



Four Years Later

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New Adult bestselling author Monica Murphy winds up her sensational series with this sexy story of two college kids with nothing in common but a bunch of baggage and a burning attraction.

Over. That about sums up everything in my life. Suspended from my college football team and forced to cut back my hours at The District bar because of my crappy grades, I can't keep turning to my sister, Fable, and her pro-football playing husband, Drew, to bail me out. I just can't seem to find my own way. Weed and sex are irresistible temptations—and it's messed up that I secretly hand over money to our junkie mom. A tutor is the last thing I want right now—until I get a look at her.

Chelsea is not my type at all. She's smart and totally shy. I'm pretty sure she's even a virgin. But when she gives me the once over with those piercing blue eyes, I'm *really* over. But in a different way. I won't deny her ass is killer, but it's her brain and the way she seems to crave love—like no one's ever given her any—that make me want her more than any girl I've ever met. But what would someone as seemingly together as her ever see in a screwed up guy like me?

Four Years Later Details

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From Reader Review Four Years Later for online ebook

Lisa says

ARC Given to Blog for Honest Review

4 “uptight virgin” “rose” “Chels” Kisses

Wow...I'm honestly sad that I'm typing this review. And not because I didn't like the book, in fact...the exact opposite...but just because I'm seriously **so** depressed that this series is over. These characters have been in my life for almost a year now and...I can't believe it's over. *Four Years Later* is the final book in the One Week Girlfriend Quartet...and this is a series that **must** be read in order...so if you haven't read *One Week Girlfriend*, *Second Chance Boyfriend*, *Three Broken Promises* or *Drew + Fable Forever*...you have to read those first. But back to my moping...I don't want it to be over...and yes I know I have attachment issues, don't judge me! But in all honesty...Owen and Chelsea's story was a beautiful way to end the series. It was emotional...angsty...and unique...just like the two of them.

Owen Maguire...who am I kidding...I've always had a soft spot for Owen. He's Fable's baby brother!!! Seriously?!? It's just weird because part of me wants to be a big sister to him...and part of me wants to hump him – it's a very confusing feeling...but somehow my brain works through it. He's a mess...I mean...Fable was a mess too – they grew up with no family, an absolutely horrible mother, no structure or guidance and Fable did her best to raise Owen but it's hard to raise a kid when you're still a kid! My poor sweet Owen...I think all he ever wanted was for his mom to love him...and the only thing she ever did was screw with his head. He does his best, I truly believe he has good intentions in his heart...because Owen **is** a good guy...he's just a little lost and confused at times. I love his relationship with Fable and Drew though...I think if it weren't for them, he would have ended up just like his mother. It is amazing to see Owen when he really does try and applies himself....and you never see that more clearly than when he is with Chelsea.

‘So I became a carbon copy of Drew Callahan. I played football, I wrote, I studied, I tried my best to do the right thing. I’m a little more outgoing than Drew, though. Girls are my thing. So are my friends. And beer. Oh, and weed. All of that equals not doing the right thing, despite my intentions.’

Chelsea Rose Simmons...oh Chels...I heart this girl because she and I are a lot alike. I really connected to her and some of her experiences...she's just a very real and relatable girl overall. She's an only child...with an absentee jerk/loser father and a mom who is depressed and can't figure out if she loves her husband or hates all men. Poor Chelsea is brilliant...like skip *years* of school brilliant (she's a junior in college and she's 19...the chick has some mega brains!). She's also a hard worker...not only does she take on a full load of classes, she also tutors as a side job and then works at a restaurant. She's independent, determined and dedicated to her future because she will not let her father's mistakes influence her life or let money stop her from fulfilling her dreams. But...a drawback to the age thing...she's a little inexperienced. She's not naïve, but she is sheltered and cautious...which there's nothing wrong with that...but combine that with a gorgeous, blond bad boy football player and well...you have a recipe for awesome. :-)

‘But I’ve never been comfortable around guys. They give me even a hint of attention and I think they have ulterior motives. They want something I don’t want to give. My body. My mind. My soul. They’ll take everything, then destroy me. Walk away without a backward glance.’

Chelsea brings out every positive attribute in Owen. Whether it’s because he *wants* to try with her or she inspires him...or it’s incentive to impress her...take it as you will but Owen is **very** different when she is around, and it’s all for the positive. Chels is different with Owen too – Miss. Prim-and-Proper sheds a few layers when the bad boy comes around and it’s nice to see that she can let lose and have fun. I liked that they balanced each other because...let’s face it, they’re basically polar opposites but together they worked so well. I was completely sucked into every aspect of their relationship as it developed. From tutor/student...to flirtatious...to more...and even through the awkward ‘what-are-we’ stage, I still enjoyed going through that journey with them. I loved that he opened her world to so many new things and I love even more that she let him...I like that she inspired his creative writing....I **love** that he called her Chels and I love even more how much she loved that he called her Chels. :-)

“I thought all girls liked to write about love and sadness.”
Is that what he writes about? I doubt it, but who knows? “I’m not like most girls.”
“I know.” His smile softens as his gaze roves over my face. “That’s what I like most about you.”
Oh. I am so. Done for.’

When I say they are polar opposites...I mean it in every sense of the word...he’s the bad boy, she’s the good girl....he’s a manwhore, she’s a virgin...he’s scraping by in school, she’s a freaking braniac...he’s the jock, she’s the nerd – you getting the picture here? Maybe that’s why I loved them so much together because on paper...they do not add up – had it not been for the tutoring sessions, they would have never crossed paths, never met and this beautiful broken couple would have never healed each other. They both have so many secrets...so many things they keep hidden from the world and from each other because they don’t want to be judged or rejected for things that are out of their control...and the funny thing is they have no idea how much in common they have in that sense.

‘We need each other. I don’t know if Chelsea’s aware of it yet, but I know I am. Having her here with me makes everything right again. Makes me feel like I can breathe again. These few weeks apart from her have nearly killed me.
There’s no way I can let her go now.’

They could start their own ‘messed up parent’s club’ and swap horror stories...I think that might be what drove me crazy the most...I was glad that they found solace in each other because they so desperately needed it...but I was frustrated in some of Owen’s behavior and the fact that both of them were still hiding crucial parts of themselves from the other. But it was all part of the build up with the angst...so there is a purpose! I definitely have to give Monica Murphy credit, she angst’d the crap out of me with Owen and

Chelsea, almost as much as she did with Drew and Fable. I did not see a lot of their story line coming...I was surprised, I definitely did not think it was predictable but I loved how Owen and Chelsea tied in with Drew and Fable and of course I loved seeing glimpses of them as usual (especially Autumn...and hearing Owen talk about Autumn...so freaking cute). The other thing I liked that *Three Broken Promises* didn't have...and it's something so small, so random...but the quotes at the start of each chapter. Do you know the ridiculous amount of love I have for those quotes? It's out of control.

‘He closes his eyes, presses his lips together. “I don’t deserve your forgiveness.”’

‘Yes, you do.’’ My simple answer feels so freeing it lightens my heart.

His eyes crack open and he looks at me. “I don’t deserve you.”’

‘If you don’t deserve me then I don’t deserve you.’’

So...am I sad that it's over? Yes...deeply saddened, but also happy because...all of the characters are happy – they're in great places...I got all the HEA goodness I could ever hope for and I am completely thrilled at the development with these characters. I do feel like Chels and Owen could have more of a story (just like Jenn and Collin) and I will keep hope alive that maybe someday we will get it...but regardless...this book worm is very content with how this series ended.

MELISSA *Mel Reader* says

4 Have fun. Get naked. Live a little. Stars!
(BR with Tiffany)

Four years after being abandoned by his mother, Owen Maguire's mom turns up again. He has always wanted her approval and her love, and lets her back into his life. She is a bad influence on him and just a user always begging for money and weed. Owen keeps it a secret from his sister Fable that he's speaking to their mother again. This causes him a lot of guilt and stress, and as a result he smokes weed to let off some steam, and escape his problems.

Owen is in college, working as a waiter at The District, playing football, and partying too much. Because of his lifestyle, his English grade begins to suffer. He is called into the counselor's office where he is told he is benched from the team, and is being given a tutor till he can bring his grades up. Owen is angry, and doesn't feel he has time for a tutor. He goes to meet with the tutor because he doesn't have a choice.

Owen's tutor Chelsea Simmons is an innocent, naïve girl who is very intelligent. She doesn't date, and really isn't interested in guys or having a social life. She is a full time student who really loves school, and spends her spare time tutoring and working at a diner. She doesn't have much fun, & is kind of a nerd. Chelsea has never thought she needed a man, and hasn't ever been affected by them. She is extremely awkward around men, and doesn't have any experience sexually.

Chelsea is surprised with herself when her new student walks in, and she is unbelievably attracted to him. He is a stranger, but is the most beautiful thing she's ever seen.

They spend a lot of time together tutoring, and Owen is also finding himself drawn to Chelsea. She is different from all the others he has been with. She is sweet, naturally beautiful, but gives off an untouchable vibe.

We get a lot of Owen's shameless flirting, and then he finally asks her out. She is the good girl to his bad boy, but damn if he doesn't want her bad! They start to develop real feelings for each other, and both have their insecurities. He worries he's not good enough for her, and she wonders if she's pretty enough for all his yumminess, since every girl on campus wants a piece of Owen.

They both come from loser parents and have drama, and family baggage. Some of this pops up to cause issues. Owen continues to struggle with bad habits, and worrying he's going to turn out like his mom. He wants to change, and quit making poor choices so he will feel worthy of Chelsea. He is tired of the burden of always trying to be the perfect brother and son. He is scared of being in a relationship, but still falls in love. He just can't fight his feelings for Chelsea.

When they finally get together here is the sexy time told in gifs! :D
Chelsea is like...

Then Owen experiences a bit of...

Then Chelsea is like...

Then Chelsea is like...

I have always had a soft spot for Owen & just adored him & his sweet relationship with his sister Fable. As a boy he always had that tender heart & potty mouth, but as a man he is still sweet, still has the dirty mouth, but has developed into a drop dead gorgeous guy! This book had a bit of a slower build up, but once we got the sexy time, whew it was hot as hell! I really enjoyed this one & can say I am extremely hot for Owen!!! I hope we get another book for Owen & Chelsea after college that maybe includes an engagement & Owen

going Pro. :D

-I want a boy with a sexy walk and glittering green eyes to like me. I want him to whisper sweet words in my ear that make me shiver. I want him to touch me. I want to know what it feels like to be cherished. Just once...

-I need to face facts: I'm hot for the tutor. She's not my type. I hardly know her. But my body sure as hell wants to get to know her.

-I want to corrupt her so bad it's killing me.

-It would be my absolute fucking pleasure to corrupt her. Show her what she's been missing. Touch her here, there, and everywhere. Kiss her until we both can't breathe.

-Damn, I have got it so bad for this girl it's scary.

-Fuck, I like this girl. A lot. How am I going to keep her in my life?

-Now, though, I'm starting to realize I want what Fable and Drew have.

-Yeah. I want that sort of thing. And I think I want it with Chelsea.

-I'm in the throes of an Owen obsession and I've never been happier.

-I try not to stare but I can't help it. He's just so beautifully formed, so perfectly made. "I want to see you."

-We're not perfect, but we're a perfect fit for each other. It's all or nothing with Owen and me- and nothing is too hard for us to bear. So I want it all. Everything. With Owen.

-We belong together. He's mine and I'm his.

-He makes me feel. And I know I'm loved.

Jessica says

Drew und Fable waren mir ein bisschen lieber gewesen.

Geri Reads says

3.5 stars!

I liked this one but I didn't love it.

Alex says

I actually feel really bad having to write this review, because every book I've read by Monica Murphy has been a happy moment for me. But this... well...

Okay, let me start again. I loved One Week Girlfriend, Second Chance Boyfriend, and Three Broken Promises. But this book just came into my life at the wrong time. I was frustrated with the book the entire time. This book is about Fable's younger brother Owen. I'll admit, I had extremely high hopes for Owen. I loved him as a fourteen year old, and found him quite humorous at times. Unfortunately, I was disappointed.

Owen is a big player, lost his virginity at fourteen, and pretty much sleeps with anything with big boobs. Chelsea is a sheltered girl with a past she prefers not to discuss-oh, and don't forget this important point: she's a virgin (surprised? me neither).

Apparently her mother always told her how bad men were and she was influenced by this. She's only been kissed three times (but she prefers not to count one) and has never had a boyfriend. I mean, come on. Yes, that does happen but never having a relationship?

I don't want to dwell to much on this book, because I *know* there are people who love the book and the series. And honestly, if you're considering reading this, don't take my review into much consideration. Go read a four or five star rating, because I just can't with this book. It was just too set up. I mean, Chelsea's roommate Kari says guys invited them for drinks at the District. Just so happens to be where Owen works.

Then at one point, Chelsea is working her shift. Might I add, at two or three in the morning. And guess who just so happens to stumble into the restaurant, drunk or high, I don't really care. He's with his two friends, Des and Wade. And Des makes a suggestive comment to Chelsea, that wasn't even that suggestive. And all she can do is stare at him with her mouth open. Now, I get it. She's sheltered. But, really?

Sorry to the fans of this book, but it really just wasn't for me.

♥Rachel♥ says

I love the One Week Girlfriend series with Drew and Fable as the main characters, but my heart went out to Owen, Fable's younger brother who was so young when their mother abandoned them. He was sweet and oh-so-protective to Fable. With **Four Years Later** we get Owen and Chelsea's story which was emotional, and gratifying.

Owen and Chelsea are thrown together when she's assigned to tutor him. Owen has let his grades slide and

he's in danger of being kicked off the football team if he doesn't catch up and get his act together. Chelsea and Owen are quite the opposites on the outside: Owen is the popular, carefree football star, and Chelsea is the naïve, brainy overachiever. And yet, these two have an intense draw to each other. Oh, I do love it when the nerdy, smart girl gets the hunk-a-licious guy! And Owen and Chelsea have far more in common than they realize.

Owen has his junkie mother who drops by when she needs money for drugs, always taking his self-esteem down several notches with each visit. She is an absolute horror of a mother, and I wanted to shake Owen for allowing her in his life. Yet, at the same time, I couldn't help but feel sorry for Owen giving in because his inherent need to gain approval, and love from her.

Chelsea has a mother who alternately hates or loves her husband, Chelsea's father; a man who has always put his own needs and desires before his wife and daughter's. Her parent's rollercoaster marriage and her father's incarceration have left a mark on Chelsea.

This romance was full of tension and longing! Owen was such a goner for Chelsea he didn't want to muck things up. He was determined to do things right and be patient with Chelsea being so inexperienced and innocent. I loved how Owen drew her out of her shell and made her crazy with desire. This made for some lusty and intense scenes! I was thrilled that Chelsea made Owen want to clean up his life and get rid of any bad influences. They really brought out the best in each other.

Fans of Drew and Fable will not be disappointed as they make appearances with oh-so-cute baby Autumn! Their HEA continues to fill my heart with joy.

Monica Murphy has another win with **Four Years Later**. Owen and Chelsea's story was touching and passionate, and is sure to make you sigh in contentment by the end.

A copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Lisa says

You can read my full review at [Sinfully Sexy](#) and enter to win signed paperbacks.

4 Stars!

People cry, not because they're weak. It's because they've been strong for too long. ~Johnny Depp

Four Years Later by Monica Murphy is the fourth and final book in her One Week Girlfriend series. This is

Owen McGuire's story, Fable's younger brother who we have gotten to know and love. Owen is all grown up and it is now his chance at finding love. Two college young adults from opposite ends of the social spectrum. Different goals. Different mindsets. But, when they both give in to their shared sizzling attraction, can they be the one to set the other free?

“Sometimes, I hate that. Growing up, moving on. Being alone. Finding my footing, when all I do is stumble around in the dark. Fuck.” ~Owen

Owen McGuire's life is in shambles because of his bad choices. His football career, his school grades, his life....all of it is being demolished and is crumbling because Owen can't seem to get his head out of his own ass and step up his A-game. Smoking weed and having copious amounts of sex with varying partners have become a way of life and Owen is unsure how to stop it, especially since his dead-beat mother is once again in the picture and that is a secret he is trying to keep from his sister and his brother-in-law. Seeing that Owen's life is spiraling out of control, Fable and Drew step in to save his ass. He is off the football team and his hours at work are going to be cut. Oh....and he is getting a tutor to help him get back on track with his schooling.

“She's....sweet. All clean, wholesome innocence.”

“Nobody. I've always been nobody. Why Can't I be someone's somebody?” ~Chelsea

Chelsea Simmons may come across as the brainiac and reserved girl but the fact of the matter is she has not had it easy and has had to work hard to keep herself in school and help out her mom. With a thief for a father who is now serving time in prison, Chelsea is all about focusing on school. The last thing she wants is some guy coming into the picture and messing up her life like her father did to her mother. She is the quintessential good girl who has her life planned out. It may be boring, but at least it is safe. No risks. No chances of getting hurt. That is until Owen McGuire comes into the picture. When she meets the sexy football player at their first tutoring session, Chelsea finds it difficult to keep Owen at arm's length.

Owen may not want to endure tutoring sessions but the more time he spends with Chelsea, the more he becomes entranced by her goodness and light. She is definitely not the sort of girl that Owen has associated with in the past. As the pair become closer, Chelsea is the one that helps Owen straighten things out and get his grades and life back on track. There is something about her that makes Owen want to try and better, like the kind of guy that she deserves. Simultaneously, Owen becomes the one that helps Chelsea shed the “timid girl” skin. With Owen in her life Chelsea blossoms. She finds her strength and stands up for herself, allowing her life to stop being all about adhering to strict schedules and more about living free and happy. Owen and

Chelsea seem to bring out the best in one another but can they survive the turmoil that comes from their secrets coming into the light?

This is a very sweet story. It really is a story about self-discovery and moving on from past hurts and the things that tie you to those hurts. Owen frustrated me at times because of his immaturity and his inability to simply stop making dumb-ass decisions; however, he made the right decisions when push came to shove. After all, we are all young once and making choices that are less than stellar comes with the territory. But, when it all comes down to it, you learn from those mistakes and grow, hopefully finding your way to the person who holds your heart and makes you better.

All in all, *Four Years Later* was a great final addition to this series. I loved seeing Owen get his happy forever and also loved getting a further glimpse into the life of Drew and Fable. I am a fan of Monica Murphy and am looking forward to whatever else she has in store for her readers.

*******PRE-REVIEW*******

I really enjoyed this one! My review will be posted here and at Sinfully Sexy Book Reviews on **March 4th**.

****An advanced reading copy of *Four Years Later* by Monica Murphy was provided to me in exchange for an honest review.

Fern (whirlwindbooks) says

No words can express how excited I am for this!

Diksha says

[

-Once owen sees h, he's really attracted to her! H does not kiss or hook up with anyone after meeting h !
-He does think about getting laid but the idea of taking a random chick does not appeal to him :/ He does not

want any ow !

-There's one ow scene at the beginning , girl sits on H lap and whispers how much she wants him, hero was not into it, just ignores her and continues watching tv lol!
ow is pissed and finally gets the message ,she goes to sit on someone's

Monica Murphy says

Yep, gave my own book five stars again but you know why? You wanna know why? Cos first...

This is OWEN'S book and it's the least that he deserves.

Second, I love Chelsea. She's the perfect fit for Owen.

Third, Drew + Fable are in it and so much happens still for these two! If you are fans of D+F, you. Will. Love. It.

Fourth, there are quotes at the beginning of each chapter, including two by Tyler Knott Gregson. If you don't know who he is, go look him up because his work is amazing.

Fifth, the ending made me cry while I wrote it. Awww. I am a total sap.

Sixth, Owen says the word f*ck almost 200 times. I had to keep up with his annoying cursing habit created in OWG, no?

Seventh, I love Owen's friends. One's kinda bad. The other one has been around since OWG but he never appeared live on the page. So I can't wait for you to meet Des and Wade.

Eighth, it's the longest book in the series. OWG was only 56,000 words. FYL is 87,000 words. Lots more for you to read.

And finally, my last reason for giving this book five stars is...

I think it might be my favorite. Sigh. Owen's fun, peeps. He's sweet and sexy and he has all of these faults but he's only human and hopefully, you still root for him all the way to the end.

Don't tell Drew though. He might get offended. ;)

Patrycja says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

Claire Robinson says

4 - I am Emotionally Worn Out Stars.

I have had a HUGE soft spot for Owen Maguire, since we were first introduced to him as a young teen in One Week Girlfriend and Second Chance Boyfriend. This is a boy who has been bought up in the worst of circumstances, and despite it all shines like the star that he is, I loved his quick wit, and his brotherly over-protectiveness for Fable throughout all of their troubles.

We are now at a point in the Drew & Fable saga where Owen is old enough to get his own book, although sadly it is the end of the One Week Girlfriend Quartet as well.

Chelsea Simmons is your classic nerd, highly intelligent, a little nervous in social situations, extremely inexperienced and 100% naïve. Bought up in a home where her dad cheats, and her mother accepts it, to say that she has a low opinion of the opposite sex would be an understatement, top that with a mother who swears men are not worth the hassle, but then does the opposite every time with her waste of space father sweet-talks her around means she is not looking too be anyone's doormat.

Owen is struggling what with playing ball, partying and working long hours at The District, his school work is suffering, and he is on the cusp of being thrown off the team. Add to the mix the return of his mother and he is an emotional wreck as well. After an intervention of sorts by Drew, Fable, his coach and his councilor he is assigned Chelsea as his tutor, in the hope he can pull his grades back up, and prevent losing the one thing he loves - Football.

Their first meeting doesn't go well; they both wrongly assume things about the other...However the one thing that is clear, they are attracted to each other.

Chelsea - You're not a bad seed. You're just a flower waiting to bloom.

Chelsea is not Owen's normal type, in fact she is the antithesis of what he is normally looking for in a potential partner, which is no-strings all the way.

"I want her but I don't. I'm attracted to her though I shouldn't be. I'm high and it's not just from the weed. I'm also high on Chelsea."

I have to admit at points Chelsea really got on my nerves, but rather than being a bad thing, it just highlighted how much skill Monica Murphy has, in the development and authenticity of her characters. The annoyance mainly stemmed from how naive and immature her thoughts came across. Monica totally nailed it; you really do feel that this is a girl, on the cusp of womanhood, but not quite sure of herself on any level, but especially around the opposite sex.

I don't matter. I'm not important. I'm just Owens friend.

This is a beautifully written finale to the series. I am sad to say goodbye to each and every one of the characters. Monica has managed to tie up things perfectly, for each them all, without it seeming obvious or run-of-the-mill. In closing, one of my favorite quotes from Four Years Later, for me it pretty much sums up the whole Quartet.

We're not perfect, but we're a perfect fit for each other.

ARC provided through Netgalley, and it was my pleasure to provide the above honest review in exchange.

Mafi says

Gostei deste último livro! Mais uma série começada e acabada este ano :D

Posso dizer que adorei o par romântico. Eu já suspeitava que a outra metade do Owen fosse totalmente diferente e não me enganei, realmente a Chelsea é bem diferente do Owen. Tipo preto e branco, dois pólos opostos. Ainda assim a autora conseguiu criar uma relação tão natural entre os dois que me deixou num estado romântico o dia todo.

Gostei particularmente da evolução da relação que começa com tutora-aluno, passando a amigos e depois namorados. Entendi bem as inseguranças e reticências da Chelsea face ao Owen e o seu medo em arriscar e depois ficar magoada. Claro que também foi muito engraçado ver o Owen caído de amores por ela e a tentar protegê-la da mãe. Apesar das personagens serem cliché, elas são tão realistas que é impossível apontar algum defeito quanto à sua caracterização.

<http://algodaodoceparaocerebro.blogspot.com.br/2014/07/review-four-years-later.html>...

Beatrice Masaluña says

Four Years Later.. we see Owen's story.

If you remember **Owen Maguire**, he is Fable's little brother. Now that he's grown up and attending college.. Drew Callahan is his inspiration to become a football player but someone is distracting him. His mother is back in town and keeps on nagging him for money and drugs. He can't refuse her and Fable doesn't know about it. Now that he's failing classes, he was advised to be tutored to make up for his grades.

Chelsea Simmons is an intelligent junior student but a socially awkward. She busies herself with work (tutoring students and being a waitress on and school stuffs. Dating is her last priority because of having a bad experience on it. Then on, she's not comfortable around boys but that's about to change when Owen comes in the picture as her student.

These two have individual issues but they were able to surpass it by acting maturely. I really like their chemistry and definitely have some sweet moments. This definitely made up from my annoyance on the previous book (Three Broken Promises). The only annoying part on this book was Fable and Owen's mother and Kari, Chelsea's best friend. Overall, it's a light fun read.

Christie«SHBBblogger» says

I've been really looking forward to this book. This is Owen's story-Fable's little brother and juvenile delinquent. He was always getting into trouble and causing Fable stress and worry. I was really excited to see what Ms. Murphy had in store for this bad boy with a good heart. I had a soft spot for him ever since he punched Drew defending his sister's honor. Despite his flaws, Owen truly wants to do better. To be better. But the remnants of his childhood haunt him and hold him down. He grew up with no positive parental influences. His father was nonexistent in his life and his mother...well he would've been better off with her gone as well. She's a complete waste of space druggie who in the antithesis of everything a mother should be. Her abandonment, selfishness, and constant emotional abuse has made it's mark in Owen's life and he is fighting to make a better life for himself. Unfortunately, he doesn't have a whole lot of self-worth or faith in himself.

His partying, skipping class, and carefree, numb lifestyle has finally caught up with him. His grades are slipping and he's ordered to see an assigned tutor or else he will be off the football team. This is one of the only things that makes him feel good about himself and he's not willing to simply throw it all away. Reluctantly he meets his new tutor. His first impression? Chelsea is a straight-laced, nerdy girl who probably never had a day of fun in her life. He's somewhat right. But there's so much more to her, and they have more in common than he could imagine.

Chealsea is super smart, studious, and a complete perfectionist.

She graduated high school at 16, and her whole life revolves around excelling in school so she can have a bright future. But as perfect as she seems, she's struggling with a horrible family life as well. She pushes herself to be an overachiever in order to escape the stigma of her father and all his failings. She hates her father for everything he's done and everything he stands for.

Liar.

Cheater.

Thief.

User.

Selfish.

He's all these things and all he's ever done is disappoint her-and her mother over and over. So why does her mom always seem to choose him over her?

I've never been comfortable around guys. They give me even a hint of attention and I think they have ulterior motives. They want something from me I don't want to give.

My body. My mind. My soul.

They'll take everything, then destroy me. Walk away without a backward glance. Look at Dad. He's done it time and time again.

So she has virtually zero experience with guys and that's the way she wants it to stay.

Chelsea and Owen move from tutor/student, to friends, to something more. They are completely crushing on each other, but everyone's got their opinion: He's no good. You're too different. He'll only hurt you. She's too good for you. They have to overcome their preconceptions of each other as well as everyone else's. Their total and complete lack of experience with relationships on both of their parts will not help them either. They're floundering, trying to find their footing but their secrets and their inability to communicate is just waiting to implode on their fragile bond. It's not a matter of if, but when. They are so cute together, you just want them to get their act together and put a little trust and faith in each other but it's not an easy thing for either of them. And that is understandable given their childhoods. This is a case of the bad boy and the good girl trying to overcome their labels and redefine themselves. I thought it was done really well.

He wants to be worthy of her. He's fighting to be a better person, to stop partying and trying to ignore his problems with numbness. To do things the right way.

Sometimes, I hate that. Growing up, moving on. Being alone. Finding my footing, when all I do is stumble around in the dark. Fuck.

She's struggling to let go of her need for perfection and controlling her life down to the minute. She needs to loosen up and give herself more freedom in her life.

Will they figure out how to meet somewhere in the middle?

Owen has untangled all my knots. Smoothed them out and made me see there's more to life than order and control and being good and seeking approval. There's beauty and pain and love and sex and happiness and anger. And it's okay to have all of that, to feel all of that. He makes me feel.

This was a good college romance. A coming of age story about the bad boy and the good girl. They have to fight for each other every step of the way but in the end learn valuable lessons about themselves and the direction of their lives. It was well done and a great addition to the series.
