



## A Little Bit of Everything Lost

*Stephanie Elliot*

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At 19, Marnie plunged into first love with Joe, a guy who was completely wrong for her. Their romance was fast and exhilarating and like nothing Marnie had ever experienced or understood. Just as quickly as it began, it was over, with no explanation. He left her with unanswered questions and unexpected feelings of loss and regret, and a quiet grief she would carry with her for the next fifteen years.

When Joe returns, Marnie is a 34-year-old wife and mother to two rambunctious little boys, who is slowly healing from a devastating loss. All the emotions she suppressed from the past fifteen years surge to the surface, threatening to ruin her marriage and destroy her family. She'll need to confront the one person who hurt her the most to realize that love and loss sometimes go hand in hand... and that you have to live with some of your toughest choices for the rest of your life.

A Little Bit of Everything Lost is part coming-of-age/part love story. It's a story about a woman desperate to make peace with the past. It's for all women who have ever experienced the magnitude of first love, whether it was a lasting bond or a fleeting moment. Because first love - while it might not have been the best love - is a love none of us ever forgets.

## **A Little Bit of Everything Lost Details**

Date : Published April 10th 2014 by Createspace

ISBN : 9781499371321

Author : Stephanie Elliot

Format : Paperback 240 pages

Genre : Fiction, Romance, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review A Little Bit of Everything Lost for online ebook

?????σρ?ι?ια {?ιηg???? & ?σ??η fσ??v??} says

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Where past and present combine, and when you don't realize everything you've ever wanted is right there in front of you. A gem of a read which I truly warmed to. I loved it and, I'll also never look at lemons in the same way again ;)

*\*\*ARC, kindly provided by NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review. Many Thanks. \*\**

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### Beth Peninger says

3.5 stars

Thank you to NetGalley and Patchwork Press Cooperative for this free copy. In exchange for a copy I am giving an honest review.

Stories about first loves get me. Is it universally true that first loves always end poorly or abruptly with little to no closure? Ugh! That's my baggage rearing its head, let me put that back away. Okay back to the book. :) Marnie and Joe meet the summer she is 19. It was a chance meeting that turned into a very intimate, steamy summer relationship. At the end of the summer they go back to their schools but Marnie can't forget Joe. Although it seems that Joe has forgotten her. She encounters a situation that she eventually chooses to leave Joe out of and is just getting back on track with her life when he reappears. Fast forward 15 years later to Marnie, mom of 2 boys and wife to Stuart. The book starts after Marnie has lived through a stressful summer. The circumstances of her summer have brought the past to the present and they are colliding. Marnie knows in order to get some peace in her own life and to possibly save her marriage from becoming a roommate situation that she needs to track down Joe and get some closure after all these years. When Marnie and Joe encounter each other what will happen between them and the first love feelings they had for each other so long ago? Choices will have to be made. Interacting with a first love can be dangerous or it can bring the closure needed.

Elliot's book about first love then and life now flips the reader back and forth between past and present until the two stories finally meet up. My one complaint with this, and with other books of this genre that have employed a similar method, is that the author does all this illusion and build up to the big event that changed everything. The subtle hints and mysterious tone drives me crazy. This isn't a mystery book and it's a genre that you could easily guess, out of about 3 or 4 scenarios, what happened to cause the relationship to end. By the time the reveal of the shocking event happens I am neither shocked nor moved. It's a relief to finally just have it out there. I would prefer the author use the big, shocking event as a preface and setting the story up. Anyway, it's a complaint I have but in the case of this book it didn't affect my opinion of the story. I enjoyed the story of this first love, even if it brings up my first love memories. I will say that Elliot's choice to include

such detail of Marnie and Joe's hot summer romance bordered on soft porn in my opinion. It was perhaps a bit too much, after one or two encounters the reader could easily understand that they had chemistry. It didn't enhance the story to describe the majority of their sex sessions. And no, that's not the part of their story that brings up my first love memories, ha! Being a teenager and in love is tough and Elliot did a good job of bringing out the angst, uncertainty, insecurity that goes along with relationships at that age. She tackles a controversial and emotional topic in a straightforward manner that I appreciated. I liked her writing style. She was a new-to-me author and I'll be checking out her other titles.

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### **Brittany says**

This novel was wonderful. It was real, honest, and full of emotions. It was unputdownable. I was sucked into the story immediately.

The writing is very well-done. I felt everything that Marnie felt. I could see the story happening in front of me. I felt like I knew the characters.

The story is told two different time periods. We see Marnie and Joe fall in love and we see how her life is now. This is a realistic story.

Marnie had flaws, she was no where near perfect. She was real. I loved that about her. I was able to connect with her, but at the same time my heart ached for her.

A Little Bit of Everything Lost is amazing. I couldn't read and turn the pages quick enough. Stephanie Elliot did an incredible job at weaving between the past and present, in the beginning I wasn't sure it would work, but it did. Thinking back on it now, I can't imagine another way for it to have been written. The chapters switch back and forth showing us teenage Marnie's life and her adult life, the way it was written, gave more depth to her character and let us know her on another level. I felt like we were best friends, like I had known her my entire life. I don't think I have ever felt that way about a character before.

This novel is thought provoking. It will make you reflect on your own life and decisions that you have made. You will be wondering what would have happened if you would have done this or that differently. Where would you be today? That's one of the questions I was asking myself when I finished reading this novel.

This is the first book by this author that I have read, and it won't be the last. I loved A Little Bit of Everything Lost and I recommend it to everyone who is looking for a story where the characters are relatable, the story line is realistic, and will make you think about your own life.

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### **Francine Soleil says**

Have you ever had a messed up relationship that you could never forget despite all of the bad things? A Little Bit of Everything Lost reminded me of such a thing, and I found it relatable. Although mine was not as bad as Marnie's, I think that I can see where she is coming from.

I must say that I was easily hooked by this book. I actually tried a sample first before committing to reading it. But after the first few chapters, I just couldn't stop. Was this book perfect? No, not at all. But it has its own

charm that propels me forward to keep on reading. As Marnie slowly reveals her secrets, I just kept wanting to read until the end.

"He was her coming-of-age story."

I love this particular quote from the book. It's a really good explanation as to who Joe was in Marnie's life. My best friend once told me that you couldn't forget your first love, and that was what happened to Marnie. Although she had an even more difficult time of letting go than most of us, and with reason I think.

The story is told through different timelines, narrating Marnie's time with Joe at the age of 19 and Marnie's time as an adult at around 34 years old. I think I wouldn't have liked the book so much if the story wasn't told this way as I wasn't particularly fond of the New Adult part of the story. Joe and Marnie's relationship was mostly physical if you know what I mean. And Marnie was such a reckless and sometimes immature young adult. I really liked the contrast and the comparison between the Marnie then and the Marnie now.

At the age of 34, Marnie is married and has two boys. But she has been hanging on to her past and she has been filled with questions about what happened and what could have happened. Her story shows how our mistakes could come to haunt us for years if we keep on holding to them. Marnie is just so deeply damaged and depressed that she was a little bit frustrating, but some of the things that happened to her were heartbreaking. And she's stuck up on getting in touch with Joe again to get some answers. I was mostly fearful for what their encounter would be like.

Because of this book, I now want to marry a pilot because I'm so jealous that Marnie got to go wherever she wanted easily. :P Although I probably wouldn't like the absent husband. It certainly made Marnie's relationship with Stuart even more complicated. I wish the book had shown more about them. I loved their two children. They were just so adorable and they had that candid child innocence. I actually liked Marnie's family, and I was kind of sad that she felt detached from them.

\*\*\*\*\*

OVERALL, *A Little Bit of Everything* lost is a story of deeply damaged and flawed people that reflects of first loves, mistakes, and tragedy. But it wasn't overly dramatic, and it even managed to conjure a few laughs from me. It was also thought-provoking and hopeful. There are parts that do not really agree with me, but I still liked the novel all in all. If you've ever been in a crazy whirlwind of a young love relationship, then you might be able to relate to this one.

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### **Sassy Southern says**

Have you ever wondered "what if"? Did you ever have that one summer when all was wonderful and you thought you had met the love of your life? Or did you ever wonder if the grass was greener on the other side? Well if you answered yes to these questions then you will want to read this book.

Marnie is a woman who is going through a rough patch in her life. She has the perfect husband Stuart who is a great provider for their family. She has two little boys who she loves dearly. But sometimes that isn't enough. Sometimes as a woman we can't see the bigger picture. We can't see that what we have is all that we

need.

Marnie has a secret from her past that has been brought to the forefront of her mind. And she needs to let Joe know. She needs closure of sorts.

This book will hit close to home for some women. It really does make you wonder what could have happened?! I did feel like some parts of the story seemed to drag on but all and all I found it to be a good story.

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### **Lauren Arnieri says**

I was so excited to read another Stephanie Elliot novel and this one did not disappoint! I truly could not put it down. The author did an wonderful job weaving the past and present of the main character's life, juxtaposing her young adult challenges with her adult circumstances. In her youth and adulthood Marnie was genuine and relatable. You come away from the novel feeling like you read an autobiography/diary and Marnie has become a friend, odd as that sounds! You get a raw insight to both a young adult's first real romance and the struggles of an adult woman realizing there are external and internal issues. Sometimes I wanted to shake the character through the pages and at times I really felt for her...Her story is realistic but also a page-turner as I was constantly anticipating how story lines would intersect and secrets would be revealed. I love that!

Of course I have to mention the sex in this novel. I have never read sex scenes that were both touching and erotic. The lemons!! I too, will never look at lemons the same way...

The way the author writes this novel inadvertently encouraged me at every turn to reflect on my own life; how I've handled similar situations/emotions and how I would have handled them and will handle them.

I'm excited for what's next to come from Stephanie Elliot...more please!!!

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### **Magic Within the Pages says**

Reviewer: Angie

Rating: 5 Stars

\*\*Copy received from author in exchange for an

I finished this book at 2AM because I just couldn't put it down. It's taken me a few hours to get over the book hangover so I could write this without sobbing. Marnie's story was exciting, eye-opening, thought-provoking, and heartbreakng. Be ready for a roller coaster of emotions with this story.

It takes place in two time periods, alternating each chapter, but somehow the two times in her life, 15 years apart, are connected by one incident. The first is when she is 19 and home from college. She has a summer romance that takes her breathe away and changes her life, her future. Fifteen years later, now a wife to a wonderful man and mother to two boys, she is brought back to that summer when a tragedy, again, enters her life. She realizes she has to face the past in order to live in the present.

I received a copy of this story in return for an honest review. This is the first of Stephanie Elliot's books I've

read, but, honestly, it will NOT be my last. It moved me so much that I reached out to her to tell her how amazing it was. I can count on my hand how many times I have done that with authors I have never read before. She has a new fan in me!

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### **Kelly McCord says**

I really enjoyed this book and could not put it down. A Little Bit of Everything Lost is a story of Marnie's first love at age 19 and the loss of that love. It switches back and forth between Marnie at 19 when she first met Joe and Marnie 15 years later married to Stuart with two boys. This book deals with some very difficult topics. Some of it maybe uncomfortable for some readers depending on their personal experiences and beliefs. I thought it was very well done. Stephanie Elliot is a fine writer and I will be looking for more from her.

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### **Samaris Creech says**

#### **A Little Bit Of Everything Lost:**

Marnie has found herself living in the past lately. Reliving her first love, her first loss and most of all the first time she had to make a choice that would change her life forever. Joe was her everything her freshman year of college losing him and not knowing why has always eaten away at her. Her recent loss of a child has brought all of those old feelings and insecurities up and she wants nothing more than to find Joe and talk to him about everything to finally get some closure after all these years/

The summer Joe and Marnie were together was amazing. They were like two magnets pulled into each other's magnetic fields and nothing could stop them. Too bad something did they lost touch and when they finally re-connect it's too late for either of them

Marnie is married now and has a great life with her husband Stuart ad their two boys but she just can't seem to put the past behind her. She is in a void filled with darkness and depression and the only way she can see out of it is to finally get some closure. Joe seeks Marnie out and they both finally get to say things to each other that have needed to be said for a long time. Will Marnie get the closure she is looking for or will seeing Joe again catapult her back into the past? Will Marnie be able to let go and finally move on with her life? Will she be able to forgive herself and Joe for everything that has happened? This is a great tale of young love, the losses we face and sometimes the terrible decisions we have to make in order to better our lives and ourselves.

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### **DJ Sakata says**

#### **Favorite Quotes:**

"He had been her coming-of-age story. He was her history. More than just her history. He was her blueprint that created her future. He was the one guy that every girl remembers from her past. He was the one, and even though he tore through her life like a tornado and left an aftermath of sadness and grief, she could not forget him."

"And even if there was a woman completely happy, isn't there always a spark of curiosity that makes her

wonder of the ‘what could have been?’ Doesn’t everyone wonder? And in Marnie’s case, doesn’t she deserve to know?”

My Review:

I could tell shortly after starting this book that it was going to be an intense and emotional read. I was moved to tears several times, yet could not stop reading. Most of us have had at least one failed relationship that has marked us, scarred us, shaped us, or in some cases – ruined us. It is hard not to compare subsequent relationships against “the one” or to wonder about the “what ifs?” Our heroine suffers from personal trauma that has her conjuring up memories of her first love, which only causes her further turmoil and self-loathing. The story goes back and forth in the timeline, but it usually correlates and ties in well due to the unresolved issues that tie in to her present day concerns. I was engrossed in this story. It was extremely well written, insightful, and realistic. It brought back many memories of how youth feels... the highs, excitement of new love, sexual and personal discovery, freedom... as well as the hangovers, the idiocy, naivety, and the insecurities. This is an exceptional book. I find I don’t want to start another just yet as I feel – just a bit raw and melancholy.

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### **Susan (The Book Bag) says**

I have read everything that Stephanie has published, *The Cell Phone Lot*, *What She Left Us*, and now *A Little Bit of Everything Lost*. I thoroughly enjoyed her previous books and they were a nice preview of the potential of what was to come. And I just have to say that she just keeps getting better and better!

*A Little Bit of Everything Lost* takes us on an emotional, sometimes heart-wrenching journey as we go back and forth between the teen years and the adult lives of best friends, Marnie and Collette. We get to experience the friendship they have, the young love that is there for the taking, and the very adult, tough decision that is made for the right reason.

*“What am I going to do?” Marnie said, more to herself than to Collette. “What you’ve wanted to do all these years, I suppose.” Collette said. “I have to see him.” Colette nodded. “I have to tell him.”*

I love how the story went back and forth from the past, to the more recent past, and to the present. It was a wonderful way to experience the feelings and emotions of that particular time in the past and to understand what it all means to the present day Marnie.

*‘Too much of what was supposed to be there went missing. She didn’t know when it was lost, or what exactly had been lost, but the busyness of regular life seemed to heave its way into whatever it was that it used to be, and now there was no room for anything else. Hardly any room to breathe most days.’*

*‘She wanted to make things better, but she didn’t know how to fix everything that they had lost.’*

*A Little Bit of Everything Lost* is a look about how interconnected our past is with our present, and our future. All of those decisions and choices we have made and will make, impact and influence our lives forever. We just need to try to put them into perspective and go on from there.

*‘Because Marnie knew that with everything that had happened recently in her life, she had to confront her*

*past to make peace with the present.'*

I can hardly wait to see what Stephanie has in store for us next. She has become a 'must-read' author for me with a special place on my bookshelves, both virtual and physical. I will be anxiously awaiting her next book!

*'Then she raised one eyebrow, cocked her head, and stared cold and hard at Marnie. "Have you ever made lemonade?'"*

And let me tell you, after reading this book, you will never think of lemonade in the same way.

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## **Read, Run, Ramble says**

Find this review and much more at [Read, Run, Ramble](#)

I first need to say that I am SO glad I decided to grab this novel when it came out! This is the first of Elliot's works that I've read, but I'll be reading the others now – I'm a fan.

Jumping between Marnie's, the main character, summer love and her current day life, Elliot tells the story of a fierce first love and whirlwind summer romance. One that sets things in motion for Marnie that affect her all the way into adulthood. When life gets a little stagnant, though she's currently married to a man she believes is a wonderful husband and has two healthy children, Marnie's left wondering what might have been between herself and Joe.

Elliot's writing of the whirlwind romance is amazing – I loved those chapters. Reading about Marnie and Joe and all their escapades, both in and out of the bedroom, was exciting and nostalgic. It seemed to transport me back to my own college summers. Likewise, the authenticity of the chapters about Marnie's current life pulled me in – I ached for her. I desperately wanted Marnie to find her answers and to find solace. And in those chapters what Elliot did was create a character that we, as the readers, know has lots of great things going in her life. Yet she's still unhappy for many reasons (all get revealed in due time). It is easy to get tired of a character like that – easy to dislike, but Elliot's prose ensures that doesn't happen. She's balanced Marnie's secrets, unhappiness, and unrest about the past with a strong, well-developed character who doesn't simply wallow in negativity and never grow or learn. Marnie never comes off as simply whiny or entitled. Quite simply I loved Marnie and I sympathized. I loved living her story for a few days.

As mentioned above, there are secrets throughout this novel. Some are Marnie's while others belong to the supporting cast. Props again to Elliot's writing style as she wove answers into the details all throughout the story. Once I picked up the book and started reading, a single moment didn't go by where I wasn't wondering what was next or how a situation would be resolved. I even caught myself thinking of the characters as if they were real people in my life; wondering what they were doing while I wasn't with them.

A little bit about young, first love, a little bit about the disappointment sometimes experienced in adulthood, a little bit about friendship, a little bit about forgiveness (both of ourselves and others), a little bit about mistakes, and a whole lot about the people and things in life that we gain and sometimes lose, this book is one to pick up.

\*NOTE: when proofing and reviewing my review I noticed the "little bit" usage in my final paragraph and realized that I had unintentionally included quite the pun. When writing it I didn't even recognize what I was doing!

\*\*EDIT: I had to come back today because after talking with a couple friends about the book, I remembered one key element I didn't mention - Elliot's sexy scenes. I'll preface with this: I don't generally love sexy scenes. I'm sure they are hard to write, and quite often they are hard to read, but there are several in this story that made me weak in the knees!! I loved every word of them - EVERY.WORD. And I will never be able to be in the presence of a lemon and not have my mind wandering off into exciting places ;-)

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### **LaDawna says**

This book had me hooked from beginning to end. Marnie is a 19 year old freshman in college, home for the summer, when she meets and falls in love with Joe in a whirlwind summer romance. The relationship abruptly ends with no explanation and fast forward 15 years....Marnie is married with two sons and a "good life". The author weaves the past and present together gradually revealing the full scope of the past and how it effects the present. The thing I found most wonderful about reading this book was the insight that the reader has into Marnie's thought process. Her inner thoughts and feelings from mundane everyday issues (like fighting kids) to regrets of decisions made that can never be undone. At some point in our life, no matter how "happy" we are or how "good" things are, we think about our past and wonder about the "what might have been". That is what makes this book relatable and an excellent read!

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### **Aimee says**

This is one of those books that takes you right in and places you in the mind of the character. We get to see everything she is thinking and feeling and all of the things she is holding onto inside that are eating away at her slowly. Marnie tries to put on a happy face and be that mom and wife that she knows she needs to be, but deep down she is broken from things in her past and things she wishes for her future that she can't have. It is an incredibly emotional journey to read this story and I teared up several times because my heart broke for Marnie. I loved the ending and how Marnie's journey comes full circle and ends up helping her heal. I also loved the split chapters of past and present.

\*Copy received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **J. Nathan says**

Review also posted on Amazon.

This is that book! The one that puts you in the shoes of the main character and makes you feel what she felt. It brings back memories of teenage days and makes you question yourself and your reactions to different situations. You will question how content you are in your current life. You will question the way you'd react

if the “one who got away” came back into your life. You will question times when you had the opportunity to be brave, to say something important to that special someone, but you kept quiet.

This is a love story. It explores first love you feel when you’re a teenager-exciting and at times foolish. Love you feel for your husband-comfortable and at times stagnant. Love you feel for your children-unconditional and at times exhausting. And love you lost and how it shaped you.

I loved the way the story alternated between the main character's teenage and adult life and how it all comes together in the end. So well done!

Stephanie Elliot does an amazing job making you feel every possible emotion while reading this story. Be ready for a roller coaster of a ride. And even if you need time to digest it like I did, the story ends just how it should and makes perfect sense.

I would definitely recommend it!

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