



## Love's Paradox

*Laura Kreitzer*

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## **Love's Paradox** Laura Kreitzer

Stalked by her abusive ex-fiancé, Rae Zachery retaliates by singing karaoke and spilling all their dirty secrets to the entire bar. When her ex attempts to silence her brazen performance, sexy, leather-clad Parker comes to her rescue and soundly punches her ex in the face. As valiant as that may be, Rae finds Parker's violent assistance unsettling, yet she can't help but be drawn to him and his tragic past.

Fighting her attraction for Parker is a battle Rae can't win, and soon their night of sharing secrets morphs into an undeniable bond. But fate won't so easily relinquish her grip on their happily-ever-after. Instead of blissfully skipping into obscurity, Rae and Parker are subjected to her ex-fiancé's vicious proclivities. Who knew love could hurt so good?

## **Love's Paradox Details**

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Author : Laura Kreitzer

Format : Paperback 288 pages

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# From Reader Review Love's Paradox for online ebook

## Kimberly says

**\*\*Was given an ARC by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\*\***

Due to downloading difficulties, I was not able to read this book.

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## Chrissy T says

3.75 Stars

I really enjoyed the beginning of this book. Rae is trying to get away from her stalker ex, so she tweets the location of where she's doing karaoke, and sings a Dixie Chicks song that mocks their relationship and his abusive behavior. Of course he doesn't like being made fun of, so when he tries to become physical in the bar, Parker comes to Rae's rescue.

Parker had a sister who died at the hand of her abusive boyfriend, so he immediately wants to help and protect Rae. I liked his aggressive and protective side, but I wish the book was a bit longer so I could connect with Rae and Parker more as a couple. They went straight to sex and a relationship, and while nothing is wrong with that, I wish their courting (dating?) was a bit slower and intimate. Other than that, this was a cute

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## Eve (Functioning Insanity Reviews) says

I received this book NetGalley and Revolution Publishing Inc. for my thoughts and an honest review. This was originally an ARC but with being sick and all I'm a bit behind but bright side is you don't have to wait Love's Paradox is available now.

Love's Paradox is a New Adult book and as such has more adult material inside as the characters are just past teenagers. Just a warning for those who don't want any steaming love scenes, stronger violence/action/themes or yes language. To each their own, I find the New Adult section to be a good progression of all the things I love about YA and just progressing further.

With that said I adored this book. I started it at lunch one day and then accidentally stayed up until 3am to finish it. Yes accidentally because I only meant to read for an hour before bed but the next thing I knew it was over and it was well past bed time for my early morning ahead. I couldn't put it down and had no desire to check my clock, aka phone, I was so immersed. The book doesn't cover a large span of time really things happen pretty quickly and as a result you think, 'well I have to know what happens next' at every chapter end.

The story is about Rae who is getting over her abusive ex-fiancé who has turned stalker. She decides to send a clear message one night signing a song about their past and he doesn't take it well. When he tries to stop her a strong, sexy, and somewhat intimidating hero comes to the rescue in the biker bar. His violent

intervention, while deserved doesn't sit as well with Rae but yet as they talk they have a connection. Even as she attempts to ignore her attraction to him she can't win and their bond will be tested. Her ex-fiancé's twisted mind and violent proclivities are not to be easily dismissed.

The cover was catchy, the title intriguing, and the summary made me want to learn more about Raw. As per usual I'm all about characters. Rae is a strong female character I can get behind but she is also someone who has a lot of issues that come through the tough exterior. I liked her and I wanted things to work out for her. Hearing about her past I felt like she was a good friend of mine and I wanted to take care of her. Then you have Parker. He is a contradiction to so many things but I fell for him. He was easy to make into a sexy bad boy with a heart of gold book boyfriend, but he was more than a cliché. There were some things about him that seemed 'too good to be true' at first but as you dig into the character it really worked.

It's clear from their first lines that there is something between these characters which I adore. There is nothing worse than being forced to see how characters should be together because it's intended. Rae and Parkers connection with all its problems and differences feels natural. The back and forth banter between them had me giggling like a school girl with her first crush. At one point I dropped my kindle (thankfully only onto the couch and it was in a case) because I was laughing so hard at some points.

And of course you have to consider the vindictive ex, who is a trip and very authentic. There are people like this out there everywhere and he was just the right balance. Or the best friends. As someone who has a few friends who I would do pretty much anything for and don't know how I would survive without them just being there to keep me sane sometimes I can love a book friendship almost more than a romance if it feels like friends I would have. I could easily see myself hanging out with Cherry and Hunter without fail.

There were pop culture references for readers to enjoy and something that I LOVED the title tie in. I'm all about a pretty cover and catchy title but if you can make it tie into the story, especially at a critical moment, it really hits home. Love's Paradox, did it in spades. Also something I greatly appreciate is valid information. I know not everyone has my previous job history and might not catch onto some simple legal flaws but to know someone was able to put correct terminology in there is refreshing.

I easily give Love's Paradox 5 shining stars. It will make your day or night fly by. Pick it up and enjoy the beautifully complex characters and the fight to find ones happiness when your past keeps trying to get in the way.

<http://functioninginsanity.blogspot.c...>

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☆ **BJ's Book Blog** ☆ Janeane ☆ says

3.75 stars - ARC Received via Netgalley for an honest review

I have to say, I LOVED the beginning of this book. Who hasn't wanted to shout from the rooftops what a douche their ex is? And this is why Rae does - through karaoke of course! I would have been up at the front of the crowd cheering her on!!

Rae has finally gotten away from her abusive, stalker ex. Now trying to get on her feet emotionally and financially, she finally confronts her ex, but things don't go as planned. This huge act of defiance should have been the beginning of a new chapter in her life, but turns out things take a different turn.

Enter Parker. Hot. Sexy. Leather clad. Heart the size of Texas. Just loved him from the moment he joins the story.

The attraction is instant with Rae and Parker, and sparks fly between the pair. They are both emotionally scarred from things in their past and are very gun shy. I liked that they did not fall straight into love. Straight into bed, yeah, but the deeper relationship longer. Though I did feel there was something missing in the relationship ~~ maybe it is just that as the story was a little short for us to get right into the nitty gritty of them or what, I can't put my finger right on it.

It was great to be along on the ride as Parker finally breaks down the emotional walls and finally let's people in.

Do Rae and Parker get their HEA? For that you are going to have to read for yourself.

There was a great mix of secondary characters, from Rae's best friends Hunter and Cherry, to Parker's pretty dysfunctional family. Then there is the ex. What a very warped image of love he has in his mind.

There were a few twists and turns along the way too!

This is the first book I have read by Laura Kreiter and I did enjoy it. There was just that little something I was left wanting after reading. It looks as though there is at least one more book in this series (though Love's Paradox is a stand alone read), so I will make sure i read that too.

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## **bjhix says**

RC provided by Revolution Publishing Inc/Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), Members' Titles for a fair and honest review

**\*\*very minor spoiler\*\***

I first want to begin by saying that I found this book refreshing for several different reasons. It introduced a broad range of interesting characters that you really wanted to get to know. I enjoyed the friendships between part-time Rock Star/full-time Temp Rae, Hillbilly Stripper Hunter and Snarky Lesbian Hair Stylist Cherry – and yes, it does sound like a set up for a “walking into a bar” joke. I enjoy the byplay of conversation between the characters, it is quick and light – especially when Hunter goes off on a tangent it is funnier than heck. Once Parker joins in with the crew and fits in seamlessly, the characters seem to really spark together

One issue I will cry foul is Rae's second choice of song, which is mentioned in the premise of the book, that she goes to “out” her ex by singing about him at a crowded bar. I do realize that “Earl Had To Die” by the Dixie Chicks does work for the author's story line.....BUT there is a very big problem with the song or rather the group. The Dixie Chicks are NOT played in country bars anywhere in the USA and are not played on any country stations. After their remark about President Bush on March 10, 2003 during their concert in England, they were pretty much black balled by all country fans.

One very serious topic that is brought up is a very real and scary fact – how Rae's ex-fiancée treated her while they were together and then went into full all out psycho stalker mode when she tried to move on with her life. We see it happen way too many times today that a man will seriously hurt or kill a woman, instead

of letting her go. Sometimes the police will intervene and take it seriously, sometimes they treat it as a “he said, she said” situation – leaving you to wonder “do I have to turn up dead before they will do something?”

Every woman that reads this book, please pay very close attention, because the author did insert a lot of factual accounts of how an abused woman’s mind does work when she is trying to get away from her abuser. There were things that Rae withheld from the people around her that she should NOT have withheld. There were warning signs way in advance that she should have heeded, but she closed her eyes to them. Rae got lucky, she found a decent guy that fell in love with her and stood by her thru the tough parts, helped her heal and tried to protect her.

I did find the book to be a quick read. There was some sentence structuring that bothered me a little bit. At times it felt like the author was writing in a past tense form when what was happen was happening in a present tense. Then the sentence structure would suddenly switch to present tense. It wasn’t that difficult to get past – just sometimes made me slow down to reread the parts and wonder why it was worded in that manner.

Overall and enjoyable book with a message that I think is very important to get out there. There are too many women living in relationships that are nightmares and they have no idea how to get out. Or once they do get out, they have no idea how to escape the monster permanently. The worst part is the long healing process after the escape.

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## Dianne says

Rae has taken a huge step by leaving her mentally, verbally and physically abusive boyfriend and his dysfunctional family. What she thought was her last great act of defiance that would shut the door on that chapter of her life turns into a vicious and deadly case of stalking and vengeance from her unstable ex, Ian. If not for the handsome biker in leather, who comes out of nowhere to rescue her, by beating off Ian’s attack in a bar, it could have been the end of Rae, period. With little trust for men and their motives, Rae is reluctant to trust Parker after his violent, yet necessary attack on Ian. But there is more to Parker than meets the eye, he isn’t just a leather-clad biker, he is intelligent, caring, educated and the son of a powerful oil magnate who has earned his right in the company hierarchy. Parker also has a deep-rooted pain that draws him to feel protective toward the feisty, yet damaged Rae. Gun shy, Rae is reluctant to trust her instincts about Parker, but her heart is telling her to go for it, he’s worth it.

As Ian continues to invade Rae’s world and the aggression becomes lethal once again, will Parker become another victim of this crazed monster? Dark, edgy and sometimes brittle, **Love’s Paradox** does NOT have doves flying overhead or delicate pastel hearts beating for joy, but there are deeply emotional and fiercely vivid scenes that will cause some major gut-clenching and disgust.

Hats off to Laura Kreitzer for her ability to tell a tale that sadly, resonates too true in today’s society. She pulls no punches, makes no excuse for her characters, just lays it out there for the reader to see, feel and try to get past. Is this like so many new Adult romantic dramas? Yes and no, Ms. Kreitzer brands this tale with her own unique style and eye for drama and love. What could have been just another dark and angst-filled New Adult romance becomes a warning to others who could find themselves or someone they know trapped in a deadly relationship. Rae is not a shrinking violet, she is strong, has a sense of identity that was temporarily beaten out of her. Parker was the intriguing knight in shining armor ready to battle her demons to cleanse his own soul.

Tread carefully through this jagged and barbed tale, but you get to the end, you'll be glad you traveled its path.

I received an ARC edition from Revolution Publishing, Inc.in exchange for my honest review.

Series: Paradoxical World - Book 1

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Amazon | Barnes & Noble

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## Esra says

Laura Kreitzer's first contemporary book. She's the goddess of the YA world for me. Timeless series is the one of my favorite series. And summer chronicles is awesome too. She has a funny , adventurous and flawless writing.

She's unfamiliar with NA-contemporary genre. Maybe for this reason love's paradox is a little bit confusing at first.But don't give up and read. You'll love how it's ended.

Actually Rae is a very complicated character. I don't understand her.For example if you have an abusive boyfriend you shouldn't attract attention to yourself. In the opening scene where she sings about him in a mocking way and she drawn him to the bar to listen her . She asked for trouble in my opinion. He is a horrible ,psychotic person and she still wanted him to come and hear her out.Parker and rae met there but this could have been written in another way.

Ian's stalking was very creepy. His ending is just like my imagined. Burn bastard! :D That scene was really well written.Storm and all . It was very exciting ,breathtaking scene.

Parker is the perfect boyfriend for rae. He has pros and cons but at the end I really loved him. He's hot, considerate. He's the man she deserved . Rae 's an anomaly but she's his anomaly forever :=)

The story begins slow but ends really fast.At the end I could read more of this. I love you laura , please continue to write more romances and contemropary stories for us.

## Turkish review

Hikaye sorunlu eski ni?anl?s?ndan kaçan rae'nin ondan intikam almak için bir barda karaoke yaparak imal? ?ark?larla sorunlu eski ni?anl?s? Ian'? k??k?rtmas?yla ba?l?yor. rae çok ama çok gençken 18-19 ya??nda ni?anlanan çift ian'?n zihinsel sorunlar?n?n ortaya ç?kmas?yla birlikte (bence) onu dövme ,itmeye ,kakmaya ba?lamas? ve sonunda onu evde rehin almaya çal??mas? ve hastanelik etmesiyle çareyi ondan

ayr?l?p kaçmakta buluyor. bir süredir izini kaybettiren rae ya?ad?klar?n? d??a vurarak kendisini özgür hissetmekmi istiyor anlamad?m bir bar'da ya?ad?klar?n? dile getiren ?ark?lar söyleyerek tüm olaylar? cümle cemaate anlatm?? oluyor. onu gelmeye te?vik etti?i sap?k ian tabiki sonunda patl?yor ve rae'yi onu küçük dü?ürdü?ü için sahneden indirip tehdit ediyor vs vs . bu s?rada sarho? ama korkmu? rae'nin yard?m?na deri ceketli parker yeti?iyor. Parker'?n k?z karde?ide kad?na ?iddet vakas?ndan ölmü? bu yüzden parker ?iddet gören kad?nlara kar?? çok hassas. Rae 'ye an?nda tutulan parker ile rae'nin geli?en a?klar?n?n hikayesini okuyoruz. Bu arada da sap?k Ian rahat durmuyor ve çiftimize kabus ya?at?yor. Bu arada parker'?n petrol zengini bir ailenin en genç o?lu seksi ve motorsikletli oldu?unu söylemi?miydim :P

Laura kreitzer'in ilk günümüz romans denemesi . NA'da diyebiliriz bir bak?ma . bu yüzden kitapta garip gelen , olay ak???nda size mant?ks?z gelen çok ?ey olacakt?r. Hatta bu yüzden 3 y?ld?z vermeyide dü?ündüm ama laura gönlümü son bölümlerdeki yaz?m?yla almay? ba?ard?. Ian'?n lay???n? gördü?ü k?s?mlar gerçekten güzeldi. kitap ba?ta s?k?c? , saçma gelsede sonlara do?ru yola geliyor. Rae'nin bu kadar saf ve saç ba? yoldurtacak bir karakter olmas?da çok ?a??rt?c?. Laura genelde bu tiplerde karakter hiç yazmazd? ama dedi?im gibi bu onun ilk denemesi. sonraki kitaplar? -e?erki yazarsa- iyi olacakt?r. Kendisini yazar ve insan olarak çok seviyorum. Timeless serisi bence bir numara bir YA serisi. summer chronicles da keza öyle. E?er bunlar? okumadıysanız ?iddetle tavsiye ederim.

-TO READ MY COMPLETE REVIEW PLEASE HAVE A VISIT TO MY BLOG -

<http://allkillerbooks.blogspot.com.tr...>

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## Megan says

### ARC

I would have given this book 4 stars, but it started off slow. I couldn't connect with the characters or become invested in the story. After a while, I did start to like it a lot more.

I didn't like Ian, but what happened to him in the end was a little extreme. Maybe he could have been dealt with in a different way.

Overall, it was an okay book. I liked the characters- especially Hunter. And the plot was pretty good, too.

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## Jackie (No Bent Spines) says

Thank you publisher and NetGalley for giving me the opportunity to review this book! In no way did this influence my opinion.

More reviews on No Bent Spines

~ ~ ~

I'm here to say that I went into this book (a book that left my heart in knots and soul aching) with absolutely no expectation. Why is that? The cover is what makes me want to read a book; even more than the synopsis does. If the cover is gorgeous, the story should be good too, right? Well, that theory is really not necessarily true, but what can I say? I'm a sucker for pretty things. Back to the point: I don't like this cover. The whole purple overshadow on everything looks moody and a tad bit odd. Especially since the guy on the cover already doesn't match what I saw in my head for our motorcycle-riding bad boy with a major hero's complex. The cover needs to be prettier. But maybe it not being stunning works in it's favor? I mean I freaking adore this book. It has action and emotion and finding yourself. It has all the reasons I love the New Adult genre so much.

Love's Paradox is about Rae and her sonofabeep EX- fiancée. She's being stalked by him after being mentally and physically abused by him. One day while with her band of misfits (her too-hot-to-handle with a questionable job best guy friend and her wacky hair stylist best girl friend with a possessive girlfriend) she sings at the bar- well more like preforms- and grabs the attention of her EX and her savior, Parker. \*fans self wildly and unintentionally slaps self in face\* Through this lovely book we see Rae's fear, we see her bravery, we see her cope and we see her break. But, more than any of that, we see her learn to acknowledge what has happened. We see her learn to live again. Rae was never weak. Would a weak person tweet her location to a stalking ex and then sing a song she knows will send him over the edge? Okay, maybe that's a little self- destructive. . .

What did I love in this book?

- I loved the self- discovery. She knew herself before, but she didn't know how to put herself first. This book showed that you are not the victim. It showed that she could live. It showed that people can change, if they choose to. It showed her love of cooking and how she should do that if she show chooses. Love's Paradox showed that you have to do what makes you happy and that other peoples happiness are not based on what you do, how you act. This book showed that there is, indeed, an after.

- I'm me, people. I love the love. ROMANCE. This wasn't the normal kind though. Nope. This was the hot and heavy kind with a heavy dose of I wanna save you. Parker and Rae were like the sun and the moon. Seemingly unattainable with the barrier driving them apart, that barrier being the EX fiancée, but when they were together, the whole world fell into an eclipse. It was gorgeous. Though there was one moment where I wanted to wring Parker's neck, but besides that, everything was cool and dandy with a dash of insanity.  
\*grins\*

- The way the EX fiancée was portrayed. And by that I mean a beephole. Hehehe. He was the true definition of 'not all there.' He would hurt her, say she would blame it on him (see the problem with that statement), and then start bawling like a two year old and hug her. It was a vicious cycle that was getting worse and worse. It was ultimately going to lead to her death. Her life was literally hanging by a thread. I feel so bad for

Rae. Also I want to rip that sucker's head clean off then shove it where the sun don't shine. \*growls menacingly\*

- The music aspect was absolutely gorgeous. Listen to Goodbye Earl by the Dixie Chicks and you'll understand everything.

- The moms!!! You might not get Parker's mom at first but she is her own personal shade of awesome. And Rae's mom is amazing.

Okay folks, that's about all I have to say about this one. I was grinning like an idiot through most of it (oh how I hate reading in public. I get funny stares) and then cringing through some of it. It's worth the read and the time and y'all get a copy!

Happy reading  
Jackie~

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## **SN the Viking says**

Free on Amazon atm.

Review also on my blog: <http://camillarenate.com/2016/02/24/1...>

This book was nothing like I expected when I picked it up, I have to say I was pleasantly surprised.

First of the cover is pretty but to me it screams Paranormal Young Adult, it does not represent the story at all. I would say change the cover on this it is to YA and the story is too good to be left out because of it.

This is also put in the New Adult genera that are so popular at the moment. I am not sure this fits in that genera, the people in it are that age girl 20 and boy a bit older. But they don't really act like it, they act much older which is normal after the experiences they have had so far. The only new adult feeling I had in this book was the first chapter. After that that feeling totally disappeared, and I am super happy that it did. This is not a teenage angst book, but a book that is real, scary and has really serious and awful problems.

Rae is a 20 year old girl trying hard to get her life back together after being in a 7 year long relationship with an abusive boy. She has real problems and the creep is still trying to get her back. Rae is a strong woman with a great backbone and she is pretty much done with being abused and used as a doormat. She meets Parker at a bar where she sings about her past relationship to get closure. They get instantly attracted to each other, and then the "fun" really starts, as this really rubs her crazy X Ian the wrong way. I have to say I love Rae she has spunk and the best sarcasm ever, loved it.

The story is a scary story about abuse and the way to build your life back together with sweet love to help you along. This book should be on a list with need to read this so you know what guys to stay far away from.

I loved the writing style and could hardly put it down, reading in the car, in the grocery store while hubby picks out the food, in bed and in my garden. I still have laundry in my washer that needs to be hung but I have been too busy reading about Rae, Parker and Ian.

This is the sign of a really good book.

So I give it 5 stars.

Book provided by Revolution Publishing Inc. via NetGalley for an honest review.

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### **Aimz says**

It was okay. The story line had a LOT of promise. The beginning was really good. I was getting into it.

Then I was like wtf.

The ending... um what? I was basically sitting there staring at my kindle trying to figure out what the hell was going on.

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### **Shelley says**

ARC generously provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

2.5 Stars

I have to start off by saying I hate writing bad reviews. I know someone spent a lot of time pouring their heart and soul into a book and I never really feel like it is fair for me to judge it. What I will say is that this book just wasn't for me. I am sure there will be people out there that love it, it just didn't do anything for me personally.

This is the story of Rae Zachery who just ended a relationship with her abusive ex. She has decided to rid herself of her past by singing songs directed to her ex at a karaoke night that will get the point across that she is done. What she doesn't expect is for her ex to attack her in public and then have a handsome stranger come to her rescue.

Parker's sister was killed by her abusive boyfriend and he has a natural desire to protect Rae from hers. What he didn't expect was to be so drawn to her.

Parker and Rae are trying to start a relationship while dealing with her stalking ex.

I think what put me off most about this book was that I found Rae to be annoying. She is suppose to be sarcastic and witty and I just found her irritating. Parker was okay but I just never really felt that attachment to him. Also their instant love I found unbelievable. I found myself reading this book in order just to finish it and not really enjoying it. But like I said earlier, I am sure others will really enjoy this book, it just wasn't for me.

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### **Chu says**

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

**Rating: 4.5Stars**

The first chapter had already caught my attention – I applaud Rae Zachery for that amazing performance in the bar. I think my jaw dropped a little, and as if, I was in the bar, I stared at this brave girl who sung her heart out and was brave enough to spill her ex's dirty secret in front of her crazy ex. It was a Grammy-worthy performance that had me in awe. You think she was always like this, but wrong. She had been living in fear for her life, for her sanity, for her well-being. Ian did a number on her.

Parker saved her just in time, and this leather-clad sorta-sexy-biker had me already swooning for him. He's a knight in shiny leather. Little did she know that they shared the same tragic past. Both are drawn to each other, the attraction and sexual tension was as clear as the blue sky. But her past had made her wary of men in her life. It made her extra careful and quite afraid. This guy, however, would do anything to prove to her that he was different from her ex-boyfriend.

I felt sad for her because their relationship with Ian because it started out really good – that's why I can't blame her why she stayed. Perhaps it was because somewhere in her subconscious she wanted that to happen again. That the old Ian might come back and the monster can go away. But it didn't happen, the monster continued to linger, until she no longer know herself. He didn't want her to be with her friends, she can't decide for anything, she has to get his approval for small things, she no longer is her own being.

Abuse comes in different types, and it's a sad thought that most of us looks the other way when we now someone who is experiencing this type of situation or we try to keep our mouths shut because we mind our own business. Little did we know that a little help, a little hope we give these women (who are the usual victims of abuse), might help save their lives. That is why I loved the friendship that she had with Hunter and Cherry – Ian might hate them for what they are, but I simply adore them. They may be consider deviants and their choices may not be the usual, but they are great friends who helped Rae during the time she needed them the most. Hunter had never allowed Ian to go in between their friendship, and thank goodness he stayed with her through the aftermath of her relationship with him.

I wished she sought help for her flashbacks – it was more of a PTSD type of symptom. It was as vivid as she recalled everything Ian and her have been through. It started out small, until it grew and I can no longer tolerate him – what in the world is wrong with him?! Argh. He's a real jerk. He thinks he's invisible because he has strong connections and he's not afraid to use it. The more Rae tries to get a life, the more he comes after her. It was killing him that she's moving on, and he wasn't going to let her get away from him. He started to woo her, give her things she wanted, and it was just creeping me out. There was a scene where I thought he was changing, but I guess, I was wrong. But I was just so glad, that in the end, he got what he deserved.

A very sensitive topic that has been threaded well, and placed in a different light by another author; Love's Paradox is a roller coaster of emotions – the feelings of love, dread, fear, happiness, grief and a whole lot more being stuffed into a one well-paced novel had me up till the wee hours of the morning. There were a lot of ups and downs that will get you hooked in no time – you will laugh, you will get teary, you will feel bad. Rae is a great character who have been through a lot and survived the worse – whatever she had in the end, she truly earned it.

🌸 Complimentary Copy was given in exchange for an honest review. 🌸

More of my reviews at <http://reviewsofabookmaniac.blogspot.com>

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## Jessica says

**Appeal Characteristics:** crazy-you-haven't-seen-crazy, bikers, leathers, guy-looks-like-a-bad-ass-but-wait-i'm-a-smart-nerd, families, horses, young people, i-live-with-a-stripper-and-he's-not-gay, quirky heroine-albeit-has-some-issues

**Heat:** 3 (consummation before vows, adult situations, oh, yeah, healthy sexual adult situations)

*I'm warning you. This review will be heavily giff-i-fied. Let's first talk about the main characters in gif form:*

**Parker.** The love interest.

**Ian.** The crazy ex-stalker who is allowed to do whatever because his father is a judge.

**Rae.** She just wants to know what is good in this world. She alternates between feeling on of two ways:

There's so much I liked about this book. Yet, there are parts that irritated me about character development, plot situations that make up the complete gist of the book.

Let's get to the characters. Parker was just adorbs. I mean a man in all leather, that has a bike, and apparently is so super smart he owns a huge family company and is working on his master's online. Oh, loook, he has a deeper side. I wish he had a POV. I would want to smut his POV to death---but it made me sad, when again, I just a very one dimensional view of Parker. The best one dimensional view of a bad-boy I read was Brenna Yovanoff's *Paper Valentine*. Parker was so much more intriguing because of his backstory, and current story---including the fact he didn't have friends.

Well, he did just move. Anyway, I had so many feels for Parker---that crazy Ian was grating on my nerves. I thought this book needed more of Parker, and less of Ian flashbacks. I think Ian would have been creepier or even scarier if he were more of a background character. I know that would be hard, given Rae just finished a relationship with him, and they had LOTS of history---but I felt he took up more writing space---which could have been devoted to Parker. AHAHAHAHA. I sound like a FANGIRL STALKER!!!!!! Nooooooooooooo!

I wish this book was more of a thriller romance--like a J.D. Robb than a romance (that just has a psychopath included) I mean great it wasn't your normal love triangle---but---JEEZ. I think I was more annoyed how Rae handled the whole situation---and that it had to escalate to a "clean-yet-don't-ask-too-many-questions" endings. The ending was awkward to say the least.

Throughout the book you have Rae coping with the aftermath of being hooked up with a psycho. She is dealing with Parker's latent issues of his sister, and her own relationship issues. THE ISSUES KILLED ME.

SO MANY ISSUES,. I couldn't enjoy their scenes because the aftermath usually was tainted:

a) I was reliving an Ian flashback---

b) Rae was questioning Parker's sincerity and genuine affection---because of Ian being a psycho and Parker having similar (though manageable, and justifiable traits)

I like Rae, I really do. She is gutsy, she is obviously brave, but she doesn't know a good man if he ~~slapped her. I'm sorry for the bad pun.~~ Characters trapped in their own personal hell, is a exasperating read for me---as well as, watching it on screen. *Blue Jasmine* & *Inside Llewyn Davis* were great watches, but of course the characterization they present is vexing at times. The same with this book. Nevertheless, the characters personalities were likeable and that made the story appealing.

Also, I really like Krietzer's writing style. Romance authors can be hit and miss between characters sexual tension, descriptive settings, and even character development. Krietzer does a great job of bring Rae to life. For example,

*Ian wears asshole like cheap cologne.*

YES. I needed that phrase in my life. I immediately went through all types of cheap cologne and what labels they could have...and what people I knew would be wearing them.

I hope that if Krietzer keeps creating this world, her characters (including secondary/love interest) will take shape, development, and it won't be just one character having some really great lines. It was interesting because I liked Parker's character (as a whole) better than Rae, but it could be because of how Rae viewed him and how he handles situations. He was also a bad boy---and you can never get enough of those. Moving on, Rae had some great lines of how she viewed the other characters, but I would have loved to see it switch viewpoints.

It was a dark, stormy night, and this was a quick refreshing read. I know a ton of my younger or should I say upper young adult readers it would appeal to, and in the end, the book was predictable and the crazy was slightly annoying, and more disturbing than scary.

*Thanks for the ARC NetGalley*

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## **Eleni Mcknight says**

Rae is a little bit damaged, but that was part of why I liked Parker so much: he broke down those walls. A great read!

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