



Mia's Heart

Courtney Cole

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My name is Mia Giannis.
I am seventeen years old.
I live in Valese, Caberra.

This has become my mantra and my lifeline, having recently lost my memory due to a scary natural disaster. Yeah. I have amnesia. Messed up, right?

You don't know the half of it.

Not remembering anything has turned my world upside down. My parents try their hardest to "remind" me of who I was, but it doesn't feel right. Or, if what they're saying is true and that really was me, I'm not sure I like that person very much.

And then there's my love life. Apparently, Gavin Ariastasis is my oldest and best friend in the world. Also, apparently, we've never dated. But now, noticing him for what feels like the first time, he's making my heart do somersaults. He knows me inside and out—the real me. Plus, he's sexy and charming as hell. Sounds perfect, right?

But then... there's the new guy. Quinn McKeyen – tall, gorgeous and deliciously American. His mischievous grin and slow Midwestern drawl turn my insides to mush in two seconds flat making me question who I really am and what I really want.

Seriously. What am I supposed to do with all that?! I feel torn between them, but I barely even know who I am, let alone what I want.

I just hope my indecisive heart will clue me in. And sooner rather than later...before I lose what little of my mind that I have left.

Mia's Heart Details

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From Reader Review Mia's Heart for online ebook

Gayatri says

Well.... This was an interesting book. I never came across a character who got amnesia in the beginning of the story so points for something original.

There was a love triangle but, I was rooting for Quinn. I don't know something about Gavin I did not like. He may be an amazing guy but he hides behind that happy -go lucky feel too much. Quinn was completely open and he said what he felt. Thats what I liked about him the most. Mia is confusing. I'm guessing she's trying to find out who she is and she does. I love how she realises she's not a complete rebel but, she doesn't always go by the rules as well. I liked the book. It was a light book, I can't say I loved it.

Melanie says

I adore Courtney Cole. Seriously. Her writing style, at least in this series, is light and fun and witty and I just cannot get enough of it. I ADORED "Dante's Girl", the first book of The Paradise Diaries, and as soon as "Mia's Heart" came out I downloaded it immediately and without hesitation.

I did not regret it.

Yes, I'll admit, this book was corny and cheesy and predictable and even silly in parts. It was as big a cliché as you can get, and cynical (or even just stubbornly realistic) readers will absolutely despise it. But that's okay, because for every cynic there is a hopeless romantic like me, absolutely in love with these books and the beautiful stories they contain.

In all honesty, it was a challenge for me to like "Mia's Heart", and I was not quite as enthralled with it as I was with "Dante's Girl". This is because "Mia's Heart" contains not one, but TWO, of my least favorite plot conventions of all time: a love triangle and amnesia. That said, I gave this book a fairly good rating, so it goes without saying that something made the usage of these plot conventions forgivable. Let me explain.

Firstly, as much as I hate love triangles (that would be A LOT, in case you were wondering. I hate them A LOT.) this one was done masterfully. I was honestly uncertain about who would end up together in the end, and it took me quite a while to even decide who I WANTED to end up together, an even bigger surprise for me, because I always have a preference in such matters. In fact, if it hadn't been for something I read about this book before it came out, I would have been totally stumped for a really long time. Additionally, this particular love triangle makes sense in the context of the novel, and goes far beyond a confused girl with one too many sexy guys to choose from. The motivation and explanation behind the feelings is genuine and justifiable. To me, a love triangle this good, this understandable, and this REAL lets me forgive Cole for using the biggest and most despised YA romance plot cliché of all time.

Secondly, the amnesia, while a little "convenient" as far as creating a plethora of plot directions to move in, actually works. The way it comes about makes sense, and the problems it creates seem legitimate. It allows for character development and, in some miraculous way, manages to be the center of the plot without being constantly harped upon.

Finally, those of you who read my review of "Dante's Girl" know that I was devastated to find out this book

would revolve around Mia, and not Reece and Dante's continuing relationship. That said, Mia made a FANTASTIC lead character. She went from being a person I enjoyed as a supporting character to a person I wish I could be friends with in real life. Despite everything that happens to her, she doesn't whine. She's strong, smart, independent, and, to use her term: "bad-ass". Additionally, I wasn't sold on the idea of either Gavin or Quinn as a leading man, but they both put my doubts to rest pretty quickly. When Cole brought in Dante and Reece in an unexpected way, I wanted to hug her, but I was happy with the new focus on other characters, and even though I wasn't sure it would work, I am sold on the idea now. I can't wait to read the next book in this series and get better acquainted with even more characters in this fantastic cast Cole has created.

All in all, I can't say enough good things about this book and this series. If you haven't read them yet, you should really go fix that. And Ms. Cole: please get that third book out as soon as possible. I'm already looking forward to it.

Jenn says

Mia was a force to be reckoned with. She has charm, wit, flare, attitude... she's a kick-butt chick who could attract two seriously major hotties. Problem is, she doesn't know who she really is. Mia was injured during an Earthquake and loses her memory. So, who is she? The old Mia who didn't let others push her around, not even her mom? Or the new Mia who cries easily, is supposedly the perfect child according to her mom and complies easily? That's what Mia would like to know... who is she? And when she finds out, can she combined the two Mia's and be happy?

She also needs to figure out who she's really in love with. Is it Quinn, all American home town football hero? Or is it Gavin, BFF surfer-looking hottie? Which boy will walk way with the girl? And which one ends up with a broken heart?

I was glad to see Dante and Reece make an appearance. I felt Reece was a better side character in this book rather than in her own story, *Dante's Girl*. Elena is back and as mean as ever.

This was a quick read that I really enjoyed. I loved Mia's banter with Gavin and Quinn. I loved her spunk and humor. I loved Reece. She was an awesome BFF and gave good advice to Mia. I liked how Mia discovers herself and learned how to mend fences with her parents.

I would have liked some clarification on what happened to Nate from the first book.

Madelyn Lee says

It's a great book! I like how Mia can recreate herself, change how she is and try to build a better her. And with all her memories gone she tries to bring everyone together especially her mom.

The love triangle was so matched, like you couldn't tell who she really wanted. But from the beginning I rooted for QUINN! And I seriously hate Elena.

Eunice says

Mia's Heart was a fun, quick and lovely read. Although it has two of the things I wouldn't want together in a book - amnesia and love triangle - I was surprised to find myself not at all really bothered by it and I actually sped through this! However, I had some slight issues with it that prevents me from really liking it. Still, I enjoyed most parts of it.

Mia Giannis was a character I wasn't really sure about when I first read her. I liked the fierceness and the bad ass vibe about her but I'm not quite fond of her initial image before the amnesia. So when she lost her memories that had me pretty interested. I wanna see how this new Mia will turn out, I was fascinated by how she rediscovered her memories and found her *true* self.

Quinn MacKeyen and Gavin Ariastasis were the two love interest in this story. Now, love triangle isn't something I'm very fond of. As much as possible I avoid and steer clear of them however when I started this I didn't know this has one. Fortunately, the love triangle here wasn't the kind that is headache inducing. I admit that I'm a little sad because I was cheering the wrong team still I wasn't really devastated by it. Or maybe I was a little uncaring by it?

Now with the boys, Gavin Ariastasis was a fun fun character! I liked him instantly. He was Mia's best friend. He's a character that is laid back, easy going and yes, cocky. Yet, there's something in him that tells he's a pretty deep character. Quinn MacKeyen, well, like Mia said he's "deliciously American". Despite his good looks he was a really humble character. He could be every girl's dream of a boyfriend. However, he was described too perfectly and well, that's just boring. I was looking for flaws, even tiny bits, but nothing, he was too good to be true. So in the end, I guess, I just grew pretty indifferent about him.

I liked the story, but not like really like. Some parts I found quite shallow and the writing was a little more on telling than showing. Some things were handled lightly though I think they should be told with more depth. Nonetheless, despite the issues I had, I did enjoy most parts of this book. Almost all the characters were likable and I liked most was how the friendship between all of them grew. If you're looking for a light, fun and sweet read, you might want to check this out.

Thanks to Courtney Cole and Kismet Book Touring for providing a review copy of this book.

This review is also posted at Book Overdose

Zoe and the Edge says

I didn't rate this because half-way through I read a review that said this book contained sex in it. So I stopped reading it. The End.

*I'm going to snap.
And maybe kill somebody.
And I won't look good in an orange jumpsuit.*

Or actually, I probably would. I do look lovely in orange.

Mia is rich and her dad's the Ministry of Defence. Mia's mother can generally control her daughter in most areas but has so far failed to keep Mia away from black clothing and funky hair.

Mia's the rebellious sort of chick looking for self-expression and individuality. She's not very happy. But she does have personality. She's not just one block of stereotype. I liked that she tries to understand her mother. I think I like the bad-girl heroine because they generally have a bit more spunk.

Quinn - "See something you like?"

And now he's cocky.

And I like it.

The girl is anti-social and not at all friendly.

Quinn is a simple cowboy with a dirty mouth.

After the Accident....

...Things get interesting. It's like Mia has a clean slate and everyone she loves and doesn't love is trying to recreate her. Mia doesn't even remember her likes and dislikes or the state of her relationships.

I actually found the book rather psychologically puzzling. I kept trying to make my scientific analysis of what was going on but then the author would throw a wrench in my carefully laid out diagnosis. I was pretty confused the way Mia's best friends recapped Mia's life for her. Some of them were like, "You always pretended to be someone you weren't." And some of them say exactly the opposite.

Jennifer Green says

I enjoyed this book because of the characters and because I liked the first in the series. I did find the whole amnesia piece a little difficult to handle, not because Mia having amnesia wasn't believable, but because of the Gavin-Quinn split. I honestly got more excited by the idea of Mia and Gavin together and couldn't work up any enthusiasm for her with Quinn. In fact, I found the way she and Quinn fell for each other too convenient. Even though I know that a book three about Gavin is coming, and I'm looking forward to it, I would have preferred to see Quinn in book three and Mia and Gavin get together in this one. I'm just hoping Gavin isn't going to fall for Becca, because that would be way too convenient.

Annaiss says

Cover love!

Farrah says

Wonderful! As good as the first. Courtney Cole is officially one of my favorite authors.

I loved Mia's character from the first book, so I was totally excited when I found out that she would be the

heroine in book 2. I Mia didn't disappoint.

I thought it might bother me that Mia loses her memory, but it was well done. She retained what was best about her, but the memory loss allowed her character to evolve. Mia remains our feisty girl, but she loosens up and grows throughout her trial. And I really liked seeing that.

Another part that I was pleasantly surprised about was the love triangle. I thought it would annoy me, but it made sense for Mia to be torn between who she's attracted to (Quinn) and the who feels familiar and comfortable (Gavin). I'm sure you know that she ends up with Quinn, if you see the cover, so there was never any doubt how the issue would be resolved but the love triangle was done in a way that it added another element to the book.

I adored both boys. Both were so sweet, and lovable, and, of course, amazingly good-looking.

Quinn was the boy-next-door kind of love interest. He was so endearing and had both me and Mia wrapped around his thumb. I thought that he and Mia were a delightful couple and I was so happy for them when they got their happy ending.

Gavin, as in book 1, was so charming. He was the more sophisticated, debonair, suave, charmer. He was sweet, as well, and I felt so sad when he ended up the one who was hurt in the conclusion of the love triangle. I'm hoping that the next book is about him because I really want him to end up happy.

For those who are wondering, Reece and Dante do make an appearance in this book. It was nice seeing them again and seeing how much their love had grown. It was so sweet. I just love that couple. It was interesting to see them from the perspective of another person. In book 1, of course, we see their relationship through the eyes of uncertainty and insecurity. But, in this book, we see how everyone else sees them: a gorgeous, perfect couple—"like Barbie and Ken" in Mia's words.

The plot of this book, like the last, was well paced. The story picks up immediately and doesn't slow down. The ending was just as perfect as book 1's.

For those who loved Dante's Girl, Mia's Heart is just as excellent!

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Andrea says

I adored book one in The Paradise Diaries, Dante's Girl, when I read it over the summer. Dante and Reese were adorable and I fell in love with both of them, as well as their friend, Mia. When I learned that not only there was another book, but that it was Mia's, I was thrilled.

Mia's Heart was a fun, thoughtful, yet light story. When the story begins, Mia is an unhappy girl. I loved her fun, rebellious personality in Dante's Girl, but never realized how miserable she was. As the daughter of a government official, she is expected to behave in a gracious, respectful manner. But that's just not Mia. When Mia is hurt in a freak accident, she loses her memory. Her parents use this as an opportunity to "reform" her, to convince her she's the docile, well-behaved daughter they wish she was. Her friends rally around her, helping her navigate a life she doesn't remember.

And...there are two boys, Gavin and Quinn. They're both characters we met in Dante's Girl, both really great guys. Gavin is Mia's best friend, but she doesn't remember that. She only sees him as this gorgeous guy who is sweet, mischievous, and can relate to her crazy stressful life. Quinn is Reese's friend, a real-life American cowboy. Charming, jaw-droppingly handsome, and clearly into her, Mia can't help but fall for Quinn.

Mia is a spirited girl who grabs onto life, and the boys, with both hands. But she also experiences character growth that I was afraid wouldn't happen, but am happy it did because it made her journey that much stronger. I will say that while I do enjoy the tone of the stories, Mia's "voice" felt, to me, almost exactly like Reese's in Dante's Girl. I enjoy it, they're funny girls, but I almost felt as if Mia and Reese were the same character and I would have liked more distinction, or uniqueness, between the two girls. Still, I really liked the story.

A gorgeous Mediterranean island. Two guys. One girl with a past of lost memories, Mia's Heart is a sweet ride.

Ellen says

I just loved the first book in this series, Dante's Girl, so I was so excited to be able to read Mia's Heart. The setting of the book is again the beautiful island of Caberra, which is located not far from Greece. We met Mia in Dante's Girl. Her father is the Ministry of Defense for Caberra, and she, Dante, and Gavin are best friends. When Reece, Dante's girlfriend from Kansas entered the picture, they soon became BFF's also. The other character in this story, we heard a lot about in book one and got to meet him briefly, is Quinn, who is also from Kansas and now is an exchange student living with Dante's Giliberti's family. Dante's father is the Prime Minister of Caberra. Mia has always been rebellious, dying her hair black with streaks of vibrant color, she is outspoken, and a bit of a badass, according to her friends. She has a rather "difficult" relationship with her mother and the two always seem to be at odds with one another. Mia's mom expects her to act and dress a certain way because of her father's position, and Mia doesn't think she ought to have to be forced to be someone she isn't, and sort of takes it to the extreme in the other direction. She is taken aback when she meets Quinn for the first time, especially when he causes her heart to flutter, because she hasn't met a guy who can do this to her before.

Mia and Gavin are best friends and both love to scuba dive and snorkel. On this particular day, Gavin has also invited Quinn to join them. Despite the somewhat rough seas, they head out in Gavin's boat. When Mia and Gavin jump in the water they notice something isn't quite right, they feel a rumble, see a cloud of sediment, and immediately realize what is happening. They get back in the boat as fast as they can and fly back to shore. What they find is devastating. Everything is in shambles, rubble is everywhere, power lines are down, all the after effects of the earthquake they just experienced. Mia insists that they stop by her house to check on her mom, which they do, and they find her house is also in shambles. Determined to make sure her mom is okay, she enters anyway, followed by Quinn and Gavin. Something falls, and the next thing she knows, she is waking up in the hospital unable to remember who she is or anything about her life or the people in it. As Mia recovers, she begins to see Gavin in a whole new light, and then the hot American cowboy Quinn, also does all kinds of fluttery things to her insides. As she struggles to regain her memory and her friends begin to fill her in on who she was and what she was like, she begins to question everything in her life, the way she was, the way she is, who she really is, and what she wants from life, and somewhere along the journey, she finds out what her heart really wants.

I really enjoyed this book. Mia's story was great, and I just loved getting to know her, as she discovered who

she really is and what her heart really wants. Gavin and Quinn.....what hotties.....and how's a girl to choose. Gavin is the sexy, dark, tanned, island god whose smile could melt hearts and he seems to know so much about Mia. Then there is Quinn, the cowboy with the lopsided grin who radiates self-confidence, is 6 feet 6 inches of hottiness, and even though he has only known Quinn a short time, he seems to see past her facade and read her like book. Needless to say, there are some really interesting things that take place in this story. We also get to see Dante and Reece again, and it was so much fun finding out what was going on with them. I enjoyed seeing the relationship between Mia and her family, especially her mom, change as she recovers from this injury. There is a love triangle in this book, but it is really well done, and I have to say Courtney Cole did an excellent job with that, and the whole story. Mia's Heart is fun, entertaining, heart warming, and also has some great romantic moments in it. This was a great second book in this wonderful series and I thoroughly enjoyed it. If you are a YA contemporary romance fan, this is something you should check out.

Karla Mae (Reads and Thoughts) says

Dante's Girl really caught my heart when I've read it and finding that there would be a companion novel to it, I can't help but feel enthusiastically happy and excited about it.

But there's a big *but* in here, Mia's Heart didn't quite work that well for me. The story was interesting at first but there's this sense of shallowness on it. It was told in a way that things didn't quite get deeper than Mia's desire to be herself and her love life complication add up her missing memories. Even the characters aren't quite explored here. We've seen Mia's problems with her parents but I didn't quite see the new character, Quinn McKeyan's real identity, I know he's an exchange student and so? What are other things about him? And Gavin, why the sudden fondness and uber flirtiness with memory lacking Mia?

Maybe I'm just comparing it to Dante's Girl but I don't know, maybe this story was just a bit shorter and it seems like there's some dragging moments.

The love triangle was pretty hard here because most of the time on stories with love triangles I get to easily pick who I want the girl to end up with but here it was one tough job. Gavin was sweet and funny and he knows the real Mia while Quinn is the understanding new boy who gets to see what lies beneath the Mia. Good thing, a hint was given along the way and it leads me to the right guy. ;)

The amnesia thing happened in a snap of a finger, one time they're out there having fun then the next moment she doesn't have any memory left. The way it happened really makes sense to me and this is where the plot of the story mainly revolved in Mia's discovery of who she really is.

Dante and Reece also make another appearance here! Yipee! I miss those two and seeing them here having a closer and stronger relationship makes me want to read another book about them.

In all, I can't say that I love love love this but Mia's heart was an okay read. Maybe it could be longer and other details could be added up but anyhow this series is still definitely worth reading and seeing that Gavin will have his story next, I can't wait to read it.

Jess (The Cozy Reader) Kennedy says

Officially reviewed on the blog while on the Blog Tour:
<http://thecozyreader.com/2012/12/blog...>

Procurement
eARC via Kismet Book Touring

MY GRADE

Plot: 4
Setting: 5
Writing: 5
Originality: 3
Characters: 4
Romance: 4
OVERALL: 25/30 = 83%
Title/Cover Bonus: 5

OVERALL

A great addition to follow the amazing Dante's Girl. Looking forward to the next one!

First Line

Five times.
That's how many times I have looked at the clock while my mother has been lecturing me.

Most Memorable Scene

Skinny dipping! Horseback riding.

Plot

After the many environmental disasters that have happened recently I wasn't surprised to see it as a focal point for a contemporary romance. Without giving too much away I liked how the event brought the characters closer together. Seeing them all work together to help the community as well as each other was nice. Having a reason to bring Reece and Dante back was also another bonus!

Setting

Oh, Caberra is amazing. It was sad to envision the destruction that happened to the lovely place but Courtney does an amazing job at fixing and putting everything back in it's proper place. The setting is not a major part of this story but helps set the mood in a few scenes. Overall, the setting in this series is as beautiful as paradise.

Writing

Just like with Dante's Girl this book was very well thought out. Told from Mia's point of view and it's nice to see her character go through her issues. I feel like Mia did a great job with the narration and don't feel like I missed anything story wise from other characters. I must say I have a massive soft spot for Gavin and wouldn't have minded a scene from his POV.

Originality

This is the only area I struggled with while reading. There are SO MANY common areas in this to Dante's Girl. When Mia runs down the hall in her heels just like Reece did I had to roll my eyes just a smidgen. That

scene was followed by a scene by the pool as well.

Characters

We know Mia pretty well from Dante's Girl but she's going through something major. She's a bit different but in a good way. We are also familiar with Quinn from what Reece told us in the first book. I find that I wanted to know a bit more about him than what we did learn. And then there's Gavin. Oh Gavin, you had me in the first book and this one you've managed to hook me again. I hope the next book is all his, he deserves great happiness and he is so swoon-worthy it hurts my heart.

Having Reece and Dante back was nice.

Romance

The romance in this one seems a little setup, obviously. The issue that Mia is working through makes the romance a little tricky. Because of the trickiness I didn't get that crazy love feeling I did in the first book. I was pulled in two different directions and because of my love for one of the characters I wanted the one thing to work out when I KNEW it wasn't going to.

Title/Cover Bonus

These covers are amazing. The title to this one isn't amazing but it works fine.

Ending

It ended how I thought it would. I was happy with the ending and I am hoping for another book. Preferably with Gavin's happily ever after.

Bethany says

3.5 Stars

Such an adorable love story. Love it! :)

Autumn Review says

I remember telling the author that I really liked Mia after I had read Dante's Girl. When she told me that Mia would have her own book I was thrilled! Mia's Heart was everything I expected it to be; fun, flirty, and well-written.

Mia's always been a bit of a rebel. She has a tough time following the rules her parents have set in place. She has piercings, dyes her hair with bright colors, and tends to live a bit dangerously. After the earthquake, she's changed. I mean...obviously since she can't remember anything, but she's also gained a new perspective on life. I enjoyed watching Mia rediscover herself.

As for the boys and the romance....what's not to like about Quinn and Gavin. Quinn is a dreamy cowboy that Mia likes, but isn't really sure she wants to. Gavin is her best friend. They've grown up together, but since her memory loss she thinks there might be something more. This is one of those times I don't mind love

triangles. You know when you like both boys and you as a reader have a tough time choosing? Yep, that's how it was for me. I mean, I was pulling for Quinn, but Gavin tugged at me too. I honestly would have been happy with either turn out, but to fit the flow of the series...it worked out the way it was supposed to.

I was thrilled that Reese and Dante came back to the island. I had been sad when I thought they would be back in the US for the rest of the series. It was fun to see them return and I loved seeing them still so in love with each other.

Mia's Heart was a great addition to this easy reading series. If you're looking to start a funny, flirty, and sweet series...check this one out. It's perfectly suited for readers who enjoy YA Contemporaries. Appropriate for mature 15+ readers.
