



# Every Last Kiss

*Courtney Cole*

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## **Every Last Kiss** Courtney Cole

Born a goddess. Controlled by the Fates. Can Macy's love for her soul mate survive the bonds of time... and death?

17-year old Macy Lockhart is as far from normal as any one girl can be. The problem is, she doesn't know it yet.

After a bloodstone pendant is mysteriously left on her door, Macy's life begins to change in ways she'd never dreamed. And while she will eventually come to realize that nothing is ever what it seems, that her life is a tangled web of lies and the Fates themselves pull the strings, for now she is left with only the explanations that they offer her.

Macy is led to believe that if she doesn't return to a previous doomed life, one in which she served as Queen Cleopatra's handmaiden, the fate of the entire world will be threatened in a way that would destroy history as we know it. She learns that she has lived thousands of lives, each one ending tragically...but none as tragic as this one.

After returning to ancient Egypt, she is faced with heart-wrenching decisions. Unless she interferes with Fate's plan, the very thing she was born to protect, her soul mate will die leading Marc Antony's forces against Rome. Can she really stand aside and watch the love of her life die all over again?

In this fascinating novel-length prequel to The Bloodstone Saga, Courtney Cole sets the stage for an epic journey that will have readers holding their breath until the very last page of the very last book has been turned.

What would you do if you held Fate in your hands?

## **Every Last Kiss Details**

Date : Published April 21st 2011 by Lakehouse Press

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Author : Courtney Cole

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# From Reader Review Every Last Kiss for online ebook

## Monique says

This book was amazing!

This is the first indie book that I have ever read and I must say, if this is an example of what they are like, I will be reading MANY more of them and in fact, I will be seeking more of them out today.

I can't say enough about this book. I don't usually even write reviews, but simply felt compelled to write one for this. It was just that good.

As other reviewers have stated, it starts out with a normal teenage girl (like many paranormal books do) but this author's storyline quickly evolved into something that I've never read before.

This author has a keen ability to draw emotion from her readers. I laughed, I gritted my teeth, I cried. She ran me through a gauntlet of multi-faceted emotion. To me, that is the mark of an excellent book.

I am waiting with great anticipation for the sequel to this book and as soon as I am done writing this review, I am going to research this author to see if she has written anything else. Miss Cole, I am impressed and you have a new fan in me.

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## Shelley says

Rating: 4.5 Slices of Yummy Succulent Red Velvet Cake

Genre: Historical Romance

*\*Review\**

Every Last Kiss by Courtney Cole follows the story of Macy Lockhart, who was also, at one time during her many lives, Charmian handmaiden, confidant and advisor to Queen Cleopatra of Egypt. I absolutely loved Macy/Charmian's character. I loved the fact that the story surrounds Cleopatra and that Cole did a fantastic job intertwining history with fantasy. Not much is truly known about Cleopatra since the Romans pretty much buried her history when they defeated the Egyptians and then Alexandria was lost to the sea. It's too bad because I truly believe that she was a remarkable woman who spoke nearly a dozen languages and fought hard for Egypt to have the best available to its people.

Charmian is known as a Keeper, one of twelve. Macy is also a member of the Order of the Moirae or Fates. As a keeper, her sole mission in every life has been to protect and lead her charge, or Daedal, through the annals of time, gently guiding them into staying on the path decided by the Fates. Charmian is not allowed to change anything that might influence future events, or events that have already happened. However, if she dies in the past, it will cause a ripple effect that leads to giant tears in the fabric of time.

The three sisters of fate each have a designated responsibility: Clothos, the eldest spins the thread of life. Lachesis, the middle sister, measures the thread and decides how long a person shall live. The youngest Atropos, was the cutter and determines how a person will die. They literally control a person's destiny. Every

person has a predetermined destiny and unfortunately there are those who have a more difficult journey in every life. These are called the Daedal; a catalyst, a complication, a change.

Every Last Kiss is also about love and the relationship between Charmian and Hasani, as well as Marc Antony and Cleopatra. It is about finding your soulmate across the ages, as well as a friend like Cleopatra who you are meant to find once again. It is also about a difficult choice Macy must make each and every time one of her charges is about ready to die.

I definitely recommend this to everyone who truly enjoys a good romance, with mystery and suspense thrown in as well. Although we all know Cleopatra's fate, the story was a nice getaway that puts you in Charmian's world as she is forced to once again live through a difficult period in her past life.

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### **Beth says**

I love historical fiction and I love paranormal romance... this book had it both. Actually the "paranormal" part seemed almost "normal" with the way the book flows. We are quickly introduced to Macy Lockhart, who's suffering a "cheating boyfriend that she's had for two years". No sooner are we introduced to Macy then we are transported to a completely different time and place in history; and Macy is no longer Macy, but Charmian, confidant and housemaid to Queen Cleopatra. Only we learn that Macy/Charmian has always been confidant to "Cleopatra", as she is Macy's/Charmian's daedal. (You'll just have to read to discover exactly what that is.) Of course, with Cleopatra, comes Antony. Also, we are introduced to the sexy warrior Hasani, who is Macy's/Charmian's soul mate. While on this journey we learn of historical past events relevant to Egypt and Cleopatra in 30 B.C., but we learn more about each of the characters and their importance to each other and history. I was just as interested in the lives of Cleopatra and Antony as I was Charmian and Hasani- they are all amazing, with strengths and weaknesses that mold perfectly together to form loving friendships and relationships.

There are two settings to this story: Pasadena, California and Ancient Egypt- Alexandria specifically. I was amazed at how Cole described the city of Alexandria. One of my favorite parts of the book is when our main character Macy (Charmian) is taking a stroll through the gardens with Cleopatra. I could envision the lush garden perfectly and, I swear, I could smell the jasmine! I found myself so entranced by the beauty described by Cole, that I had to google some information on both Alexandria and Cleopatra. Just as Cole states in the book (through Macy/Charmian) there isn't a lot written... which is very disappointing. However, Cole makes up for that with the liberties she's taken as an author, by adding details to the historical characters Cleopatra and Antony in this fiction. (psst.. I think she's dead on with how she describes Cleopatra and Antony too)

If you like historical fiction, with some paranormal romance tossed in there, you need to read this book! If anything, Every Last Kiss is like one giant prologue into what I hope is many more books and adventures to come about Macy.

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### **Carrie says**

Wow...where do I start? How about I loved this book! I loved reading about actual history. It was so

fascinating! And the world that this author painted was romantic and rich and beautiful. The descriptions were so detailed and beautiful that I felt like the book was illustrated! This story is so different from the typical paranormal romance. There was no 'hot guy' who wanted to kill his love interest, etc. Not that I don't enjoy that story line, but it's nice to read something different. I found myself completely enveloped in the story and I absolutely had no idea where it would go. I was intrigued with the mystery. I often found myself smiling while I was reading. And, yes, I cried! I would love to go into more detail about certain aspects of the book and why they affected me the way they did, but it would definitely spoil it for those who haven't read it yet! Suffice it to say that even though I was smiling when I finished the story, I wanted to cry when it was over because I was so moved by the whole book...I loved the story and the characters so much! This was an amazing read!

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### **texxie-PRUFreads.blogspot.com says**

If you can make me cry, it's an automatic 4 stars right out the gate. :) I enjoyed the book as kind of a light read. That was until I hit about 80%. At that point, Ms. Cole broke my heart, had me grabbing for kleenex so as not to cry on my kindle. lol

I was thrown at first. The book starts out in present day with 17 year old Macy discovers that Derek, boyfriend of two years, was'nt worth the time. She has a best friend who is determined to see Macy through this tough time and to make sure she continues to see through the no good ex as well. Just as I started to get into that storyline, I was whisked to ancient Egypt amongst Cleopatra and company.

Such time in history is'nt usually my bag but Ms. Cole sold me with her rich detail and softening of the historic icons Cleopatra and Marc Antony. They became real to me, their love story as well. Of course the lovestory that carried the book is that between Charmian (Macy) and Hasani. While Macy is but 17 at this point in her current life cycle, Charmian was an adult and I appreciate Ms. Cole making the adjustment. Charmian's relationship with Hasani was mature and that helped sell it to me, the reader.

Charmian is a great lead with the weight of the world literally on her shoulders. She knows the fate that lies ahead for she and all she loves. How can anyone watch the love of their life die even once, let alone twice? The ending of this book and how it set up for book 2 was flawless. I think there is a good chance that I may like book 2 even more than this one. The potential is endless. Well done.

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### **Heidi says**

Three stars: I enjoyed this book and recommend it with some reservations.

If you could change the course of time and alter destiny would you? Our heroine Macy/ Charmaine grapples with this monumental question. Macy is not a normal seventeen year old, she is a Keeper belonging to an ancient magical order known as the Moirae. Macy is destined to guide her ward, someone of great historical importance predetermined to change history. Unfortunately, people decided for historic greatness have shortened lives with tragic endings and she too suffers the same demise. She is reborn time and time again with her memory swept clean; to follow her set path. In order to achieve her predestined goals, Macy must make great personal sacrifices. When the story opens Macy is a normal modern day teenager dealing with the typical problems of any seventeen year old. Then a strange visitor returns to her a magical, powerful bloodstone. Grasping the stone her mind is deluged with all the memories of her previous lives. She suddenly

finds herself swept back to her life as Charmaine, 2000 years ago where she lived in Egypt and served as Cleopatra's most trusted hand maiden. She is confronted with a heart wrenching decision. Will she follow Fate's design and meet her fated death alongside Cleopatra or will she choose love and save her soul mate? What would you do?

#### What I Liked:

\*Traveling back to ancient Egypt was interesting and educational. This book was well researched. I appreciated all the archeological facts that were sprinkled throughout. Ms. Cole has a nice, fluid writing style. This novel is filled with rich, vivid descriptions. Her words brought Cleopatra's world back with all its decadence and splendor. I loved her intoxicating and detailed depictions of all of the scents; from Cleopatra's perfume, to the lotus garden and the sumptuous banquets. I felt like I was walking in Cleopatra's Egypt and breathing all the aromas.

\* The story was detailed and complex. I admired the way the author mixed modern day, ancient Egypt and Greek mythology. Combining historic figures such as Cleopatra, Marc Antony and Charmaine with the mythological Fates, add a dash of magic and time travel and you have the workings of an intriguing, exciting plot.

\* I liked the romantic aspect of the story. It tears at your heart strings when Charmaine is forced to make her decision; will she save Hasani her soul mate and great love or follow the will of the Fates. Luckily, I was happy with the final outcome.

\*Price point: at the time of this review, I purchased this book on amazon.com for \$.99. A definite bargain and well worth the price.

#### And The Not So Much:

\*For me the depiction of Cleopatra did not come across as authentic. Cleopatra's use of modern vernacular was distracting. It was obvious that Ms. Cole researched Cleopatra heavily but her portrayal did not work for me. I guess everyone has their own ideas regarding the famed queen of the Nile. The author does do a great job with her descriptions and she also provides stories pertaining to Cleopatra's history. I did appreciate the intricate details of Cleopatra's costume and makeup. She truly must have been a glamorous woman.

\*The time shifts in the middle became confusing at some points. Then there are the two mysterious priests, Annen and Ahmose each with their own agenda. Annen sends Charmaine back in time to supposedly correct something in the past. He also desires for her to learn to wield the great power she possesses in her bloodstone in order for her to go against the pre-determined fabric of time. He claims that Fate is not determined that she can choose. Ahmose is Charmaine's guide. His purpose is to keep her on her path of destiny. These two flicker in and out of the story creating confusion.

At the end of the story I questioned why Annen wanted Charmaine to go back. What was his intention and what did he want corrected?

\*While I enjoyed Ms. Cole's writing style, the middle portion of the story lagged a bit. The temporal shifts muddled the storyline. Also there were portions that were repetitive.

The phrase we would die within the week was repeated numerous times. I kept thinking aren't we down to a couple of day(s) but it seemed it was always a week.

Overall this is a complex and intriguing story about reincarnation and destiny. An interesting book that takes you on a tour of ancient Egypt. Read this for the history and get lost in the romance. It is a fun, refreshing book especially at the bargain price of \$.99. It is the first in a trilogy. The second and third books are both now available on amazon.com for a great low price.

#### Favorite Quotations:

"How was someone supposed to say goodbye to the person that they loved more than life, without being able

to say the actual words?"

"Your soul will always know mine, my friend. We will always be connected, all throughout time. And even though we will appear in different ways, our souls will always be the same."

"My soul recognized his. We stood like magnets, drawn to each other. Time, it seemed, was not our enemy after all. It was air and space and hours. Anything worth having was able to withstand it."

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## **Marsha says**

One word describes "Every Last Kiss" and that word is 'rich.' This story is a beautiful tale of renewal, fate, soul mates, and love. It is rich in history, myths, imagination, love and hope. I loved every letter that was woven into words, strung into sentences and magically entwined into poetry.

Macy Lockhart is reeling from heartbreak when she discovers her swine of an ex-boyfriend was caught knocking boots with the local school skank. After plotting and executing her revenge, she receives a gift of a beautiful bloodstone necklace from an unknown source. Upon touching the stone she receives flash backs to ancient Egyptian history. She also sees the eyes of a beautiful man that haunts her soul.

Macy is sent back to ancient Egypt where she lives the past life of Charmian, the trusted Confidante of Cleopatra. However, she is much more; she is a Keeper of Fate and must do the unthinkable. She must allow the people she loves the most to die and cannot interfere lest she disrupts the time line of history. Could you turn a blind eye? I am not sure that I would not interfere even knowing the consequences of my actions.

I loved this book. The writing was fabulous and the historical references were so interesting that I was awestruck. The storyline had a nice mix of intrigue, action, suspense and mystery even though ultimately we all know the outcome of the history of Cleopatra. Ms. Cole writes the character of Cleopatra in such a way that you feel as though you truly knew her and she is a friend. I liked the person she was written to be and I was saddened by her demise. Also, I must compliment the art department for designing such a beautiful book cover. In a day where most paranormal books have leather clad heroines on the front, this artful cover was refreshing and truly inspired.

Pick up this book without delay and participate in history. You will not regret it. My only question is will there be a sequel?

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## **Kim says**

Every Last Kiss is the debut novel from author Courtney Cole, and the first in the Bloodstone Saga. It is a wonderful start, a haunting book that I just couldn't put down. It began with Macy, living in modern day Pasadena, California, fresh from a break up with her boyfriend. In the midst of teenage angst over that break up, she suddenly finds herself in ancient Egypt, the handmaiden and closet confidante to Cleopatra herself. As the mysteries of who and what she is unfolds, Macy/Charmian are caught up in love, loss, loyalty and trying to save future history.



So much of the history of ancient Egypt was lost, and what is known today is very vague. The author created a "history" based on some facts and embellished them to create a truly fascinating version. The blend of historically accurate people with fictional characters just added to the story. The descriptions of ancient Alexandria and the palace itself were wonderful. There was just enough to allow you as the reader to really "see" it without overwhelming you in descriptive prose. There was a little bit of everything in the story: love, loss, history, tragedy, intrigue, hope. It all worked together so well and left me sad that the book was over. But the next book, *Fated*, is out early at Barnes & Noble and Amazon in ebook format, with paperback forthcoming! I will buy it as soon as I have posted this review!

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### **Branwen Sedai \*of the White Ajah\* says**

This book was absolutely without a doubt SO FREAKING INCREDIBLE! Okay, sorry...I'm calmer now. :) But seriously folks, this is definitely one of my favorite young adult books that I've read this year. It starts out present day with Macey, a seventeen year old girl dealing with a lying, cheating boyfriend and then BAM we're transported back to Egypt in the time right before it was invaded by Rome. I've always been fascinated with Egypt and Cleopatra, and this book provided such lush descriptions and hauntingly beautiful dialogue that it made my heart sing! Past lives, reincarnation, and soul mates are themes throughout this book that are just so exceptionally played out that you will wonder where this author has been your whole life! Courtney Cole is just an outstanding author and I can't wait to see what she writes next! But I have to say that my favorite part of this book was the ending. I won't give away any spoilers but let me just say that I feel like a lot of young adult books end leaving me with a feeling of...well...hanging on the edge. A lot of books are trilogies or series and the books seem to end with a cliffhanger that makes you want to die while you wait a year or six months or whatever until the next one comes out. This book, although obviously being the first one in a series, had probably the best and most emotionally satisfying conclusion ever. It left me in happy tears and I carried that floaty-happy feeling around with me all day! I would recommend this book to anyone because it is definitely amazing!

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### **Shari says**

There is something to be said about a book that takes you to such a level of book love that when you finish the final page you're left with a euphoric feeling of satisfaction laced with just a hint of loss, wanting to read more; all from the experience of the beautiful book world created by a masterful author.

*Every Last Kiss* is such a book.

In just a few short paragraphs I was captivated by this book. The imagery and emotion aptly woven into this book is so well done you can almost smell the jasmine scented air, feel the fresh breeze from the sea and share every surge of love, joy and sadness. The characters quickly attach themselves to your heart strings and before long you feel as though you have known them for a lifetime.

As a little girl and now grown adult who has always been intrigued by Egypt and its rich history, this story is fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable. Through historical and archeological references, Ms Cole spins a beautiful, enchanting tale creating a version of Egyptian history entwined with mystery, love and friendship that your imagination will adore.

The relationship between Charmian and Hasani is beautiful. Their love speaks to your soul and you fall in love with them immediately. Hasani's devotion and love for Charmian will capture your heart entirely.

This is a magical, beautifully written, unique book that hits high on my list of favourites. Well worth the read! I've just downloaded Fated and can't wait to begin!

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### **Nicole Williams says**

Every Last Kiss is a beautiful novel that invoked a lot of emotion in me as I was reading it. I love it when that happens! A YA historical/paranormal romance that is everything that genre should be: fast-paced, dramatic, and full of twists and turns.

The novel starts with a young woman, Macy, in present day. After breaking up with a cheating boyfriend, and finding an anonymously gifted necklace on her front porch, things get strange for Macy. Thrown back in time, Macy finds herself as Charmian, a hand-maiden to Cleopatra. From there, the story gets really excited and a swoon-worthy romance between Hasani and Charmian unfolds.

Every Last Kiss was beautiful, that's the word I keep coming back to when I think about it: the story, characters, imagery, cover and love-story. As an added bonus, I felt like I got a little bit of a history lesson in, too! I can't wait for the next one!

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### **Wakefield Mahon says**

What I thought would be a modern YA fantasy is actually an exotic journey to the pivotal moment in history before Egypt fell to the Romans. The immersion in the sights, the sounds, the emotions and the politics lend a strong sense of reality to this imaginative magical fantasy.

Author Courtney Cole clearly did her research on the era, but what really give substance to this novel is the characterization. All of the primary characters - and even some of the minor characters - are richly textured. Cleopatra is especially three dimensional, capable of being cold and calculating when the situation calls for it while remaining a compassionate ruler, loyal to her people.

The romantic tension between Charmian and her fiance Hasani smolders throughout the entire book without ever becoming graphic or overbearing.

The narrative provides a good sense of closure while still leaving room for more stories as we wonder about the machinations of the Fates.

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### **Savannah (Books With Bite) says**

What can I say to express my love for this book? It blew me away! I mean, I was just taken back!! I really, really loved this book! So much great writing, characters, plot, that it left me giddy!!

One thing that amazed me about this book is the great plot and place. I loved ancient Egypt and the tell of Cleopatra. The story has always intrigued me. When I began reading this book, I loved the way Ms. Cole weaved the story with such in depth detail of Egypt. I felt like I was there in the pyramids!!! Ms. Cole definitely grabbed the reader and drown them in her story. Ms. Cole added elements of a past life, a future life, The Fates, and time traveling. WOAHH!

The characters were dynamic! It blew me away of how well developed and strong the voices were. I love hearing strong voice. But to capture a voice of a teen back in Egypt times is just incredible! I loved how the main character Macy, regarded her past life and fell into what she needed to to. The characters grew along with the reader, so the reader wasn't left behind or confused. The relationship of Cleopatra and Macy really left me happy. I loved their friendship and loyalty to each other as well as Egypt.

Now the love interest had me by the heart. I loved warriors. And warriors who had honor, strength, and loyalty to their loved one makes me smile. This love interest is not the same as anything else. Their passion for each other made me giddy! So when I got to the ending of the book, I smiled like a canary holding a secret!!

You must read this book! The time travel in it will leave you in awe! The love will capture your heart. The fight will have you fighting till the end. Ms. Cole pacing of the book will have flipping the pages faster and faster! Great amazing book with great characters! Read it!

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## **Danna says**

I was drawn into Every Last Kiss by its amazing cover. The beauty and the elegance captured my eye. Courtney Cole brings you into the world of Cleopatra, the amount of detail that is put in makes you feel like you are right there is ancient Egypt. Personally I have always found Egypt and Cleopatra fascinating and love to read about her in history. Every Last Kiss provides a whole new side of the amazing Queen from her handmaids point of view that shows the softer and deeper side of Cleopatra.

Every Last Kiss is a story about Macy Lockhart who seems to be a normal 17-year old teenage girl with typical boy trouble. When one day she finds a bloodstone pendant on her door step and things begin to change. Macy learns that in order save her soul mate and the Queen she has to decide if going against the fates and everything she has sworn to protect is worth it. Once deciding that she has to go back to ancient Egypt Macy finds that she is no longer in her 17-year old body. She is transformed into a more mature women who has been a friend and handmaid of Cleopatra since they were children. Chairman as Cleopatra calls her is respected confidant of the Queen and the people around her. Hasani is a general for Marc Anthony's army who is sworn to protect Egypt against the Romanians. A soul mate to the chairman their connection can with stand the sands of time. With the fates controlling the lives of the people she loves and sworn to protect Macy has to decide between what is right and the loves in her life.

Courtney Cole does amazing job with the charters in Every Last Kiss. The connection between Macy (Chairman) and her soul mate Hasani is a very mature relationship that makes you want more. Hasani is nothing short of tall dark and handsome with a little mysterious quality to him.

Some of my favorite quotes of the book:

"His dark eyes, almost black, sparkled in the sun as he pulled me close, his strong arms wrapping around my back. His scent was intoxicating and familiar and I buried my face in his chest. "You're so beautiful," he murmured in to my ear, his voice husky against my cheek. "Don't leave me again....."

"There are things you were never meant to understand. You will have to trust me."

"He kissed me one more time. It was the last time. I knew that. Was every last kiss this difficult? I forced my erratic heart to calm as I looked into his beautiful dark eyes, clenching my fists so tightly that I was probably drawing blood with my fingernails."

There are so many quotes I love from Every Last Kiss there is no way that I could quote them all. I am really excited to read the next book in the series. If you have not read Every Last Kiss by Courtney Cole I would highly recommend it to anyone.

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## **Fisher Amelie says**

I'm not a massive historical romance fan, so it goes without saying that I don't read them that often, but every now and then I stumble upon one that captures my attention and this novel in particular did exactly that for me. The reviews for Every Last Kiss influenced me enough to pick it up and I must confess, if all historical romances are this interesting, I have no idea how much I've apparently been missing out!

The plot was so inventive, so interesting, it kept my eyes glued to my Kindle and I found myself growing incredibly impressed with the author and her obvious knowledge of Egyptian history, a subject, I must admit, never really grabbed my interest until, well, now. Her descriptions were more than visionary and I imagined myself throughout the entire novel in her scenes, smelling the scents, tasting their foods, and feeling their atmosphere. She describes things with such heady emotion you truly feel as if you're there.

Yet, as entertaining as the plot was, as fascinating as the story progressed, I cannot express to you how especially lovely I found the bond between Charmian and Hasani. Their devotion to the other and their obvious passion was enchanting and overwhelmingly sweet. One of the last scenes experienced between them made me cry such bittersweet tears. There is no doubt that miss Cole has a talent for using words that strangle the heart and clench at the chest, which is right up my writing style alley.

Courtney Cole is an immensely talented author and I, at this very moment, am headed over to her author's page to purchase her recent release 'Princess'. I won't even bother to read the other reviews. I might not even read her synopsis. Why? Because I can say, with true confidence, that after finishing Every Last Kiss, I will adore it as Courtney Cole knows how to write good stories...amazingly brilliant love stories that speak to the heart...exactly the kind I love to read.

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