is rich and has money and faces no problems in freaking life except for love triangles and cheat-babies. Don't forget that every friend of Harpy's is stunningly beautiful, too!

Oh, and WHITE.

They're all gorgeous, rich white People with a billion people in love with them.

Writing

Simply put, terrible. Various commas were missing when they should have been included, the dialogue is very stiff and unnatural (I mean honestly. What teenager regularly uses the term 'oh my word' anymore?) the style itself was dull and odd, and am I the only one who doesn't see people's eyes darken?

I'M SO SERIOUS.

When have you *ever* seen a guy's eyes turn a darker color when they're angry or passionate? I have never seen this shit. Will authors please stop making character's eyes do crazy stuff that... isn't... real.

Yes, those are actually MY eyes from my vlog review of TAKING CHANCES. Make it a meme!

Unless they have an eye disorder or some funky disease, normal people's eyes don't darken on cue. Stop this stupidity. Seriously. Stop.

STAHP.

Wrap-up

This book made me very upset, most of all. I can't believe that Harper is probably an inspiration or something to people. Her life had a happy ending that she never deserved in the first place.

And look, I get it. There are books about cheating, and I'm not so furious at the cheating part of it, because, well... that's what it's about. People doing stupid things. I'm mad because the main character doesn't even think about what she's going to do, does it without regrets, and spends the whole rest of the book bitching, being a hypocrite, and blaming everyone else.

We should be able to sympathize but not like or forgive the main character when she does this, and we should feel for the men she cheated on. But TAKING CHANCES acts like it's not a problem to do these things.

In fact, it glorifies it. Teenage pregnancy? Check that, or check it twice, actually. Teenage marriage? Check. Slut-shaming? Check. Adultery? How about a check for that.

Unlikable characters, amateur writing, angering messages, selfless slut-shaming, an unoriginal plot make TAKING CHANCES one of my least favorite reads of the year. Or my life.

It practically screams YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE SO SCREW IT UP WHILE YOU CAN

"TAKING CHANCES" = cheating on your boyfriend and getting pregnant, and basically causing the lover's death.

Jennifer Kyle says

TO: MOLLY MCADAMS--- "FOR THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES, WE ARE NOT FRIENDS."

This book ripped my heart out and left me in mourning. I had to gather the strength to read on and finish. How can it be that the main character is blissfully happy and I am utterly miserable to the very end of this amazing story?

There are three drool worthy guys included in this book, but one of them stole my heart from the very beginning: **"Oh My God! Princess! You're my new favorite."** I fell completely in love!

I found myself going through the "7 stages of Grief" one of which is Bargaining: wishing that the book would take a paranormal route so I could be happy again, trading characters out, etc.

The final step of grieving is Acceptance and Hope: I'll get there eventually!

Donna {Book Passion for Life} says

Non spoiler review – Spoiler review at the very bottom, but you will have enough time NOT to read it.

TEAM CHASE!!!!

I finished this book 8 hours ago and I was hoping once I had a few hours to think about the events that happened, I would have a different opinion. Well, 8 hours later and I still feel the same. When I started *Taking Chances*, I was really looking forward to it and you know what, it was so damn good too. Within 4% of reading, I was hooked. It had similarities to Beautiful Disaster by Jamie McGuire but was unique in its own way and I loved it.

The story starts with Harper starting college and while there she meets Chase and Brandon, two extremely hot guys who she has a deep connection with. She starts dating Brandon but can't get Chase out of her mind and one night she gives into her passion with Chase and that changes her life forever.

I could not put the first half of this book down, it was so addicting, hot and intense – all the things I love about a novel. I enjoyed it that much I even started adding bookmarks to my pages in my kindle, so I could go and re-read them at some point, and yes most of them where of Harper and Chase. I was rooting for this two and they had to go through so many obstacles, the main one being Brandon. To start with I was unsure who would be a better person for Harper but you once you start reading about Chase, you just can't get him out of your head.

Now I bet you're wondering why I only rated this book one star? To be honest, I've been going back and forth from a 1 to 2 to 4 and now I'm back to 1. Around 50% of the book, something happens and because of what's happened, it changed everything for me. I cannot get my head around why the author thought it was okay to make readers invested and care for her characters and then snatch it all away with an event that seemed, in my opinion, pointless and unnecessary. Maybe she was going for the shock factor? – Well if she was, she won! I need a new word for shocked! I cried, I almost threw my kindle, I was gobsmacked. I just couldn't believe it! I felt like my heart was pulled out of my chest – it hurt that much. Once this event happened, the book became very predictable – you just know what she was planning to do and where the story would lead and I didn't like it! I ended up skimming the last 40% because everything I loved about the first part of the book...was gone. The characters I was invested in and loved...was gone. So really what was the point of me reading anymore?

Now I hear the author is doing a book from Chase's point of view and while I'm intrigued to read it, I have to ask myself if I will ever it? Well...probably not! Why? Because it's pointless! What's the point of starting to

so excited because Chase and Harper are having a baby together. Yea a baby, and it's such a great story because I'm rooting for them so bad. But then, there are a number of things that set off this tragic event, first some girl claims that Chase has cheated on Harper with her, when really CHASE WOULD NEVER DO THAT! Not only that but Harper thinks things are weird and you know deep down she know he would never do it, but yet she chooses to believe it. So an angry Chase sets out to prove her wrong, he runs a red light and gets frigging killed and the worse thing – she's 5 and half months pregnant. Talk about heart-breaking! I know Harper still loved Brandon but she loves Chase too and come on, at least kill off Brandon – the guy that no-one is rooting for! It's just frustrating to no end and I'm that frustrated with this book that I honestly wish I had never read it.

Don't get me wrong, the author is a good writer and she nails the hot and steamy scenes but what was she thinking when she wrote this? I know it all comes down to Harper was always meant to be with Brandon but Chase got in the way but I don't buy it. I think Harper could have been happy with Chase but it was taken away by him being killed off. So you can pretty much guess what happens next? Harper runs back into Brandon's open arms (even though she did cheat on him and Chase's family support her for going back to him) and yeah all is forgotten. They raise the baby – who by the way the name after Brandon's father – which is just wrong. At least call him Chase seems as he is the father (actually he does have Chase as his middle name but it's not the point) and not only that when the boy is old enough, he visits Chase's grave and calls him Uncle Chase. WTF! I'm not trying to be mean but I'm trying to get my feelings out about this book and when like I said before, when I'm invested into a character and it's taken away from me so unexpected, how am I supposed to feel?

The more I think about this book the angrier I get so I'm not going to say no more! Thanks for listening to my rant <3

Tough Critic Book Reviews says

This book should come with a warning label...

I'm scared of bananas. True story. I'm absolutely terrified of a yellow fruit shaped like a penis...I feel sorry for inanimate objects. I once bought the ugliest bird shaped candle just because I was afraid nobody else would. I named him Herbert...I think that every time someone renews their driver's license they should be required to take a test on the rules of a four-way stop...I've never kissed a girl and I'm pretty sure I'm the only human being with a vagina that DOESN'T think Jensen Ackles is hot!!

What does all of this have to do with *Taking Chances*? Abso-f**king-lutely nothing!! I'm just desperately trying to get this book out of my head. I can't get it out! GET IT OUT! My head is like f**king Alcatraz! Every thought, every feeling, every emotion for the past twenty four hours can be traced back to this book. I haven't stopped thinking about *Taking Chances* since the moment I finished!

The book started off as a cross between *Thoughtless* and *Beautiful Disaster*. That's one helluva literary cocktail. I'll take two! But eventually the story completely evolved into something totally unique. A story that left me emotional incontinent.

Molly McAdams didn't just go all "Temple of Doom" and rip out my heart! She ripped it out, played hacky sack with it for a bit, then *attempted* to kiss it and make it better. HELL NO! You almost destroyed me, but it hurt so good!!

Taking Chances is almost like having two books in one. I felt like I was reading a book that was immediately

followed by its sequel. I totally loved that, but it did kind of make the ending drag on. Maybe by that point I was just too emotionally exhausted, but I feel it could have been edited and trimmed down just a bit. However, that was my *only* complaint.

As much as this story tore me apart, I realize now that everything happened as it should. Yes it broke my heart and left me feeling breathless, but it also took me on an incredible journey that touched my soul. And by the end of the book...I healed!

READ ON!

Dianne Santiago says

I'm not in the mood for an in depth review right now. I'm so devastated. My heart is crushed to its core. A beautiful story and a lovely ending but I can't seem to accept the bittersweet truth of it all. Because I was shocked... utterly shocked! The twist is an uber blow, I swear I didn't see it coming.

So allow me to show you how I felt..

I was like this...

And this..

Then this...

I'm glad Brandon and Harper have their happy ending... But is it so wrong to wish one for **Chase**?

I'm sorry but all I have right now is the sheer disappointment for the story. It has great potential, only if it was told in a different way. And I'm tired of hearing people say that "It's the reality of life, somehow we have to deal with it." Grrrrrr! I want to tell them can't you see how it made me feel? Now would you say that to yourself if you are in Harper's place? That's why I think the plot is unforgivable. If you want to torture yourself, go read it. But if you want to save yourself from the all the trouble, I'd support you all the way. I don't want to give away the story but I just want to make you guys think first before reading this. It will be tough if you go in blind.

*If you don't want to read the **BIG SPOILER** you can stop here..*

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If you're reading this I want to tell you in advance that the love interest, the gorgeous, hot, sweet, loving Chase was killed! I'm sorry but I'm just frigging mad I even bothered reading this. It would've been better if the author didn't make the readers love Chase, if she wrote it in such a way that you would hate him. But it wasn't that way! She made Chase's character seem lovable and not to mention there was too much effort in his character development. So I thought he was the one! And just when you start loving and swooning over him, something happens, then BAM! Everything goes down the drain. Your hopes, dreams, expectation comes tumbling down. It was an absurd effort to stir the reader's emotion but all it does was make you miserable.

I was so happy about how their love story turns out. I was like "Wow! They're getting married soon and they're going to have a baby! So excited!" But then 50% through the book, he died in a freaking ACCIDENT His death wasn't even given enough justice! One minute they were having an emotional fight, then he died the next page! To tell the truth I was asking myself, "Is this real?!" Because killing the love interest is unbelievable! Preposterous! Yup Brandon is still there but how about the guy who blew me away the first time I read about him??! How can the characters, especially Harper, move on that fast?! How can she be with Brandon as if nothing happened?!

Again, I apologize for the major ranting or shall I say outburst. I just need to vent this.

I heard the author will write the story in Chase's POV..
Well....

There's no way I'm going to break my heart again. I don't want to torture myself any further than I already have.

“That first night, I did realize I would never meet another girl like you. But you deserve someone who has waited for you as long as you have waited for them. And no matter how much I wish I could be that guy, I can't Harper.”-Chase

.. Ugh...I miss him...
I think I need a support group for this book. I'm extremely pissed.

XOXO

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Pardon me but ...

Just no!

Taryn says

This review was posted at My Secret Romance

I'm an emotional wreck right now. I think I'm going to need therapy after reading this book. I am devastated and distraught with too many emotions that I can hardly think straight.

I don't even know where to begin. This book was a bittersweet find for me. It has everything I love in my angsty reads- and the one thing I hate.

Raised by her strict Military single father, Harper grew up around jar heads her entire life. She doesn't have a normal relationship with her father, she never dated, never had girlfriends and surely did not wear make up. Wanting to experience a normal life outside of the Military base, she heads to a college hundreds of miles away.

Harper quickly finds herself in a relationship with college student Brandon, an attractive underground fighter. Much to her demise, she is fighting her growing attraction to her roommate's brother, Chase. Chase is...well he's Chase. He's got that come hither look about him and every girl wants him. He's a bad boy to say the least and you can't help but find yourself drawn to him and every page his name is on.

Life for Harper is seemingly going great for her. She's doing well in school, has a wonderful best friend and a boyfriend who is head over heels in love with her. She even became an honorary member of Bree's family. A family who opened their doors to her with unconditional love which is something she never had as a child.

But one night an unforeseen event will change everything. Their lives will be irrevocably turned upside down with something no one saw coming. Nothing will ever be normal for Harper again.

This book really did a number on me. I haven't been this hurt since reading *The Reluctant Dom* or as mad as I was when I read *The Opportunist*. It was like a mixture of both and I find myself stuck in between. I wanted to cry and curse every name in the book at the same time! I love this book yet I hate it so much. I guess when a book leaves this much of an impression on you you know it's good. I know I had a few issues with the rocky beginning but that all went out the window once this book picked up. I could think of nothing else but what was happening in the story. It rocked my world in so many ways!

There were a few parts of this book that came as a shock to me- they will for anyone, but the biggest one is one I never saw coming. I don't think I will ever be able to get over it. I can understand why the author did it, but damn it hurt like hell! I cried and then I felt like screaming on the top of my lungs. I shed tears up until the very end with the beautiful lily scene. It broke my heart.

In case you're wondering, there is a happily ever after with this book. It just may not be the one you

want.

I'm not sure how I could possibly rate this book. Some thoughts while I'm reading:

*Only 8% in? How big is this book? I feel like I've read so much already.

*Could use some editing.

*This feels like a mixture of Beautiful Disaster and Thoughtless with a slight twist. Very closely related storyline though.

*Love the tattoo Chase gave Harper

*Well, I didn't see that little bump in the road coming! But I'm loving all the drama it will bring! Yay!

*O.M.G....oh dear god..

*This is not the twist I was talking about. This is a heart shattering twist! I think I'm going to be sick.

*How...what? HOW! What just happened? Did I just read that correctly? Oh I must have since I feel like I am dying inside now!

*Why! WHY! WHY!

*I don't want to finish this book now...I'm too scared!

*How can there be a happily ever after? Oy. I need to finish this book. I don't care if I'm up all night. I will finish it!

*It's so hard to be happy when I feeling I am dying inside. I want to be happy for Harper...but I'm struggling to find that happy place for her.

*I don't know what to say about the last 30%...it's difficult to read. Every little thing reminds me of what could have been or what they had. His smile, his snarky comments, his undying love, the expressions on his face...it makes me want to cry again. I'm trying to move on, and I have, but I can't find the right happy place. It's a melancholy sort of ending for me.

Favorite line-

Will post later when I can think straight again.

Angela says

Alright, *cracks knuckles* let's do this.

Taking Chances was like reading *Beautiful Disaster* all over again. I was past being annoyed. Every single person and event in this book set me off. This book had me laughing... at it, not with it.

Harper is one of the most throat punching females I've read in the longest. She comes from a very sheltered background. VERY ridiculously sheltered. Girl hasn't even gone to a mall before. Yeah, I don't believe it either. I get that your dad is a strict marine guy, but I can't understand why he would want to keep her from a mall. Makes no sense. Then Harper is the type of girl that EVERY guy wants. Every guy must have her. If you've read any NA you know what I'm talking about. When this occurs in books I get so annoyed. Every guy within a ten mile radius turns into a giant caveman just knowing she is close. All the guys that are falling head over for her are dying too: take care of her, protect her, declare their love for her; all while being undeserving of her at the same time. Why all these men are doing this is beyond me. Harper is boring as watching paint dry. She has no personality and no depth. On to Chase, the tattooed bad boy from the right side of the tracks. He is of course a man-whore, rebel, tough guy. He slores around campus and the ladies just love him and his arrogant ways. Now Brandon. Good god help me. McAdam's had to top the bad boy so she just takes Chase and decides "*hey how can I make him better? Give him an amazing personality? Ha, no that would be ridiculous... I'll just make him a hotter version*". So what does she do? She of course makes him a quick tempered underground mma street fighter *cough beautiful disaster cough*. She doesn't stop there though she gives him grey eyes... but grey eyes aren't enough! His eyes change colors!!!! He literately

has all the eyes yall! Like I know this is a real thing that can happen... but it's really not at the same time.

So as you can guess there's a love triangle between the three of them. The first 200 plus pages are Chase and Brandon dick measuring, fist fighting, pounding their chest, and practically peeing on Harper to mark their turf. Someone is either punching someone or running off in tears. You're probably thinking at this point that Harper is just going to bounce back and forth between the dudes... **You're wrong**. She starts dating Brandon but is sleeping with Chase... Cool your jets it's not a spoiler. This is where the story goes from bad to worse. The plot starts spiraling out of control.

This is where I start rambling and dropping spoilers! Look away if you don't wanna know.

So Harper is cheating on Brandon and gets knocked up by Chase. She doesn't tell anyone but his family! WHO DON'T EVEN TELL HIM!!! LIKE WTF MOM AND DAD!?! Then she sees Chase tell him she broke up with Brandon days ago-which is a lie- continues to keep the baby a secret- finally breaks up with Brandon- Chase stumbles upon the ultra sound because Harper is living with his family. Not him just his family. He gets all lovey and of freaking course wants to marry her. So they start becoming legit and things start to actually get kind of cute, but that last all of like two seconds. A random girl is introduced at the shop Chase works at (failed to mention as a college student he somehow managed to become a full time tattoo artist). So of course this girl is hell-bent on breaking the two up so you guessed it she drugs him at a party, takes pictures of them together, and sends them to Harper. This of course send Harper into a jealous rage. (Don't worry Brandon is there to be a shoulder to cry on) She has a moment with Brandon decides to put on her big girl panties and face Chase. Even though Chase swears he never did anything and doesn't remember it happening Harper still dumps him and says she needs space. He says he loves her and will give her time... He then leaves the house... you flip the page only to find out in the first paragraph that he died right after leaving the house! **WTF**. Seriously goes straight from the fight to wham dead. This is what really did it in for me... because at this point in time I'm solely reading so I can be fully pissed... After he dies home-girl goes back to Brandon!!! Like with no time passing at all. Chase's family actually convinces her to do it! **STFU right???** Wait for it.... Now after all this Harper gets pregnant again. This time it really is Brandon's... here it comes. **THE KIDS END UP CALLING CHASE UNCLE CHASE!!!!!!!!!! UNCLE CHASE!!!!** Uncle. Chase. **GTFOOH!!!!**

If Brandon and Chase were characters in a different book, with different settings, and a different plot then they might have stood a chance. I'll be real; I didn't love them but they were alright. Harper and the plot were my biggest issues. I heard this was a huge tear jerker and one of the best NA books... I mean shoot just look at the ratings... But I was highly highly disappointed.

There's no doubt McAdam's can write. I hope to pick up stories from her in the future and actual enjoy it.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Revision 10/07/12 because I laughed my ass off that this new book already made it to number 1 on Listopia's Books that seriously piss you off

...and Shark Contemporary week rolls on...

I made it a goal before finishing *Taking Chances* to remain zen for the writing of this review, knowing full

well that the last part of the book might set me on edge. Well guess what? *I'm perfectly okay.*

Look at me, I'm not raging! It's an early Christmas miracle!

See, the thing is, the part of the book that was supposed to make me angry didn't. It just reminded me of a bad personal memory, so I did a real life frowny face and moved past it. If anything, it wasn't so much that I had a problem with "the incident," it was more that I had a problem with how the incident happened. The incident would have felt more at place within the story without the extra helping of guilt.

Btw...writing this review is darn-near impossible. I can't talk about my feelings if I'm not allowed to express why I'm having these feelings. I can't talk about how the various different game changers were hit and miss if I can't list out what they are.

Most people who have read this book are pretty much in agreement that the first 2/3 of the book was a great read. I felt the same way. The comparisons to *Beautiful Disaster* and *Thoughtless* are semi-warranted but any similarities would be on a much more toned-down scale. If you had a character like Travis who was in control of his feelings and a character like Kellan who was able to keep his eye on the prize, then perhaps we can squint and find a few things in common. But please refer back to the 'toned-down' comment from earlier. One of my biggest complaints about Kiera from *Thoughtless* was that she let things drag on for far too long. I didn't feel the same way about this book. Eventually, decisions were made before we were stuck on a merry-go-round of bad behavior. *I respected that.*

Honestly, even with "the incident," I still probably would have given this book a high score if three things would have been different.

1. The incident was a product of coincidence and not related to character behavior.
2. Harper's decisions had been spread out over a longer period of time. I did not appreciate that she went from one decision to the next and then to the next with no real breathing room in-between. There is this nifty little thing called a chapter heading...we should have been treated to a heading which said *One Year Later* (after the incident).
3. The last 30% of the book was absolutely unnecessary. There's a reason why most books end at the HEA. It's because most of the time people become boring as hell when you see them in their domestic lives. I didn't care to see the majority of what happened after the decision that happened after the incident. I'm all for books about the subject of what happened to Harper (I'll let you off the hook, she did not die in a fire...I know that's what you were guessing), but if that's going to be what happens, then make that the actual book subject...don't advertise it as a book about a love triangle.

Random question for those who have read the book : Was there even a reason to have Carter as a character? Love quad? Not really, right?

So for my inability to write a review that is anything other than vague, I am awarding Taking Chances first place in the "spoiler difficulty" competition.

2 stars is mainly because the book simply dragged on for far too long. I would definitely give something else by this author a shot. I was thoroughly enjoying myself for the first 2/3 of the book. Molly McAdams can sure write extremely **likable** bad boys. I already touched on this a little bit earlier, but let me go back and clarify : Brandon's ability to hold himself back from turning into a controlling prick did impress me quite a bit. We don't see enough of this in YA, Mature YA, College, and New-Adult fiction. Bravo to that.

Between Chase and Brandon, who would I have picked? When I was Harper's age, I would have picked Chase, no question. At the age I'm at now, I'd pick Brandon. Just don't tell Brandon that I was probably swooning harder over Chase.

Limonessa says

That I subject myself to stuff like this over and over again can only be definitive proof of my masochistic tendencies. I really don't know why I choose these absurd stories, un-freaking-believable, where the characters are clearly made out of cardboard, where the writing is bad, bad, bad and the editing is worse, where there isn't an original idea even if you look for it with a microscope and which are also about 75% too long than needed.

I kid you not, I was at 30% and had the impression that the story could just as well have wrapped up at that point (as it probably should have).

I don't know what to say; I can't, in all honesty, find a redeeming quality in this book.

The characterization is appalling: Harper is this absolutely amazing, incredibly beautiful girl who is of course completely unaware of her feminine powers and who goes to college after living with her unloving, completely absent father. He is in the military, a Marine, and she calls him "Sir" (he should have sent her to war, not to college if you ask me and good riddance). Once she gets there, she gets paired up in the dorm with a girl, Breanna, who loves her like crazy from day one and takes her shopping and makes her even more beautiful than she is. Not only that, but she introduces Harper to her friends, who all fall in love with her immediately and who incidentally are these gorgeous, tattooed studs (all six feet three at least). As soon as they see her, they all turn from manwhores to monks, obviously. But that's not all! Even her best friend's parents get so enamored with her that they practically adopt her and have her call them Mom and Dad. Enter the love triangle, which at one point even becomes a square. From there on it's a downward spiral, believe me. I'd like to go more into detail and give you more of a hint of how much this book is messed up but I won't, not to spoil the story for you in the unfortunate case you decide to pick it up.

This is a book that lovers of *Beautiful Disaster* or *Thoughtless* might appreciate. Maybe.

As for the author, I have just one piece of advice: you might want to look up the definition of *consecutio temporum*. Oh, and apply it.

Erin says

Let me see if I can scrape together the pieces that are left of my shattered heart and try to come up with a way to review this book. I debated for a few days whether or not I wanted to bother, but I decided to go ahead for one reason, and that is to give the character I fell head-over-heels for the attention and remembrance that he didn't get in this story.

I freely admit that I'm an emotional reader. I read as an escape, to immerse myself in the thrills, suspense, romance, and beautiful writing that can make that all seem real. For that reason, I don't want to get completely invested in a character only to have them unhappy in the end. So, I didn't go into this book blind after I saw some very upset readers' comments, and I thought what I knew of the story prepared me for the heart-wrenching event I'd heard so much about. In fact, I was completely engrossed in this book and loving every bit of it until that moment, which really just makes it that much worse. Knowing what I know now, though, I wish I had just never read this story (ugh, Donna, if I had just read your review first!!!).

60%. That's where I stopped. That's where for me, this beautiful story was thrown away and turned into something I wanted no part of. I did end up skimming through to the end, just to reaffirm some of the comments other irate readers were making and so that I could say with confidence this book deserved the rating I'm giving it. I'm really not sure what part angers me most. I don't want to completely give away the plot here, but I definitely feel the need to share what I think was a huge mistake for a writer to make. The heartbreaking moment in this story was something that could have been handled without a complete disregard for the emotional investment of the readers, but it wasn't. I honestly feel like McAdams had more concern about making this story shocking and dramatic so that it stands out in it's genre, instead of thinking about how upsetting it would be for her readers. I'm actually shocked that she was even okay with writing the story this way, because to me it shows a complete detachment from a beautiful, memorable character that she herself created. And I think that's where she really lost me, because I want a writer to be just as emotionally invested as I am when I'm reading a story like this.

Okay, so here's where the spoilers come in, so don't read on if you don't want to know specifics....

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Before anyone starts in about the beautiful side to the rest of the story that needs to be recognized, I have to disagree there. I'm not just sitting here as a "TEAM CHASE" reader who's upset because he didn't get his HEA. I was actually more a fan of Brandon for awhile, since Chase started out as a mega alpha-male that didn't seem emotionally invested in Harper. But as the story goes on and we see how their incredible spark turns into a deep, heartfelt relationship between them, I fell so hard for Chase. McAdams made him such an incredible character, my heart just melted at the thought of the beautiful life he and Harper would have. She had tamed him, changed his life and made him a better person that made better decisions in his life. Hell, she

was even practically a member of their family already, she'd been going to family Sundays over at the parent's house for months and was best friends with Chase's sister. They were truly just perfect for each other, despite the pain it had caused Brandon. So when soon-to-be father Chase was killed off, I was done.

After I made the decision to skim through the remainder of the book, I tried to detach myself from Chase's story and just take in whatever else happened. But the more I read, the more it infuriated me. The story post-Chase turns into this fairytale of "we're all so happy, come on, that's what Chase would have wanted", as if his life really didn't mean enough to cause a change in their lives in any way. I was so disgusted that Chase's passing had no affect whatsoever on the rest of the story, unless you count Harper and Brandon taking Liam to his daddy's grave once a year (and don't even get me started on Liam's name...BRANDON'S dad's name??!! Why don't we just completely erase any memory of Chase at all...oh no wait, Liam's MIDDLE name can be his dad's name. Right). Harper's reaction was probably the most difficult to stomach; when she tells Brandon she was "made to love him" as if Chase was never a factor, and has Liam refer to his deceased daddy as "Uncle Chase", it just made me ill.

Even with all of this, I think the biggest, most unforgivable mistake made with this plot for me was how Chase's death happened. I could possibly have gone on with this story if Chase had died in a way that wasn't so cold, cut-off, and heartless. I still liked Brandon and could have seen them consoling each other in grief while they kept Chase's memory a pivotal part of Liam's life in honor of his dad. But Chase's death comes immediately after a heart-wrenching scene where a jealous twit sets him up to look like he cheated. Harper breaks up with him and sends him away completely crushed, determined to prove to the mother of his child that he's innocent. So alone and shattered, he races through an intersection and slams into a semi. Alone, in unbearable emotional and physical pain, with no one to say goodbye to as he passes on, he dies. I'm crying again just thinking about that god-awful scene, and I don't think I will ever be able to get that mental image out of my mind. It sickened me, ripped my heart out, and made me long to give Chase, the character I grew to love so very much, the love and remembrance he deserved. So, don't laugh, but I'm ending this review with a send-off for my beloved Chase.

I love you sweet Chase, and you will always have a special place in my heart!!

Akanksha♥ Søren? says

Oh boy! I think I found my new favorite book :)
It was just.. I don't have words at the moment.

It was so much like Beautiful Disasters, Thoughtless and Vampire Diaries(the show, without the fiction) and yet so much more ♥

A total emotional roller coaster, I cried, I laughed, I blushed, I was shocked, I fell in love with two wonderful guys tonight! Stayed up the whole night to finish the book, reach the end and damn was it worth loosing sleep over.

The twist which is comes around 50% through the book is SHOCKING, Like seriously.. Its like BAM!
It was heart breaking, left me breathless, I though I read it wrong till I re-read the page again and I was like **WHAT??? NO!!! There has to be some error in my book.**

I wont give out much, because the suspense is mad. This book is so worth it and so very amazing.
It is long, but not dragged. Beautifully written :)

Harper is just woah, mature, loving, sensible, adorable and just everything right

Chase, AH.. Every girl's wet dream ;) haha I love his possessiveness and his pure desire. Boy, I feel head over heels for him ;)

Brandon, FUCK. I want to marry someone like him, Seriously, could the guy get any fucking cuter, sweeter and adorabler? He too is every girl's dream ;) :P

Harper's father is a BITCH.

I loved the whole college romance thingie, the summary of this book doesn't give it justice, its wayh more and its beautiful.

Each and every character in this book is amazing, all the way from her best friend to the parents :D LOVED THIS BOOK, a great great read.

“Oh I'm sorry, but I don't have any STDs, I'm not your type.” - Harper

"AY-DIAS. All I Do Is Eat And Shit.” - Hahaha, Carter you idiot :P

DO READ THIS BOOK
ASAP!! :*
