



Keeping Secrets in Seattle

Brooke Moss

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Seattle hairstylist Violet Murphy always knew the day would come when her best friend Gabe Parker would want to settle down. She'd secretly wished it would be with her, but now that he's chosen someone else—the prim, perfect Alicia—he wants Vi to be his best man.

Healing her broken heart isn't easy, but when Violet meets Landon Harlow, a man who isn't fazed by her funky style and less-than-delicate attitude, she takes a step in the right direction. Until Gabe's fiancé's gorgeous façade begins to crack, and Violet's disturbing past comes back to haunt her, that is. Vi now finds herself armed with a series of lies that would break Gabe's heart—and his engagement—if he knew their truth, and a secret from their childhood that could change everything.

With the wedding looming, her relationships unraveling, and the bachelor party of the century to plan, Violet must choose between a fresh start with Landon, or confronting her painful past and risking it all for a chance at a future with Gabe.

Keeping Secrets in Seattle Details

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From Reader Review Keeping Secrets in Seattle for online ebook

Tzippy says

I give it 3/5 stars for being well-written, not too cheesy, and not too fluffy. However, this is a real three, not a three point five, because I had serious issues with the structure of this story. I can't make sense of what exactly this book is about, because it's really two books morphed into one.

The first one is a cute romance about a girl who's in love with his best friend, but he's oblivious and also getting married to another girl who's all wrong for him. The second one is a slightly darker romance, about a girl who was raped and was/is ashamed to tell her boyfriend, so instead, he thinks she cheated on him, and they break up and are both miserable.

It just doesn't make any sense to combine them. How can he be happy and in love with his fiancée and be miserable and in love with his best friend at the same time? What did he see in the fiancée in the first place, because she seems to be an unredeemable jerk? Which, by the way, it's possible to make someone calculating and money-hungry without making them entirely one-dimensional and cliché, and it would have made for a better story. And what about the roommates--Violet's roommates know that she's in love with Gabe, so presumably they know that the two of them dated in high school...but they don't know why they broke up? Or they only know the fake reason? How does that work?

The side characters should have been developed more. Landon, Violet's boyfriend, was--I don't even know. He wasn't even a foil for Gabe, he was just a placeholder. I thought he would turn out shady because it was weird how he seemed to fall in love with Violet so quickly--and based on what?--but it turned out he was pretty genuine. I guess it's refreshing, but he doesn't really play a role in the story. He just enters stage right and exits stage left when it's time for the main couple to get together.

So that's the first story, now time for the second:

You mean to tell me that for nine years, Violet's watched her best-friend-that-she's-in-love-with continue to be friends with her rapist, and not said anything? And then she finds out that the rapist is going to be a groomsman in the best friend's wedding, and she doesn't immediately flip out? And she keeps trying to tell Gabe what happened, and he keeps putting her off...I don't understand how she doesn't snap. Why does she put up with this?

I appreciate the fact that Gabe gets angry when Violet finally tells him the truth. I get that rape victims are shamed and often blamed by society and it doesn't encourage them to tell their stories, but for years, he thought that he was the victim of the story, and it turns out that he's actually the asshole who dumped his girlfriend after she got raped. Oops.

What I really don't appreciate is how a week later, when everything is dealt with (well, kinda--they kick the rapist out of the house and later he goes on to rape someone else, but I'm not well-versed in law and maybe there was some kind of statute of limitations thing going on, only it would have been nice if that were made explicit), she's like, Okay, now we can be together, right? And he says, No, I can't be with you because I need time to get over the fact that you were raped. What the actual what. This guy needs a punch in the face.

There were certain scenes that I liked. As I mentioned above, I liked the scene where Violet and Gabe talk right after he finds out the truth. I really liked the scene where Violet confronts her mother about having

covered everything up, and her mother explains her own story. I also liked the bachelor party scene. But the book as a whole...I'm not sure what it was trying to do.

This review may be extra-critical and ranty because I had a few shots of whiskey earlier. There are good things about the book, too, though. I stand by my three-star rating, which is a good rating.

Disclaimer: I received a free ARC of this book from NetGalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

Miranda says

I finished this book last week and meant to write a review earlier but I somehow managed not to post it.

I give this one a 3.5 to 4 stars!

Brooke Moss lets us escape from the real world into the world of Violet Murphy. Violet is a funky fabulous hairdresser in Seattle with some interesting friends. She's been in love with her best friend (Gabe Parker) ever since she was a little girl. They tried the whole dating thing years ago but it just didn't work out for various reasons. One of those haunting reasons happens to be why she's the person she is today.

When she finds out Gabe is getting married Violet is absolutely devastated. The rawness of emotions from Violet's character is felt with full force. Ms. Moss did an excellent job of letting the reader feel the turmoil, the passion, and the courage of this woman. There is humor. There are tears. There is an undeniably strong pull of intense desire between Violet and Gabe and I found myself cheering for them until I met Landon.

I really, REALLY liked Landon. I hope the author does a book just for him.

ARC courtesy of Entangled Publishing via Netgalley for an honest review

Rhianna says

One of my favorites of 2013!

I've been trying to do my own little reblurb for *KEEPING SECRETS IN SEATTLE* but the official one is just too well done for me to need to write my own summary.

It is a very rare thing for me, as a reader, to experience the full on 'reads-like-a-movie' thing with a book. But from page one, Violet and Gabe's world came alive for me. They're such opposites that at first I was baffled by the massive crush she had on him. Yet, as the story progressed it was easy to see that it wasn't a crush at all, but a love born in youth that had matured into something painfully stunted by a crushingly heart-

wrenching secret. Just when Vi is ready to work it out, to reveal how she has felt for all these years Gabe goes and proposes to his model-slash-waitress girlfriend, Alycia. To add insult to injury, he asks her to be his 'best-man', which requires a lot of trying to tolerate his seemingly flawless fiance.

From here readers are sure to start seeing *KEEPING SECRETS IN SEATTLE* as a bit of a romantic comedy, which in a way it is. Moss is one of my favorite authors because she is a master at weaving a heart-wrenching story of love with well executed comedic moments to lighten it when needed. There are some real LOL moments and a couple of seriously tear-inducing ones, dragging us along as Vi tries to make sense of some really difficult obstacles. Making nice with Alycia. Attempting a relationship with a guy who seems perfect for her, but isn't whom her heart wants. Keeping the terrible secret that ruined her chance with Gabe years ago. Discovering that Alycia has been keeping secrets of her own... and just what to do about them. This is one of those romances that sends you on an emotional roller coaster of laughs and tears, and even the occasional fist shaking.

As has become my personal favorite aspect of Moss' writing, she once again knocks-it-out-of-the-park as far as setting. If you love a story where the location becomes the third character you will be packing your bags for Seattle before you're halfway through. It's so true to the spirit of the city and the people who live there, it made me homesick. If, like me, you're a native of the Pacific Northwest you simply **MUST** read Moss' books. *KEEPING SECRETS IN SEATTLE* is her best so far and has movie potential I'd love to see happening on screen.

If you enjoy a romance that's complicated by deep dark secrets without being a total mope-fest, where big romantic gestures have you going 'awwww', and the collective characters are just a little too over-the-top to be real and yet relatable enough to be endearing you will love this book!

Note: Review copy received via publisher.

Sherry Griffin says

Wowser! Rape. It tears people up. Even the strong ones. Vi, I love you!! Read this book. It is a beautiful story throughout. Thanks to NetGalley for the advance reading copy!

Amanda (Hootie) Clark says

I love when a book leaves me feeling like I just had one of the most wonderful moments in life. It's magical to read a book that gets inside you. This was no exception. Violet Murphy and Gabe Parker have been best friends and loved each other since they were kids but seemed to miss their moment in time due to a misunderstanding. Each chapter begins with a journal entry from Violet's past. Both her and Parker had tried taking their relationship to another level when they were 16 but something happened that hurt them both and the wounds never really healed. She had held out hope that they could get back together until a surprise announcement forced her to move on from her childhood love. She convinces herself to move on and ends up meeting Landon. An incredibly sexy carpenter who treats her like gold and falls for her quickly. With Gabe set to marry Alicia, a woman Violet can't stand, she tries desperately to find out the truth about this woman before Gabe makes a mistake he can't take back.

This was a book I won't soon forget because it had me frustrated and torn through most of the story. Seeing how Gabe and Violet grew up together makes your heart melt for him and you WANT them to be together and root for Alicia to be kicked to the curb. Then when you don't expect it Landon comes in to the picture and completely shakes things up. It's almost like a love triangle and usually I hate love triangles but this worked for me. While I still loved Landon and hoped briefly it worked out for them, I just couldn't stop myself from wanting Gabe to be with Violet.

Whenever Vi tried to tell him the reason for the misunderstanding they would get interrupted and I would beat my fist against my desk at work and scream "COME ON!" I was so frustrated and it didn't change until like 87% into the book. The angst is palpable and becomes a living organism that feels like it could climb out of your chest and be your constant companion. Violet was a beautiful character. She had flaws and emotional baggage you start to understand as you get to know her. I figured out the big secret pretty early on and that usually deflates the balloon for me but with this book it just made me that much more excited to continue reading because I knew that if it just came out everyone could go back to normal.

I love that the story was told from Violet's point of view, it really gives you insight into the emotional turmoil she goes through from past to present day. The journal entries before each chapter were a great way to get some back story without having to drag the story down during the good parts.

I absolutely loved Violet. She is curvy and funny and spunky and with her two roommates whom you get to see quite a bit of in the story, you are not only provided with much needed comic relief but you get to see the support group Vi has in these girls.

As for Gabe, I loved him then I didn't like him so much, but then I started loving him again. You are taken on this journey and begin to feel the emotions towards him the main character feels. It feels like it is happening to you as you read along.

I couldn't put this book down and loved every pulse pounding, frustrating, anger management class inducing minute. The epilogue is a wonderful treat as it closes out this beautiful story from Gabe's POV that will have you misty eyed and unable to forget the story. I fell hard for this story, so much so that when it was over I cried. Not because it was sad, but because I was sad it was over. I moped for days being in a state in between being happy I read such a wonderful story and melancholy that it was over. I was pitiful and I am so glad nobody saw me like that. I adore stories about childhood sweethearts falling in love so naturally Keeping Secrets was right up my alley! My hope is that you grab a copy and get lost in the story like I did and fall in love with this beautiful couple!

LPJ says

This was one of the most frustrating books I've read in quite a while. The premise sounded right up my alley - I love friends to lovers stories, and the description made it sound like there was a little more to the story than usual. Violet has been in love with Gabe since they were six. They tried dating in their teens, but it "didn't work out" so now they're best friends. Just as Violet is about to get the nerve to admit her feelings for him, Gabe shocks her by proposing to his girlfriend. Violet is shell-shocked and despairing, but manages to meet *the perfect guy* Landon, and hopes he'll be the guy to take her mind off Gabe - even as she prepares to be his best woman in the wedding.

The problem was, I could never really get behind Violet's feelings for Gabe. He seemed kind of like a selfish jerk. There were plenty of hints that he knew she had feelings for him, but he kept asking more and more from her - be friendly with his bitchy fiancee and her shallow friends, be okay with him never having time for her anymore, be the freaking "best woman" at his wedding... His cluelessness knew no bounds and I didn't really like him.

Landon was literally the perfect man. A gorgeous carpenter who rides a motorcycle and has tattoos - and falls completely in love with you in a few weeks? Violet can kiss my ass. Seriously. I came to have very little sympathy for her and her moony face pining over Gabe.

The secret indicated in the title, is so drawn out and takes so long to be revealed and was telegraphed so early that it really lost all impact. There were so many times when Violet could have told Gabe her secret -- and I get why it was so hard for her to reveal it, I really do -- but it made so much of the book feel like meaningless fluff. We know what it is, and Vi knows what it is, but as readers we have to suffer through her not telling Gabe, and it was really suffering. I thought drawing it out cheapened the story tension. I skimmed along wondering when would she tell him already. And the secret itself makes Gabe seem even more like a jerk. (view spoiler)

This just didn't come together for me and I had to force myself to get through it. The ending is sweet, but the journey was tedious.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.25 stars

"Keeping Secrets in Seattle" was a surprisingly good clean romance. It is about a girl, Violet, who is in love with her childhood best friend, Gabe. Gabe, of course, is engaged to marry another woman. Think "My Best Friend's Wedding"... sort of. Violet tries to get over Gabe by dating a hot, tattooed, sweet guy but can't let go of her attachment to Gabe.

The positives of this book were that the writing was really on point and the pacing was great. The book totally held my attention and didn't let it go. I was honestly expecting crappily written fluff and was regretting requesting it from Net Galley. I was pleasantly surprised that the book was very very readable. I also was digging Violet's fashion sense and her funny lesbian housemates.

The negatives? This story has been DONE. A girl in love with her best friend? Nothing new to see here. I knew what was going to happen in the end the entire time. There were no real surprises. And the fiance was like a caricature. The bridesmaids were like Disney evil step-sisters. Pretty one-dimensional.

My main gripe was that I was totally frustrated with Violet for most of the book. She is, for some stupid reason that makes very little sense, keeping a BIG SECRET from Gabe. One that may change anything. Why she doesn't just blurt it out, I had no clue. I was going crazy with the dancing around that the two of them were doing. It got to be more than a bit tiresome in the end.

Overall I enjoyed reading this book, despite the flaws. It is a more angsty read than I was expecting and I dug it, in spite of myself.

Book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Leslie says

This book reminds me of a date movie that your date/boyfriend/husband would take you to see. It's a love story that can preoccupy your time for several hours. It has a familiar plot of 2 best friends who are more than that and try to finally get everything out in the open so as to get the opportunity to finally be together. In the midst of this, are quirky and supportive roommates, another possible love interest, a fiancee who is not who she really is, and a secret that has been kept for over a decade. So like the hypothetical movie version of this book, the actual book itself is a good read to keep you preoccupied for a couple of hours.

I'm very mixed about this book. There are both good and not so good things that I liked about it. I really enjoyed that Vi (Violet) isn't the prototypical slim and fashionable strong female character. She likes wearing vintage clothing from thrift stores. She wears pink highlights in her hair. Her figure is well rounded and not a stick figure. I think it's good that she feels comfortable in her own skin, but, like the rest of us females, there are times where she can get insecure about it. She's witty, but she's also impulsive and don't think things through. There are times where I like her, but she also has her moments where I don't like the decisions she makes.

Her roommates are another thing I liked about the book. Kim and Betsy are great supportive friends who don't care what others think about them. They are very comfortable in their own skin. They're also not afraid to let you know of their opinions. They're the kind of people that you know that would always have your back when you need them.

I would've liked for the book to have painted more clearer picture of what Vi really sees in Gabe to make her so in love with him. It just seemed that she would list characteristics about Gabe that she loves and how she feels whenever she's around him. Perhaps, what I was looking for was a certain charisma that came off him. I didn't really get a whole picture of HIM, as opposed to what Vi was telling us about him. He kinda came off as pretentious (just like Betty and Kim said early in the book) and a little into himself. I also didn't like the mix signals he would give off to Vi. The touching, the hugging, the cupping of her face. For goodness sakes, no wonder the girl couldn't move on!

I tend to be very picky regarding the writing style, the narration, and dialogue in a book. This book was well written, but I felt there wasn't a natural flow. I felt at times the narration was halting and slowed the story down. However, there were moments where Vi's natural charm and humor came through in her narration of the story. That brought some life into the narration.

Overall, this is a nice love story to read for when you have some hours to yourself. There are some good characters that you will like. Violet really carried the book and she's a standout. If you are a sucker for happy endings, then this book will definitely feed your appetite for it.

Autumn Review says

When a book can capture my attention within the first chapter, I mean suck me in...I know it's going to be a good book. Such was the case for me with Keeping Secrets in Seattle. Now, I had a few friends that enjoyed

this one, but I guess I wasn't prepared for the level of awesome that this book delivered. From the characters, the storyline, and the writing, this book was a hit for me.

I absolutely adored Violet. When you first meet her, she's quirky and a bit self conscious. However, she isn't a push over. There are reasons why Violet is the way she is and while some of it is heartbreaking to learn about, you like her even more because she made it through. Violet also has a great sense of humor. She made me laugh constantly.

Now for the love interests. I'll start with Landon. I LOVED Landon. He seems to be the perfect match for Violet. He's tattooed, adventurous, and overall a great guy. Violet truly does fall for him in a way, but there is someone holding her back from completely giving her heart to him. Gabe.

Ok, I'll be honest and say that within the first chapter I was NOT a Gabe fan. Gabe is Violet's best friend and the guy she thought she would marry someday. Well, on the night Violet goes to tell him she's in love with him, he announces his engagement to his girlfriend. Needless to say, Violet is shocked and heartbroken. See, Gabe had told her he was breaking up with his girlfriend, but that obviously didn't happen. So, my first impressions of Gabe weren't all that great. I felt like he toyed with her feelings a bit. However, as I got to know him more, I saw that that really wasn't the case. In the end, I loved Gabe. The epilogue is told from his POV and it made me tear up.

The supporting characters also made the story so great. I loved Violet's roommates, Kim and Betsy. They were such great friends to Violet. I also loved Gabe's family. They were the type of family that Violet wanted to be part of and she was for the most part. I love it when a supporting cast of characters enhances the likability of the story.

Overall, I loved Keeping Secrets in Seattle. As I said before, I was hooked from the beginning. I was biting my nails and texting my rants about Gabe to my friends. While there are some truly great comedic moments, there are some serious issues addressed. This book was the whole package for me and I can't recommend it enough!

Quotes:

~This was my life. A leopard print couch, a David Beckham look-alike, two lesbians, and a Felix the Cat clock. -Loc 2279

~"Real love takes work and effort and time. Real love is willing to wait while you sort your shit out, and is still there once you get your head in straight."

I put my cup down and stared at my mom. I was getting love advice from Fourth Marriage Barbie now?
What next?

Aimee says

This was a bit darker than I thought it was going to be. But it turned out to be a pretty compelling read. When I first started reading, I had My Best Friends Wedding expectations from this book. But it was nothing like that. It turned out even better. This book had me in tears in quite a few places for different reasons, but in the end, I was happy with the book.

I couldn't imagine pining for my childhood best friend for a majority of my life. Even worse, I couldn't

imagine watching that best friend date and eventually propose to another woman. There were times I had hoped that Violet would find a better life with the hunk Landon after times where Gabe was terribly insensitive to Vi and her feelings. Violet's life seemed to revolve around everything Gabe and his parade of girlfriends. About half way through the book I was hoping she would start to live for herself, rather than Gabe.

One of my favorite characters in this book wasn't Violet or Gabe, it was be Landon. He was the perfect literary boyfriend. Despite riding a motorcycle and having tattoos, he was a perfect gentleman and a very loving person. He showed how much he cared not only with his words but with his actions. While dating him, Violet couldn't keep her mind off of Gabe. Such a travesty, this guy deserved her total and uninterrupted attention.

The darkness of this book had my feelings split down the middle. One, it was a horrific thing to go through. Two, I have a hard time imagining it would take this long for these two to talk about "That Night". But really, in the end, I enjoyed the writing and the story. It seems like certain things were meant to be, no matter how hard people fight against it.

This book doesn't end abruptly. Thank goodness for that! There are times that a good romance novel ends so abruptly I want to know how things turn out. Do they last? Do they break up five minutes after the book ends? This doesn't leave the reader with any doubt. I'm a sucker for a good romance novel. Even more for happy endings. I'm excited to see what else Brooke Moss has in store. Great things, I imagine.

ARC provided by the publisher for honest review

Ali says

Violet Murphy is the type of girl I would liked to have been in my early twenties. You know, just a couple of years ago. ;) Who am I kidding? Violet Murphy is the type of girl I would still like to be. She is comfortable in her own skin, size twelve (gasp) skin no less. She is spunky with a few tattoos and a vintage style. She lives with two of her best friends, who just happen to be a lesbian couple. She works for a drag queen, frequents the local coffee house and has been in love with her best friend, Gabe, since the age of six.

On the day Violet has decided to proclaim her eternal love to Gabe, he professes his intent to marry another. Okay, so maybe there are some aspects of Violet's life I don't envy.

Determined to move on and keep her relationship with Gabe in tact, Violet opens herself up to the possibility of another man. Landon is great. I mean great. He's a younger, slightly grungier or rustic version of David Beckham with the sweetest heart you could ever find. He's inked up, rides a motorcycle and his idea of the perfect V-day is a trip to a secluded mountain cabin where he cooks dinner under the stars. Uh, yum much?

Gabe on the other hand starts off as kind of a Douchey-McDoucheykins. Really. The crap he pulls and lets his fiance pull was an instant turn off. I wanted to throttle the dude and that is the only thing I struggled with while reading Keeping Secrets in Seattle. You see, Gabe is marrying a psycho-lying-bitch and he takes a back seat to her pulling some pretty horrendous stunts. Of course, he doesn't see that about her. Yet, Violet still sees him as Mr. Perfect. Even when she has a real Mr. Perfect lapping at her feet like a loyal (yet sexy) puppy dog.

Plus Gabe hardly even has a part in this book. We never really get to know him as he has very little involvement with Vi, he mostly tries to avoid her. I very much dislike being told to love a book boy. I need to see it and feel it. I didn't with Gabe. I did feel it for Landon. Guess who's team I picked to be on? I can see that Violet loves Gabe but I can't for the life of me get behind it myself.

I did enjoy the internal battle Violet had, do you tell your best friend all his fiance's dirty little secrets at the risk of losing his friendship forever? Do you tell him the deep dark secret that effects both your pasts, at the risk of opening yourself to some pretty serious pain and heartache? Do you take a shot with a wonderful new man even if part of your heart can never be his? Do you risk it all even if you may lose it all?

I can't say I always agreed with the decisions she made. I so didn't, but I could empathize with where her heart was through out all those decisions. Violet is an easy girl to love and Keeping Secrets in Seattle is an easy book like. Like, not love. Unfortunately, because it is a really good story. It just has some faults.

This last bit could be considered a spoiler...so if you are like me and don't enjoy spoilers : Quit Reading Now.

A personal plea to Brooke Moss ~ Would you please consider writing a second book revolving around the boy who did not get picked? Pretty please with whip cream, cherries, rainbow sprinkles and chocolate sauce on top? I would really really REALLY love it!

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Originally posted at <http://smexybooks.com/2013/03/20574.html>

Favorite Quote: "This. Was. War."

Violet Murphy has loved her best friend, Gabe Parker, since kindergarten but one terrible night changed all that and led them to remain friends only. Violet knew the day would come when Gabe would marry but her heart breaks when he proposes to his perfect girlfriend, Alicia, and he asks Violet to be his best man.

When Violet meets Landon Harlow, her heart begins to mend as he shows Violet she is perfect just the way she is. But when Violet learns that all is not right with Alicia, she finds herself at a loss on what to do. Does she risk losing Gabe's friendship by telling him everything or let him marry Alicia and risk getting his heart broken? As Violet struggles to come up with a viable solution, her own terrible secret begins to unravel and suddenly she finds herself being buried under all the lies.

With Gabe's wedding approaching and Landon demanding more commitment from her, Violet has to decide whether to leave her past behind and start a new life with Landon or face the past and risk it all for a chance at happiness with Gabe.

Brooke Moss has become one of my go to author's when it comes to romantic contemporaries. She has a definite gift for combining love, heartbreak, and humor to create a story well worth reading again and again. Keeping Secrets In Seattle is a romantic and heartfelt story about love, forgiveness, and second chances. Filled with plenty of humor, snark, and eccentric characters, we get a ringside seat as we see and feel

Violet's heartbreakingly struggle as she watches her best friend and the love of her life prepare to marry someone else. Extremely character driven, it's very easy to submerge yourself into the lives of these characters and the stories they have to share. Fast pacing and a smoothly written story makes for a quick yet poignant read. There is a dark side to the the story that was unexpected but it is handled well.

Violet, our heroine, is a delightfully quirky person who deals with life's many obstacles with dry wit, intelligence, snark, and a lot of patience. It requires a lot of humor to accept being the love of your life's best man at his wedding and to play nicely with his fiancee, whom you can't stand.

Gabe, our hero, was harder to connect with. While I enjoyed Gabe's character, this is 100% Violet's story. I have to say I honestly felt more of a connection with Landon then I did Gabe. We see everything through Violet's POV so every time Gabe inadvertently hurts her...it hurts us. Landon, on the other hand, treats Violet like a princess. He is attentive, doesn't take her for granted, and you can feel he truly loves her. At times I wanted Landon to steal Violet's heart away from Gabe but I knew it wouldn't happen. Her love for Gabe is ingrained in her soul. Every breath he took, she exhaled. She gave Gabe her heart along time ago. At times Gabe annoyed me because I KNEW he loved Violet but was scared of that love. So he chose to marry someone else but also tries to keep Violet by his side in the "best friend" role. I felt he was clueless with his careless handling of Violet but there were times I felt he knew what he was doing and was still punishing Violet for what happened in the past.

Violet's pain is a palpable presence throughout the entire book. Her life was perfect when her and Gabe dated in high school; until one night's tragic events ruins it all. Violet has never fully recovered from that night nor the betrayals that occurred afterwards. Each chapter starts with a entry from Violet's childhood journal. Through these bittersweet entries, we learn the extent of Violet's love for Gabe and exactly what led to Gabe and Violet's break up in high school and why the pain from it settled so deep in Violet.

Gabe and Violet's second chance at love progresses slowly throughout the story. It's not an overly emotional tear jerking journey and it felt more real for that reason. Everyday life doesn't normally have a tragedy occurring every 10 minutes. They do hit plenty of bumps in the road and there are past issues that need to be resolved because only then can they both be free to love one another again. The only part I didn't like was Gabe had a habit of burying his head in the sand and not seeing what was in front of him. Or perhaps, it was his fear of what he saw that had him keeping Violet at arms length. I loved that Violet was strong enough to make him listen...and strong enough to walk when he won't.

"I would rather be alone forever then beg the man I love to be with me."

The supporting characters are all well developed personalities with a vibrancy that flatters our protagonists and the story. Violet's room mates had me in tears as they tease, cajole, snark and cry, right along with Vi. They had Vi's back through it all—even when they dispensed advice that they knew Vi didn't want but needed to hear. Violet's relationship with her mother is tremulous and Ms. Moss does a fabulous job of allowing them to work towards forgiveness at their own pace.

The ending is tense and heartbreakingly yet gratifying as everything and everyone finds their place and settles in beautifully. It isn't an easy ending but it's a well won ending for Vi and Gabe. I love the tiny epilogue added that is told from Gabe's POV. It wraps everything up nicely and left me with a huge smile.

“She is my best friend.”

Overall Rating: B

Cecilia Robert says

So glad I got to read Brooke Moss' Keeping Secrets in Seattle. And what a treat this story was!

I am a huge fan of Friends to Lovers stories. This one did not disappoint. Violet and Gabe have known each other since childhood. Somewhere in-between they fell in love (adorable) but something happened to pull them apart.

In later years they still kept in-touch, met up and managed to stay friends. Even though the flame was still burning. Too bad Gabe was about to get married.

This story was oh-my-gosh romantic, made me laugh, tear up and sigh. I could feel Gabe and Violet's conflict, desperation and love. One thing I really enjoyed is how Brooke Moss started each chapter with an entry of Violet's diary while she was still in high school. Eventually we got to find out what really happened to break Vi and Gabe up. Wow.

This is a wonderful romantic story. I didn't want to stop reading this, until I'd peeled the layers and met the real Violet and Gabe.

Could we have Landon's story please Ms. Moss?

One of my favourite quotes:

He leaned away from me enough to gaze down into my eyes. "My place is with you. I don't care where that is. If you're there, it's my home, Vi."

Ah. Absolutely Perfect.

Susan says

Loved it!

Becky says

[image error]

