



## **The Romantics**

*Leah Konen*

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Gael Brennan is about to have his heart broken when his first big relationship crumbles on the heels of his parents' painful separation. Love intervenes with the intention of setting things right—but she doesn't anticipate the intrusion of her dreaded nemesis: the Rebound. Love's plans for Gael are sidetracked by Cara, Gael's hot-sauce-wielding "dream girl." The more Love meddles, the further Gael drifts from the one girl who can help him mend his heart. Soon Love starts breaking all her own rules—and in order to set Gael's fate back on course, she has to make some tough decisions about what it means to truly care.

## **The Romantics Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2016 by Amulet Books

ISBN : 9781419721939

Author : Leah Konen

Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Romance, Young Adult, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review The Romantics for online ebook

### Meredith says

Love takes center stage in this sweet story about first love.

Love (a cupid-like figure) intervenes when 17 year-old Gael Brennan gets his heartbroken by the girl he thought to be his first love. A hopeless romantic, Gael has put all of his energy into his relationship with Anika. After dating for a whole month, Gael tells Anika that he loves her. Anika reacts by having an affair with Gael's best friend, Mason. Gael, who is already struggling with the fallout from his parent's separation, falls for the next girl he meets, Cara, which causes him to potentially miss out on starting a relationship with his first true love, Sammy. This is where Love steps-in.

The Romantics is narrated by Love, which provided a different spin on this story. It's a cute read that put a smile on my face!

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### Emerald says

*"I'm asking you to forget everything you know about True Love. The real kind doesn't make you selfish and shortsighted. Real love makes you better than you ever knew you could be."*

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### abby says

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love totally dropped the ball with Gael Brennan's parents and feels the best recourse is to save Gael's own love life. And that means keeping him away from the rebound girl.

*"... leave it to the Manic Pixie Dream Girl trope to convince a guy that someone who straight-up irks him will also somehow save him."*

I might cross-stitch that onto a pillow.

The problem with Gael is that he's a romantic. Not like he's into romantic comedies or anything like that, because he's not. He likes real movies, like Wes Anderson ones. But he falls in love too hard and too fast. So it's not surprising that his very first relationship ends in disaster when he blurts out the big ILY way too early. Hurt, Gael is desperate for a reminder that love is real. So when he runs into Cara in a meet-cute, he puts too much importance on the moment. But even as Gael is perusing Cara, Love knows his real destiny is with Sammy, his younger sister's babysitter.

This is a cute, fun read. That said, if you remove the quirky element of Love as the narrator, this becomes a very basic, expected romance. It's clear early on that a Sammy and Gael pairing is the endgame, and while I accepted the premise, I didn't think it grew organically. Sammy was supposed to be perfect for Gael, but I didn't really see it. In any case, this is a quick and mostly satisfying YA romance for those so inclined.

Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for giving me a copy of this book.

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## Zainab Sheikh says

*I received a copy of the book from the Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

It's been a long time since I finished a book in less than 24 hours but I finished this book in less than a day... and I also sacrificed my sleep for it.

This book is a cute, fun, and light read. I absolutely adore this book and I enjoyed it a lot.

So this book is narrated by Love and our "lovely" narrator narrates us the story of Gael - a senior at High School - who is at the worst time of his life. His parents are separating and the girl who he thought was the one has broken his heart. He's hopeless and the only things he wants to do is to stay shut in his room and watch movies while eating snickers. Now, love is trying all it can to mend the broken heart but love's nemesis "The Rebound" is trying to meddle with Gael's life as well.

This book is so freaking **relatable**. I felt like almost every character was relatable in one way or another. We all have felt broken and crushed like Gael at some point and we all have felt like the world ending because of a single heartbreak. However, **The Romantics gives you a message that regardless of how depressed you are or how hopeless you feel, these emotions are temporary and all of this will pass because every cloud has a silver lining.** Oh, and there were some characters I wanted to punch in the face.

**Leah Konen possesses an exquisite writing style.** This book didn't bore me for even a second. Love, as a narrator, is hilarious with puns, jokes and side comments while at the same time giving us various messages about love. Love also explains to us the various types of people giving an insight on "Romantics", "Serial Monogamists" etc in short, terms you'll understand thoroughly after reading this book. This book is not like unpredictable or anything because like me, you'll probably guess who he'll end up with but **it's the adventures and the journey he goes through that makes the book worthwhile.** One of my most favourite messages that Love in this book gives us is:

*Love doesn't make you selfish but it makes you a better person.*

I wish I read this book before writing my contemporary recommendation/favorite post this week because this one totally would've made it on that list. So, needless to say, **I highly recommend this book to you.**

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## Kaya Dimitrova says

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## Macarena Yannelli says

Este libro me re gusto, me encantó que un personaje masculino sea el personaje principal de una historia de amor, sobretodo porque Gael es re hopeless romantic.

Pero lo que más me gusto, es que el libro está narrado por "Cupido" o "el amor", que va a haciendo intervenciones a medida que narra la historia (lo cual es una de mis cosas favoritas en cualquier tipo de historias).

Una lectura divertida.

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## Kelli Spear says

\* I received an ARC from the publisher via NetGalley \*

All right. This book is absolutely adorable. I haven't had much luck with contemporaries this year, but the summary was too good to pass up.

The Romantics is narrated by Love, as in the emotion not a character name. Our main character, Gael, has had his heart broken in the worst way. His breakup has been preceded by the separation of his parents. He's starting to feel as though love may not be worth it after all.

But Love has plans for him.

While he is wallowing, she's ready to push him toward who he's meant to be with. She is thwarted many times for her efforts and it's actually quite comedic. I love her categories for the types of people and their explanations. I also loved the unique narrative voice we get. There is something special and fun being the one to know everything. And while we watch Gael fumble through a possible Rebound, it's clear as day (to us and others around him) who he should be with. But like many of us, he questions himself, what he thinks he knows, and talks himself into the wrong girl.

I felt EVERY character was relatable in The Romantics. At some point, we've all done something they have, or felt the way they have. Or heck, had our hearts broken by those who are supposed to protect us. It really brought me back to my own high school days and I loved and appreciated that, too.

This book will suck you in from the very first page. The way Konen wove this tale was nothing short of brilliant. Mixed in with the silly and fun aspects are many real and heartbreaking ones. I really fell in love with Gael and his family. And I admit, I was hoping for happiness for all.

If you've struggled to find a great contemporary they way I have this year, take my advice and DO NOT PASS THIS ONE UP.

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## Alyssa says

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*

The Romantics by Leah Konen  
Publisher: Abrams

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Publication Date: November 1, 2016

Rating: 4 stars

Source: ARC sent by the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads):

Perfect for fans of Lauren Myracle and Rainbow Rowell, *The Romantics* will charm readers of all ages. Gael Brennan is about to have his heart broken when his first big relationship crumbles on the heels of his parents' painful separation. Love intervenes with the intention of setting things right—but she doesn't anticipate the intrusion of her dreaded nemesis: the Rebound. Love's plans for Gael are sidetracked by Cara, Gael's hot-sauce-wielding "dream girl." The more Love meddles, the further Gael drifts from the one girl who can help him mend his heart. Soon Love starts breaking all her own rules—and in order to set Gael's fate back on course, she has to make some tough decisions about what it means to truly care.

What I Liked:

I was sent an unsolicited galley of *The Romantics* from the publisher (and this in no way affected my review). I say this because it was sent unsolicited, and I rarely read unsolicited galleys. But I decided to give this book a chance. YA contemporary is not something I usually seek out and/or enjoy, but I was delighted to find that I liked this book.

This book is told from Love's narration. It's the story of Gael, after his heart is broken. He tells his girlfriend he loves her... but then finds out that she has been cheating on him with his best friend. The poor guy can't seem to catch a break! Now he has no girlfriend and no best friend. This is the "aftermath", how Gael navigates the maze that is Love.

I thought I might not enjoy this book, because I had a feeling that the romance wouldn't be for me. But I was surprised. Technically there is no love triangle or anything like that, though there are multiple love interests. Gael's girlfriend - ex-girlfriend within the first few chapters - could be considered one, though he never tries to get her back. A new girl that Gael meets is the second, and a girl that Gael has known for years is the third. The new girl, Cara, is the love interest that catches Gael's interest but he's not sure he actually likes her (she represents the Rebound). The true love interest is the third girl, and this is quite evident, in the story.

One thing I liked about this book is how raw and emotional it is. We all know the phrase "get hit by the feels"? Or in the feels? Well, this book does that, though in a very subtle way. It's written in a humorous way, but it catches you off-guard with the depth of emotion conveyed in the story.

For example, some of my favorite scenes with a lot of emotions were when Gael was feeling angry towards Anika and Mason for cheating behind his back. I LOVE how Gael held on to this anger. I love how he threw this in Anika's face, Mason's face, etc. This is good, typical post-breakup behavior from someone whose been cheated on. Good for Konen for fleshing these emotions out, the hurt and anger and betrayal.

On that note, I also liked how while Gael definitely had to work to get over Anika, he wasn't trying to get her back or anything. He accepted the fact that she cheated, he was very mad about it, and he wasn't trying to get her back (and didn't forgive her immediately).

I also liked how Konen doesn't just explore explore romantic love. One could argue that what Gael felt towards Anika was fictitious, fairy-tale love. A significant part of this story was Gael's somewhat broken relationship with his parents. The author shows Gael a different type of love, as Gael works through the issues he has with his father, and then his mother. And then there is Gael's bond with his eight-year-old sister - the sibling love is real and constant and I loved that.

The romantic love is solid too. Gael thought he loved Anika, but realizes that he never did, and that what he felt for her was a fantasy. He tries to go out with Cara but realizes that she doesn't hold his interest. The third girl, the one that he's known forever, he doesn't realize that he likes her... until more than halfway through the book. Which was adorable to watch.

To sum things up, this wasn't just a cute and hilarious story about Gael finding his soulmate (or thereabout). There were so many fleshed-out relationships that were positive, some that were negative (and deservedly so). I found the authenticity of love and emotions in this book so real. Konen captured them really well!

I would love to read a companion novel that follows this one! The end of the book leaves a secondary and unimportant character potentially heartbroken - why not give him a story? I would read it!

What I Did Not Like:

The only thing that I personally didn't love - and this isn't a fault of the author's - is that Gael eventually forgave Mason. Anika, probably as well, but definitely Mason. I get that it's difficult to throw away a friendship over a girl, but cheating is pretty serious, and a horrendous breach of trust. I wouldn't forgive either of them. BUT. This shows how much Gael grows and develops in this book. Good for him!

Would I Recommend It:

If you like YA contemporary, this is for you. I was apprehensive about it, because I don't really like YA contemporary, and because I knew there would be ex-girlfriend drama and new-love-interest drama, but I was surprised by how much the drama didn't bother me, and how much I was enjoying it unfold. This book was one that I got rooted in, one that I couldn't help but cheer for Gael, be angry for Gael, clap my hands for Gael in the end.

Rating:

4 stars. Worth the read, if you enjoy YA contemporary. I can't speak for the author's other books, but this one was not bad. There were a lot of positive messages that I think the author did a great job of transmitting through this story!

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### **ALEXA says**

3.5 stars. Really cute story! If you like romantic comedies, then you'll most certainly find this book to be a solid read.

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### **Fafa's Book Corner says**

Full review to come :)

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### **Cait • A Page with a View says**

**Release date: November 1, 2016**

This was a super cute YA contemporary narrated by Love, which was a fun twist!

Love's commentary was quirky, fast-paced, surprisingly insightful, and actually relevant to modern readers (with all of the references to Game of Thrones, Wes Anderson analysis, and texts that didn't sound like they were written by someone who grew up in the 1980s). So even though the plot is fairly predictable, it's still a lighthearted and totally entertaining read!

The basic story is that Gael tells a girl he loves her and then finds out the next day that she's been cheating on him with his best friend. Love keeps trying to get Gael to notice Sammy, his little sister's babysitter. But Gael goes for the next girl he meets aaaand learns a lot along the way.

Sometimes the plots of a lot of YA contemporaries really blend together for me, so it was refreshing to see little changes like a guy main character who goes for an older girl.

I had a digital ARC and I'm not letting the extremely messed up formatting affect my rating in any way, BUT it was hilarious and I need to share how the author's name was thrown in absolutely everywhere. Check out a few of the sentences that created:

*Mason, who Gael had often feared would grow up to be a total womanizer, sacrificing any chance of real happiness in the name of perky boobs, had LEAH KONEN*

*because I could peek into the future, and this is what I saw: LEAH KONEN*

*watched Gael (unsurprisingly) dive headfirst into a relationship with Anika in a desperate attempt to feel LEAH KONEN*

*Gael grabbed his sandwich and backpack and followed them inside to their usual LEAH KONEN*

*Cara gazed at him a touch too long, but then a guy LEAH KONEN*

*As Sammy cut apart the last bit of her waffle, she got LEAH KONEN*

*She hit me out of nowhere LEAH KONEN*

*"So what are you doing?" LEAH KONEN*

*You might as well LEAH KONEN*

*He had no other option but to remove himself from the LEAH KONEN*

*the small crack in the sliding glass door from where a pigeon had LEAH KONEN*

Who knows, maybe that was just super good marketing to ensure I *never* forget the author's name. But anyways, this was a really cute YA contemporary and I totally recommend it!

Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC.

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## **Fadwa (Word Wonders) says**

*\*I received an eArc of this book from the publishers through Netgalley in exchange of an honest review\**

Full detailed Review on my blog: [\*\*Word Wonders\*\*](#)

Who could resist a love story told by Love herself? You would? All I know, is that I for one, can't. And if you love contemporary as much as I do, I know you won't be able either. I was so curious and excited to read this one when I got my hands on it. It sounded so light and quirky and it really was. But even though I enjoyed it and it made me laugh at times, it failed to deliver in some aspects of the story, some really important aspects to me. More into that further down, but for now, let's dive in.

The writing is so fun and what I mean by that is that Love's way of narration is very perky and interactive. The best way I can think of describing reading this book is that it feels like watching a documentary with Love as the voice over, bouncing from relevant event to the next. What other thing was also very well done in "The Romantics" is how present Social Media means are which most authors tend to forget about, even though they're a very big part of our lives now.

So, the book follows Love's debacles as she tries to fix a boy's –Gael– love life, that she messed up in the first place, which was really fun to read about because it didn't portray Love as this almighty being that could make anything work (it is symbolic if you ask me). And oh my god! the comments Love makes about events gave me life, she's so funny and miscalculates her moves quite a lot which more often than not make the things go in the opposite direction of what she intended to.

That being said, for all the build-up that happened the ending left me wanting more. I was disappointed by how things were left off, it just felt incomplete to me. Until the last few pages, aside from an issue I'll talk about in a bit, I really liked the book and was set on 4 stars but with how things were wrapped up, I was forced to let go of that 4th star.

The characters are all likeable and all have their little quirks and flaws but none of them are quite memorable to be honest, which isn't necessarily bad as they were good characters. Aside from little Piper who is Gael's little sister, I loved her SO MUCH. She was so funny and such a sweet girl, very mature for her age I must add, which made for some pretty interesting scenes where she was playing the big sister.

The other main issue I had with this book is the family dynamic. The parents were there just as decor if you ask me, not as authority figures, and even less so as actual caring parents. Gael was going through a hard time and neither his mom nor his dad were able to get their heads out of their butts and actually communicate with him and deal with the problems he had, which again they were the main cause of. YOU. DON'T. DO. THAT. It's yet ANOTHER alternative for the "absent parents trope" that I am so tired of seeing.

All in all, this was a very cute and quick read (I read it in less than 24 hours) but it sadly didn't live up to the expectations I had for it. I would definitely recommend it for someone coming out of a slump or someone who feels one coming because it doesn't take a lot of effort to read it and it still is a nice story.

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## **Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says**

2.5\*

This was cute and fun, but I found the characters to be extremely annoying and the storyline was consequently not something I was really invested in. It was a super quick read though, and had a very unique concept!

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### **Stacee says**

This book wasn't on my radar until I received a mailing from Amulet, complete with matching candy.

Love love loved that it was narrated by Love. That alone made it unique, but being able to get various backstories and footnotes was a lot of fun.

I really enjoyed Gael and his family, especially his little sister, Piper. The family unit is having some problems, but they were supportive and present and I always love to see that.

Overall, it was a quirky and cute read with a fabulous ending.

**\*\*Huge thanks to Amulet for providing the arc free of charge\*\***

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### **Kayla says**

This book seemed like it was going to be so interesting because it has a unique narrator--Love. Love goes on to explain the different types of people there are out there, including romantics like main character Gael. Love explains that she can't be in all places at once and, sometimes, when she's distracted by putting one couple together, another will fall apart and get divorced. That's what happens to Gael's parents and he's in so much pain after their separation that he wants to throw himself into love as soon as possible. Love knows that isn't what's best for him--somehow she can actually see what will happen in his future depending on what relationships he has.

It was kind of interesting to see a YA guy dating a "college girl". It's a dynamic you don't usually see. But, based on growing up in a college town, I know the odds of this kind of romance happening aren't so great to begin with, unless the relationship started when both parties were in high school. But that's just a side note.

For the most part, the writing was fairly dry and forgettable. Terrible things would happen to Gael, literally in front of his parents, and it didn't seem like they were doing much to try to help him out. It got to the point where they talked so little to Gael about important things that, of course, he started to make all the wrong assumptions about his parents and why they divorced.

For all of the build-up that happens in the book, the ending just isn't satisfying. It comes too abruptly, after everything Gael's been through in his various relationships, and I really wanted more. After all, Love herself has been spouting about how great this will be for Gael if he could just reach that point in life, but we get . . . nothing.

I don't think I'll be recommending this book, but I know there are people out there who would really enjoy it if they like contemporary romance and want the experience of a unique narrator.

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