



Perfect Summer

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High school teacher Summer Ames is trapped in the nightmare morning from hell. Her alarm clock didn't go off, she accidentally backed over the rosebush her grandfather gave her grandmother right before he accepted defeat against prostate cancer, she's wearing clothes she picked up off the floor, and when she opens the door to her classroom, the lights from the TV cameras nearly blind her. She's won Teacher of the Year. But unlike the past winners, she doesn't get a new car or a Hawaiian vacation or even new school supplies, she wins an over privileged quarterback with a bright smile and questionable intentions.

Clint Grayson is an NFL quarterback in need of a reputation makeover. If he has any hope of landing a hundred million dollar endorsement deal, it will take some pretty impressive PR to clean up his bad boy image. In an attempt to polish his tarnished reputation, Clint agrees to be a high school class mentor.

When these two get together all hell breaks loose and they both learn that all is fair in love and football...and winning is just the beginning.

Perfect Summer Details

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From Reader Review Perfect Summer for online ebook

Amy says

Perfect Summer by Katie Graykowski was an adorable story about a woman with self-image issues and a man trying to clean up his self-image being thrown together all because of a Teacher of the Year Award.

Summer, the female protagonist, was quite endearing. I loved how she cared for her students and how she outwardly showed the utmost confidence, pretending that she didn't care what people thought about her. Sure it sucked that she always thought people could care less about her or that they laughed at her appearance, but deep down she really didn't care all that much, thinking things would blow over and all be forgotten anyways. What annoyed me about her was the way she thought Clint, the male protagonist, saw her. She was constantly doubting him and second guessing his intentions. Seriously, give the guy a break!

Clint was really a sweet guy. He's this big shot NFL quarterback and may seem arrogant and self-centered at first, but really he's just insecure. He has a phobia that he has to deal with every day that stems from constantly trying to live up to his father's image and expectations. Can't blame him for hiding behind his arrogant facade in order to hide his insecurities. Plus part of all this mayhem is so he could get an endorsement, become secure financially for the rest of his life, and leave the spotlight. A bit selfish, yes. Self centered and arrogant, not really.

The biggest issue I had with this story was the unexpected side story featuring Lily, Summer's mother. Yes, I know they have a horrible relationship. Sure, it sets up for their interaction at the end. However, I still don't like her. I could care less about her. I really didn't need all those chapters about what was happening in her life. It didn't help me like her anymore than I did at the end.

Overall, I'd give Perfect Summer by Katie Graykowski 4 stars. It was cute and fun. I loved Clint and Summer even though Summer annoyed me at times, especially at towards the end. Also I may have enjoyed it more if I didn't have to endure Lily's story that much. Some of the things she thought or said still felt off for me and kind of contradicted what she was supposedly striving for. Regardless, I'd definitely check out Katie Graykowski's other titles, hopefully finding more fun, quick reads like Perfect Summer.

Missy says

I loved this book! It was a story I could relate to, real people that had real problems! It had me laughing, and crying and falling in love with Clint and Summer! It is one of those books where at the end you would like to keep reading and following the story, but at the same time I know how the story ends, happy ever after:0)

Char ? Denae says

I really liked this story. It's an easy, light-hearted romance with two flawed people who each think the other is perfect. There was a lot of humor, as well as romance, and the characters and plot were believable but fantastic. It's a feel-good read from the first page and exactly what I needed after a busy Holiday season.

Joan says

Chick-lit. Pure and simple. Fun and froth. Yes, it lacked some decent conflict but when a girl needs chick-lit, this fills the spot.

Liz says

Two stories for the price of one, although this is mainly about Summer and Clint. Summer's a teacher; Clint's a football QB who needs an image makeover and Summer's classroom full of at risk teens is the place to do it. Soon a reluctant friendship turns into something more; but both have parental issues; both had emotionally abusive parents.

Speaking of which, Lilly, Summer's mother, is introduced to us through Summer's memories but then we meet her has a 48 yr old woman who is in a relationship with a younger man and is possibly in love with him... if she can just get past herself, and her hoity toity society rules.

The characters here are developed; even the supporting characters (neighbors, friends, kids, other family members) are developed enough to make it interesting. There are plenty of sexy times; plenty of funny moments. There are HEAs all over the place here. And we'll meet Clint and Summer again in book 2.

Sbell says

I was pleasantly surprised by how much I like this book. It had been on my kindle for a while and I kept overlooking it.

This was such a fun, sweet, well written story. I loved all the characters, and the situations that they found themselves in. If I had a problem with this book it would be that Summer had such horribly low self-esteem. I got tired of reading about it. I get why she felt so down on herself, but it was too much.

Clint was just delicious. He was sweet, shy, understanding and just so lovable. He was the perfect hero for Summer.

This was the first book I have read by this author, but it will not be my last!!

Judy Jablonski says

Wish I could give it ten stars. Predictable yes - hilarious, fun, fast and sexy. This book made me laugh and want more.

Tammy Tracy says

Had read "Getting Lucky" by Katie and fell in love with her writing. I finished reading Perfect Summer with a smile. Summer is the perfect heroine in this story, she is not model thin but she is amazing woman and teacher that you fall in love with. She doesn't have a very high opinion of herself but she gives all of herself to her students. Clint Grayson the NFL Quarterback is the perfect male lead. He isn't the perfect guy but he is perfect for Summer. Romantic, sweet and sexy read I will keep reading anything by Katie Graykowski.

Nicole says

I really enjoyed this book. Summer's belief that she was fat and unloveable was sad, but while it strained credulity a bit (why is there such a massive disconnect between characters about whether she's curvy, fat, or obese?), I found her to be sympathetic and was invested in things working out for her and Clint. I liked that Davis and Lilly's stories were included here as well. It's good that this particular evil Texan mother repented, although there were things that went unexplained that I would have liked to see resolved (like, why is Lilly holding out on giving Summer her money?). I enjoyed this book enough to pick up Place Your Bets by the same author immediately after finishing this novel.

April says

I am going to start this review by clarifying a point in the book blurb. The hero did not beat his ex-girlfriend. Yes he is at the school to clean up his image, but he is not a batterer. This is a key thing that should have been noted in the blurb. I almost did not read it because of the way it made him seem like a domestic abuser.

I love the book!! Summer is hysterical, I was laughing out loud all the time. You would not believe all the great lines I bookmarked!! She is spunky and self deprecating in all the best ways. The banter between her and Clint is awesome!! It was a delight watching them fall in love.

There is a bonus romance her too, I love that this author gives twofers!! The supporting romance has just as much growth and depth as the main romance. I loved seeing everything come together and relationships healed.

This is a mixed narrative, which means we get several POV throughout the read. Mostly it is Summer and Clint, but we get Lily and Davis as well. This helps give insight into the intricate dynamics at play. You were also able to see both sides of the relationship with mother and daughter. You might want to hate Lily at first, but it is difficult when you get to know her.

I listened to the audiobook narrated by Pam Dougherty, who is delightful. Her Southern accent is spot on and a soothing melody throughout the read. I enjoyed the tone and texture of her voices, both male and female. She has a great pace in the read and delivers plenty of energy. She is definitely going on my list of narrators to watch for!! She was perfectly suited to this book and its sweet and sassy comedy.

While I was loving this book for the most part, I wasn't keen on how much Summer put herself down. She

was mostly not caring about her wight, until it came to this guy. But that is the plight of curvy girls in comtempo romances.

Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions and ratings are my own.

Mary says

I was excited at getting five free books in this series. No longer... There is continuous "mild" cursing and use of God or Jesus' Name. I couldn't ignore the suggestive wording, which I can do without. I won't even start reading the other books in the series.

Allison says

This was one of the most annoying books I've ever (almost) read. Get ready for me to RAGE-review this because it made me furious. No clue where to even start so I'm just going to break it down:

Lilly:

Why in the world is the Lilly/Davis subplot included? I have zero interest in reading about someone's mom's love life. I feel like I was kind of tricked into this. I read the first couple of "Lilly chapters" and then decided I didn't care enough and completely skipped them. I know I am an asshole, but I am 26 and want to read books about young, attractive people. This book gave me no indication that it would include a subplot about a 50 year old bitch in lingerie and I refuse to be tricked into reading about one.

Clint:

At first, I really liked Clint. Clint was hot. I was imagining this:

(No clue who this person is, but I googled "hot nfl players" and agreed with the internet's assessment of this man's attractiveness.)

Thennnnnnnn Clint is described as tucking his OU tshirt into his jeans and he immediately became this:

(Peyton Manning. DO.NOT.WANT.)

Yuck. Now it's like I'm reading about someone's dad having dirty sex. No thank you. No longer hot.

Summer:

There is not a woman in this world who is actually attractive who is as insecure as Summer is. WHAT. THE.

FRACK? She whines and whines and whines about how ugly and fat she is and over and over and over again Clint tells her how beautiful she is and how hot everyone else thinks she is.

Sample conversation:

Summer: Ohh my gawd, Clint. I'm soooo ugly. I look soooo fat.

Clint: Summer, you're so hot. I love your boobs. That guy is eye screwing you and that guy is eye screwing you and that guy is too!

I got so sick of Clint telling her that other men are eye screwing her that I wanted to jump into the book and do this:

She is so unsure that she's attractive that I'M SURE that Summer must actually be a dog and Clint is trolling her. No woman who is supposedly that hot has ZERO idea that she's attractive. Any woman who is even remotely NOT HIDEOUS is shown SOME attention at some point in her life. This book is written as if no one has ever paid Summer a compliment. In fact, it's as if every man she has ever encountered has insulted her appearance. Because that's really the only way I can think of that a woman would be so obnoxiously self-deprecating. Good Lord, at first it was sad and cute, but then it became more and more infuriating. Slowly, I began to hate Summer.

To be honest, I haven't actually finished the book at this point and am hoping that something awful happens to her. Because all of her whining and self-pity and insecurity is no longer worthy of my sympathy. I AM NOW FURIOUS AND FULL OF HATE AND RAGE.

Oh my Morgan Freeman. I CANNOT TAKE ONE MORE SINGLE SECOND OF THIS. Is there a contest for most annoying literary character? Can I nominate Summer Ames? Can the prize be that every book with her written in it is burned in a giant bonfire on live TV?

DNF. DNF. DNF. DNF. DNF. DNF. DNF. DNF.

UGHHHHH. I hate myself. I finished it. It didn't get better. Kill me.

Hollie says

A must read!!!!!!! Absolute perfection

I'm not sure where to even begin. This book was so incredible. It has all the elements that makeup a

masterpiece. A strong heroine, a kind hearted hero, a fun plot had me laughing one minute and in tears the next. I can not recommend this book enough!!! The best book I've read in awhile!! You will not be sorry you purchased this. I rarely ever read a book more than once, but this one, I am almost certain I will read again. It was just a beautiful story with such strong character development. Such a pleasant surprise! I will be checking out more of Ms. Graykowski's work!

Deniz says

1,5 Stars

While it started quite ok- If you would have asked me around halfway I probably would have given this 2-3Stars. It was very predictable but kinda entertaining. Clint was hot. Summer, kinda witty though her insecurities a bit - well over the top.

But as the story went on, Summer started grating on my nerves more and more.

Every single character was so cliche, that I just was annoyed that I actually read it. But to top that, Summer's insecurities are simply unbelievable and her whining was beyond annoying!

Even Clint's hotness couldn't save this one, well not only that, his hotness kinda faded as the book went on. The subplot- was totally uninteresting and unnecessary- the whole thing just added more annoyance than interest.

And the gay neighbors... though fun they were.. well as I said before cliche.

Last chapter was so beyond anything, I wanted to throw my kindle on the wall! I mean it was soooo over the top, but also soooo annoying. All the last minute drama all the whining all the .. just everything! BLEH!!!

Why on earth did I just spend my precious reading time on this?!

So basically this is the love child of Jerry Maguire, dangerous minds, Bridget Jones and some other ridiculous sports hottie falling for the girl next door movie... so total chickflick/chicklit territory. Oh and yes, I am aware that this is a foursome, a meange a quatre (as it was called in Perfect Summer) but this much drama could not have been conceived through normal love making! Really, trust me. It would be completely impossible. IF you do however like this kind of a thing, it has some witty moments and the writing style wasn't bad- so you probably will enjoy Perfect Summer. I on the other hand...

Let's just put it out there: I don't watch chickflicks- cause well, they not my thing- and I will in future steer clear off the chicklits as well.

Ewa says

Recommendation: For fans of the Susan Elizabeth Phillips at her best. That should be enough.

We have humor, no drama, and two pairs: Summer and her football player Clint (to crunch ♥) and her mother and a handsome vet.

I read today enabled laptop and should work, but I could not get away.

PS. Remember Michelle Pfeiffer in Dangerous Minds? This is our Summer. The kids are great.

