

Amber to Ashes

Gail McHugh

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From the New York Times bestselling author of *Collide* and *Pulse* comes a gritty new novel about a shattered young woman who unexpectedly falls for two best friends as she struggles to overcome the trauma of her tormented childhood.

They were a storm I never saw coming, an unforeseen heartbreak on the edge of a dangerous cliff.

Amber Moretti's life changes in the span of minutes. An orphaned outsider, she is desperate to start fresh the moment she walks onto campus. In the time it takes to cross the university's dining hall, she meets two men who bring color, air, and light to her darkened world.

They became my addiction, each a needle to my next hit, my high.

Brock Cunningham's appeal is dizzying, a potent force Amber can't deny. A green-eyed smooth talker, he instantly attracts Amber. It doesn't take long for him to consume her every thought, her every breath.

Ryder Ashcroft, a blue-eyed, tattooed, and pierced bad boy, turns Amber off immediately—that is, until he kisses her, stealing a piece of her heart, her soul.

They were as opposite as fire and ice, yet I ached for them equally.

Never knowing she could be broken down in so many unexpectedly beautiful yet petrifying ways, Amber finds herself falling for both men.

Immoral? Maybe. I say undeniable. Uncontained.

But one event changes everything, shattering each of their lives...and Amber isn't sure she can come back from it.

Amber to Ashes Details

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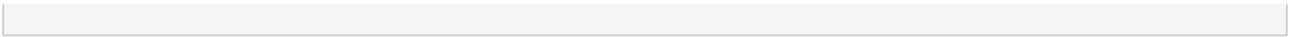
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From Reader Review Amber to Ashes for online ebook

Christy says

4 stars!

“I fell for the two loves of my life when I was nineteen. Yes, two. Plural. More than one. Immoral? Maybe. I say undeniable.”

?*Amber to Ashes* is an angsty love triangle that's emotional, a little on the dark side and beautifully written. Though there were times the writing felt a bit much, and times in the first half that seemed a bit slow, it really picked up in the last half and I ended up enjoying it more than I thought I would. I fell in love with Gail's writing when I read *Collide*. This is very different than her *Collide/Pulse* series. One thing is for certain though- she can write fantastic heroes. At first, I didn't think she could top her popular and wonderful Gavin Blake, but I think I liked Ryder Ashcroft just as much as Mr. Blake.

Amber Moretti is a girl with issues. She's a college freshman who is in need of a fresh start. At the beginning of her new life, she meets Brock and Ryder. Two best friends that are different from one another, but she's equally drawn to. Brock quickly becomes Amber's boyfriend. She does love him, for the first time in her life, she learns what it means to love and be loved by a man. But then there is Ryder. She and Ryder shared an instant connection when they met. There is something about this bad boy with the best heart that gets to Amber. When you see Ryder with his little sister and his mom, you will melt. You won't be able to help yourself. Amber can't deny she has feelings for him as well. Then it happens. One night between the three of them changes everything...

This story was written from the p.o.v. of all three characters. It was nice to get into all their heads and see where they were at. This isn't just a love triangle/romance story. There is also some suspense and a side bit about Brock and Ryder's job and some trouble they get into. The last half gets very exciting with all the action and the intense steamy scenes. I am really nervous that the next book will take a while to come out, but I gotta know what's gonna happen next so of course I will be reading. The first half of the book was a 3-3.5 star read for me, but the last half was closer to a 4.5 with some 5 star moments so I'm rounding to a 4. And for the record, I'm 100% #TeamRyder.

MELISSA *Mel Reader* says

REVIEW TO COME

Beverly says

Amber Moretti is damaged girl, but more importantly she is a survivor. In my opinion, this girl is a rockstar. Her self awareness had me awe, she is the girl I wish I had been in my twenties. She is your typical girl, insecure at times, but she refuses to show weakness to her enemies. She was witty, lovable and honest. She didn't set unrealistic expectations or play games, she was the perfect heroine.

They were a storm I never saw coming, an unforeseen heartbreak on the edge of a dangerous cliff.

Amber first meets Ryder Ashcroft when she trips and falls into his lap, loved this scene. He is egotistical, self-centered and hot as hell. He is the jerk I love to read about and holy smokes, this guy, I am in serious love. Ryder doesn't make an apologies for who he is, but when he meets Amber there is just something about her. He sees his match. He sees past her facade to the damaged girl beneath.

Where Ryder is the jerk, Brock Cunningham is guy next door. He is captain of the football team, wealthy, and an all around great guy. He is charming, engaging and endearing. When Amber meets Brock she is immediately attracted to the security he can provide, he is safe. She trusts that he wants more than one night and wants to finally open her heart up.

What she never planned for, is falling for Ryder and Brock. Two best friends, one girl, and so many outside forces threatening their happily ever after.

I had no clue what this story was about when I started it. I love Gail McHugh so I was "in" regardless. However, holy freaking hell! At first, I was under the impression this was your typical love triangle. It was a little slow in the beginning, but once the story started unfolding I was hooked. I basically read this entire story in one day. As the story began moving I couldn't put it down, I never expected things to play out this way.

The more I got to know the characters, the more I feel in love! Then the plot began to play out and I was in shock. My anxiety was at an all time high and I had no clue what would happen next. There are so many levels to this story, unfortunately I can't go into all of them without revealing spoilers. So I will just say, this story has mystery, suspense, angst, TONS of heart, and is hot as hell. Seriously, so freaking hot!

Lastly, it is beautifully written, I could have highlighted the entire book. Gail tells this unique story with such heart and soul that I was completely enthralled in the story. My heart broke for the characters and I was seriously torn. Let me rephrase, I am **still torn** I have no clue how this story will end, but I am 100% in! I highly recommend this read!

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Cara Arthur says

I just read one of the most spectacularly written, twisted, emotional, and beautifully f*cked up things I've ever read.

Ever.

Of all time.

This book makes Gavin Blake, who you know I love with all my book whore heart and soul, look bland.

Flat. One dimensional.

Yeah, I just said that; it wasn't a mistake.

Read that again.

And did I mention it has THE hottest scene I've EVER read? Ever-ever?

fans self and blushes

Ryder and Brock from Gail Mchugh "Amber To Ashes" are well, what are they not?

They're alpha males. Gorgeous. Sexy. Seductive. Bad boys, yet in so many ways, they're good men.

They're loyal. Bad*ss. And they will do anything, and I mean ANYTHING, to protect those they love.

They're everything and more.

They're the thing I thought impossible. I never thought Gail could outdo Gavin - he was "hook, line, and motherf*cking sinker".

Well, he's been sunk by two dangerously addictive college athletes/entrepreneurs.

I finished about an hour ago and my heart is still in pieces, my brain matching it shattered sliver by sliver.

This book will consume you. Destroy you. Flip you one way and then twist you right back around. You'll swoon, swear, and sigh, not to mention bawl, bellow, and blast the author for being so ridiculously brilliant that you'll never be the same.

Amber To Ashes is a MUST READ OF EPIC PROPORTIONS.

Bibi says

Kill me now. Please?

DNF at 65%. I'm sorry, but I couldn't read further; my brain has revolted.

AJ says

2.5 'Dark and dirty but overly poetic and it's all too much' stars

This is a deeply emotional, highly angsty story with extremely dark undertones featuring a love triangle between three broken characters. Dark and gritty, just the way I like them!!!

However, I really struggled with this book. It was my first book by Gail McHugh, and I went in with no expectations, and no idea about the author's writing style, and I strongly think this is a case of 'it's not you, it's me'. Sometimes you just don't click with an author's writing, and that's what happened to me with this one. But more about that later, first, about the story.

Amber is starting her Freshman year at College. She has lived a very hard life and is still tormented by the events of her past. She is broken, pretty much alone and uses sex to numb the pain that constantly weighs her down, putting up walls to keep people from getting too close. But everything changes for her when on her first day of College she meets two boys that will alter her life – arrogant bad boy, Ryder, and rich and gorgeous campus god, Brock.

Ryder immediately puts her offside with his presumptuous, dick-ish behaviour, although when he kisses her (against her will), the sparks between them are unlike anything she's ever experienced before – even though she is turned off by his smug, overly sexual arrogance.

"What's happening between us is sexual tension at its finest. It's good – healthier than a cold glass of milk. Just go with it."

It is Ryder's best friend Brock that comes to her rescue, checking to make sure that she is ok, and then making it very clear that he is interested in her. He has his own demons that he is dealing with and she finds herself drawn to him and amidst much teasing, flirting and innuendo, things between them develop quickly.

"You're gonna be mine, do you hear me? No matter what I have to do, I want you to be my girl." He kisses my nose, cheeks, and forehead. "I won't take no for answer, and whether or not you want me to, I'm gonna find your pieces so I can put you back together."

It's hot and heavy from the very beginning, and the sex scenes are off the charts steamy and dirty. But there is genuine emotion between them, and their romance is really beautiful.

"If you wind up falling in love with me." A grin softens his face as he dusts his lips against mine. "Let me correct that. When you fall in love with me."

"When'?" My question comes out breathlessly, my eyes nearly fluttering closed as he continues, brushing his lips along my jaw.

"Yeah, when," he murmurs, curling his fingers into my hair. "Because even though you think you won't, you will. I'll make it impossible for you not to, but I have a feeling you're gonna do the same fucking thing to me. So we'll be even. Good?"

But Ryder is still a part of the picture. He and Amber run into each other frequently, and the more time they spend together, the more she gets to see a different side to him – one that is sweet, funny, and gentle. And he

slowly lets her into his world where he, too, is dealing with issues that impact his life in a big way.

The story is told primarily in Amber's POV, but there are chapters from both of the boys so we get to watch the deepening drama from each of their perspectives as the love triangle develops. More than just lust and physical attraction, this is a triangle that is intense and passionate, a connection that none of them are able to deny.

The tension builds until the love triangle reaches crisis point when the three of them share one passionately intense night together (holy hotness!), and the connection between them is explored in a way that it never has been before. Walls come down, inhibitions are stripped away and when emotion is revealed in a way it has never been before, it becomes a turning point, with nobody able to hold back their true feelings anymore.

And this is where things get REALLY angsty. The emotional bond between Amber and the two boys is intense and deep. She truly loves them both, and I can honestly say that I understand that. She has an amazing relationship with both of them, and they both represent something incredibly special. And with both boys fighting for the girl they love, I could absolutely empathise with Amber's torment over the situation as she is torn between two men that she loves passionately and equally.

Here I am, my heart bleeding out for two different men, the organ split down the middle between who it truly belongs to and who it truly loves and needs in order to produce another beat.

Love triangles seem to divide readers – there are those who love them and those who hate them. I'm not a huge fan of them when people are behaving stupidly, but I think this one was really well done. For those curious about whether there is cheating - Well, it's a bit of a grey area and it depends on your definition of the word. (view spoiler).

Running alongside the romantic drama is a darker, seedier storyline. Both Brock and Ryder are involved in shady behaviour – both for their own reasons. Up until now they have been able to make it work for them, but things are about to blow up completely out of control and that particular plotline has some shocking twists that plunge everybody even deeper into their emotional torment, with possibly devastating consequences.

It's a really good set up, with a great build up, and the different elements of the story are tied together well. But it was the writing that I struggled with. It was just too flowery and poetic with an excessive use of metaphors. For example...

Regret: the universe's way of keeping each of us a slave to its brutality. Holding our hand in its poisonous grip, regret's toxicity is the last visitor remaining by our side as we lie on our deathbeds.

And this...

This beautiful, selfless, caring man's exposing his opened wounds to me, setting his vulnerabilities on the operating table of my heart for me to repair.

And this...

My heart trips, skids, and crashes into a brick wall spray-painted with his and Brock's anguish, my mental state bruised from the collision.

Over and over and over again! A lot of it made me roll my eyes, other parts I zoned out and had to reread to figure out what the author was trying to say, and other times I just had to say WTF?

...his teeth being perfectly white, their ghostly shimmer as straight as a stick figure's dick...

Seriously? WTF is that?

So as interesting as the story was, I really struggled with this book. I did consider DNFing but I was intrigued, and based on an ominous statement in the prologue (view spoiler) I wanted to know was going to happen and how it was all going to play out. But then, just to further annoy me, there is no resolution in this book. The book ends on a nasty cliffhanger, with the love triangle resolution imminent but ultimately left hanging as all hell breaks loose. And as curious as I am to find out what happens, I'm not sure whether it will be enough to make me want to read the next book. I might just look for spoilers.

I can certainly appreciate the appeal of this book, and I think a lot of readers are going to love it. Sadly, it just wasn't for me.

2.5 stars. It was just ok.

Advanced Reader Copy generously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Bethany says

Holy shit. I mean holy shit... A MILLION PLUS stars!!!!

I don't even know how to express how utterly stunning and unique this book is. Gail McHugh has just literally rendered me speechless, multiple times. This book will have you hooked from the first page until the very last, BEGGING For more. I know I am, I'm thinking about bribery to see if I can't get my hands on an early copy of Book Two. GAH! I need it right now.

"I fell for the two loves of my life when I was nineteen. Yes, two. Plural. More than one. Immoral? Maybe. I say undeniable."

I have to say that this book has given me the ultimate book hangover. SO much so that I haven't been able to read anything in almost 2 weeks. I tried, but all I could think about was the outcome to this story. The absolute conviction of love that Ryder and Brock have for Amber is just bewildering. I have to say that I have loved and hated all three of these characters at some point in the story. I'm definitely team Ryder though. Brock had his moments for me, but in the end I had to go with the pure chemistry between Amber

and Ryder.

“Just like faith, love is another misconception held by those who believe in fairy tales. Fairy Tales don't exist; neither do knights on white horses. In my honest opinion every book princess in history was a stupid, naive twit.”

The characters that Gail McHugh has developed are beautifully damaged, undeniably tainted and have haunted my waking thoughts for the past weeks. The desperation, want, need, angst, lust, and agony create moments that you'll never forget. This story is purely magic, dark magic. I've never read a book quite like this and unless it's the upcoming novel(s) to this – I probably never will. Amber to ashes enchants you like no other, with dark undertones and animalistic sexual desire.

I need you a hundred times more than I need my next breath, a thousand times more than I need my next heartbeat, and a million times more than I need to wake up to the sun hanging in the sky.”

There are so many things that I want to tell you about this novel, but I can't bring myself to tell you because this story is too epic to even tell you a little! All I have to say is Gail McHugh is a GENIOUS. I've undoubtedly become a true fangirl. I can't tell you how much I am anticipating her next release. I. Must. Own. Them. ALL. Also, YOU MUST TOO!! Hands down this is THE book to read this year. Oh, and next year too. Let's just say this is THE book to read foreveerrrrrrrrrr! Or should I say Series.....

So I'm gonna go crawl in a hole now until Gail McHugh's next release. See that rock over there? Yes. Over there. I'll be under it, so send some blankets, pillows, and food... and if you can make it happen – send over Gail, so I can hug her for such an incredible, impressionable, hauntingly beautiful, expressive read.

MyBookWorld says

I literally have no words? No words. I'm speechless. It's best for everyone if I DONT rant about this because if I do I won't stop!

All I know is this was wayyyyyyy too wordy. The dialogue was unrealistic beyond belief. Brock and Ryder yes I did like them but other than them being sexy there was no great appeal! They are so arrogant beyond belief and no it was not sexy!

And Amber why anyone would fight over her is beyond belief. I did NOT like her one bit. Sorry. No.

So disappointed because I loveddddd Pulse and Collide so so so so much.

I think the dark side to the guys, Brock especially is probably the only exciting thing about this book. And some of the sex was hot I can't lie. But I just didn't get why they were super obsessed with Amber. Ugh super annoyed with this book doesn't describe how I feel.

I literally don't get where all these 5 star ratings are coming from!!!! I never give bad reviews on books as well. I can always find a positive but with this I truly can't.

I guess I did rant lol.

Beatrix says

1.5 stars

The sad thing is – I was actually really excited to start this. Reviews promised poetic writing, different take on the love triangle theme, but instead all I got was the same old NA crap.

What particularly bothered me are the characters, they were caricatures, not resembling real people at all. I mean, come on, no one talks or behaves that way in real life. It was ridiculous!

This is what Ryder says of Amber: *I'd **rather die** than fuck up this girl, this **unique gem***. It's comic really.

I did like that threesome scene and that's why this gets half a star more. LOL

I love romance as much as the next person, but I want it to be at least somewhat realistic you know. If you're into 20-years olds acting all angsty, having the biggest life problems the author could think of, but having sexual experience of 30-year olds, then you might like this book.

For me, in two words, it was **entirely unmemorable!**

Angie - Angie's Dreamy Reads says

What can I say?!

What the hell can I freaking say that will do this book justice?!

Nothing. There's nothing. Amber to Ashes is an *experience*. It's deeply emotional, turbulent, and will throw you in the trenches, toss you around, and spit you back out. The characters are broken, shattered, all searching for something to heal them and somehow through the fire that is life they find each other.

It's magical.

It's intense.

It's steamy.

It's riveting.

It's all consuming.

It's pure brilliant bookish madness.

Gail McHugh can write. Her words are poetry, an emotional song written from the soul. You feel her lines. I swear, I read her words and I can sense them as they seep under my skin and scream at me. She's got a talent that astounds me. I can never get enough. I want to read her everyday, all day. I just love it. I love the flow,

the flowery almost melodic pace of her sentences. It's pure word porn, IMO.

This story...

God. God. God.

It's going to gut you open.

It's going to turn you on.

It going to make you cry.

It will have you mad as hell.

It will make you smile and swoon.

The **EMOTION** is off the charts. The feels almost seem tangible, as if you can literally reach out and touch the anger, the hurt, and the sizzle.

It's explosive.

Amber is a broken woman. She's not easy to love, but I think every girl can relate to her in some way. We all have struggles, some tougher than others and we all use something as a crutch to get us through. For Amber, it's sex. For me, it's food. We **ALL** have something. And God, even if you can't find a similarity through her pain, she manages to weasels her way through your veins anyway. I just LOVE her.

Brock and Ryder are both such different characters. I want to get into all that, but I'm afraid I'll spoil it. I'll tell you I have a favorite and when I think of him my heart just pumps with pure adrenaline. He's dreamy, flawed, but a gentle soul. Both boys are equally sexy. They're alpha, and all the things we love about our men. They're nothing like Gavin Blake. So ready yourself for something completely different yet unbelievably magnificent.

The story is dark. It's twisty. It will have you on the edge of your seat. It's gonna take ahold of your heart and squeeze the living fuck out of it.

You'll fall in love.

You'll fall deep.

And you'll be left DYING for more.

It is a cliffy, but **don't** let that scare you! You'll be okay! This author is guaranteed to make you whole at the end of this journey. Just dive in, soak in the tsunami of feels that are headed your way. Because **OH MY GOD** are you going to explode with lust, love, pain and swoon!

I have two words to describe this novel: **AN EXPERIENCE.**

And isn't that why we read?!

Those are the type of books we feel to the bone and remain unforgettable.

Amber to Ashes is an **UNFORGETTABLE** ride.

Es Summer says

The thing in this book that bothered me the least was the bloody love triangle.
Now you're wondering, what could have possibly gone wrong.. Let me tell you.

The book opens with a mean main narrator, Amber.
On the second page of this novel she meets Ryder.
She *immediately* starts to gush about his appearance and how attractive he is, how blue his eyes are, etc. etc.
Maybe I'm in the minority of this, but I don't care if a guy has a six-pack or an eight-pack.
I just don't.
I am not interested in reading pages about his deadly smirk or flexible abs.
I want to get to know them personally and I can fill in the blanks myself. That's called imagination.

So the main narrator and Ryder immediately fall in lust.. er love and I'm wondering if I'm supposed to still care for this story.

To make matters worst: a few pages later - we're not even 5 % into this book - when she meets his best friend, Brock, and then she starts to gush about his handsomeness as well!

What we get after that is a messy love-triangle that doesn't even make sense.
Amber falls in love with these guys and they love her back, so much!
And now you're maybe wondering what's wrong with that.
Let me explain with some quotes.

"I hope that I become everything you need in your life."

This sappy quote is from Brock and it could have been romantic if it wasn't the second time she meets the guy!

THE SECOND TIME!

"I may not be in her every waking thought the way she is in mine, but right now, Amber's giving me something greater than that. She's allowing me to enter her empty heart." HAHA!

This 'heartbreaking' quote is from the 'bad boy' Ryder the third time they meet each other.

THE THIRD TIME!

I mean, this isn't even romantic anymore. This is creepy.
If a guy whom I barely know, tells me that I'm in his every waking thought, I'd run for the hills.

So obviously Amber falls in love with the hot looks of both of these guys and you have the most ridiculous love-triangle I've ever read.

I have nothing against love-triangles, personally. One of my favorite books was *Thoughtless* by S.C. Stephens.

The relationship between the main narrator and the guy she cheats with was built up very slowly and realistically.

I understood her, even though I didn't agree with everything she did.

Amber to Ashes is all about Amber falling in lust with two guys and she can't chose between them while barely knowing them.

Some other issue I had with this book was the writing style.

I love, love, love poetry. I love the way you can play with words and create magic with it.

But the way this book was written was just all over the place. Too descriptive.
An example:

"Regret: the universe's way of keeping each of us a slave to its brutality. Holding our hand in its poisonous grip, regret's toxicity is the last visitor remaining by our side as we lie on our deathbeds."

Seriously?!

I never connected with the main characters. Amber was mean. Constantly lashing out at people and expecting them to be okay with that. On top of that, she is a racist, she has prejudices about people she doesn't know and of course she doesn't see her own mistakes.

There happened something in this book that made me almost DNF it.

Something I have zero tolerance for is racism.

Then this happened:

Amber takes a cab and out of bloody nowhere she starts to hate on this driver. This is exactly what she says after she gives him the address:

"No questions asked, Bin Laden's ghostly doppelganger takes off, the vehicle slipping in and out of traffic like a centipede as we head toward Ryder's. I have to hand it to the Middle Eastern men. They might scare me a bit, but they sure as hell know how to navigate the busy streets of Baltimore."

This is what happens when he says to her that the drive is fifty and not twenty dollars.

"And to think I was gonna slip the undercover terrorist an extra twenty for his speediness. Shame on me."

Am I supposed to care for this girl?

There are so many things wrong with this part in the book, that I can't even begin to sum them up.

She hasn't spoken one word with this cab driver, but still, she presumes he is a Middle Eastern guy and for that reason alone a terrorist.

Does she know the guy personally? Did he give her any indication that he is a danger to her?

Do all the Middle Eastern guys look alike?

At this point in the story I was totally done with it and the ending didn't surprise me.

Of course, there is a sequel and I'm not enough of a masochist to ever read that.

Jennifer Kyle says

3.5 Stars

"I fell for the two loves of my life when I was nineteen. Yes, two. Plural. More than one. Immoral? Maybe. I say undeniable."

I just love a good angsty love triangle the juicier the better, so I was super excited that Gail McHugh gave me the opportunity to read this story early. This story is centered around Amber Moretti a college student (the hottest thing any guy has laid eyes on) who struggles with PTSD the remnants of a tragic event in her past involving her birth parents. She meets on the same day two of the hottest guys on campus, Ryder Ashcroft and Brock Cunningham.

Ryder and Brock are best friends, teammates and shady business partners. They both make very strong first impressions but it's Brock who seals the deal and becomes Amber's first boyfriend. Make no mistake Amber isn't an innocent virgin but this is her first time caring for someone outside of sex.

"I won't take no for an answer, and whether or not you want me to, I'm gonna find your pieces so I can put you back together."

The story is written in mostly Amber's pov but we are gifted with both Ryder and Brock's pov along the way which I appreciated. Ryder and Amber's attraction is noticeable and electric however Brock is just as irresistible and so as the story progresses as does Amber's confusion.

"Fuck. It should've been me. Not him. Me."

The added excitement to the story is Brock and Ryder's business taking a few deadly turns. I found both male characters feelings, thoughts and **A LOT** of dialogue eye rolling at times and the writing just way too **WORDY and SLOW** going until you reach the 65 percent. The sex scenes were hot especially that m/f/m scene although the end result was inevitable.

"My feelings for Amber, her feelings for me, Brock wanting to share her: it's all a dangerous shit storm of emotions brewing, waiting to demolish us all."

Truth be told I liked both guys and am somewhat confused as to their enormous obsession with Amber who isn't especially lovable. Their continuous over the top proclamations got pretty tiresome.

"I'd rather die than fuck up this girl, this unique gem."

"Still, as she kisses me, her feverish little tugs on my hair, urgent strokes, and hips bucking against mine like crazed nympho says all this cat needs to know."

"I can live without the sun, but I can't exist without you."

Overall, I found this story very wordy, the love triangle interesting and the shady business exciting. I liked the added touches of each characters' family and past and do think the next book could be a very interesting read! As to who I would pick if I had to make such a difficult choice. I would go with Ryder personally. Please note that this book does end with a cliffhanger as well. Looking forward to seeing where Gail McHugh brings this trio in book two.

"I...Brock...God, Brock, I...love Ryder just as much as he does me, if not...more. But I don't love him any more or less than I do you. I don'tthink, at least."

ARC provided by Gail McHugh in exchange for an honest review

Angela says

4.5 stars.

What the F did I just read??? No, seriously. What the F did I just read?!

Gonna say right here and now if you don't like love triangles don't go near this book... don't even touch it with a ten foot pole. Because *Amber to Ashes* is the love triangle of all love triangle books! A2A is like *Beautiful Disaster* meets... Ugh what's that weird movie with Aaron Johnson in it??? (*insert me looking for it on IMDB here*)... Oh yeah *Savages* meets *Clipped Wings*. This had my mind and feels all over the place.

A2A is told from 3 POVS. First being Amber's the "sassy spit-fire" whose managed to steal both out leads hearts. How she did it exactly is beyond me. She was a leading lady that took me most the book too warm up to. She manages to be both like-able and hate-able all at the same time. Then there Ryder Ashcroft. Ryder Ashcroft... seriously even his name sounds like sex. He's the dark-mysterious-cocky-a hole-with a deep core. So clearly he is the one I'm gonna fall for right away?! Last we have Brock... Sadly every time I hear the name Brock all I can think of is the guy from *She's All That* who does that random dance scenes...

Yeah that guy. So that caused a few minor issues. Brock is the preppy boy-with the good guy persona-that makes all the girl's panties drop. Not mine but apparently the rest of the female race. Both men are complete opposites. One gets to love Amber while the other has to swoon over her. Brock reminded me so much of Maddox from *Beautiful Disaster* (I hated Mad Dog Maddox), and Ryder reminded me of a "rough" version of Hayden from *Clipped Wings* (Hayden <333). With all that being said there was still something about all three characters that I felt were lacking in the personality department. Why everyone was falling all over them is a little beyond me. Guess there was just something I was always waiting too get out of them that I sadly never did. Can't exactly point out what though.

As far as A2A's plot goes it's stray cray. Starts off having you thinking it's gonna be all rainbows, melted knees, and sunshine, then **WHAM!** takes a turn into "WTF" territory (because again it's crazy)... Then goes further off roading into "what is happening", drives right off a cliff and into an ocean of bizzaro, and finishes off with something you know is coming. Not kidding when I say that either. This story heads right where you think it's going to. I think my biggest "issue" with A2A is that it's a book that has EVERYTHING... Which lead me to wonder how much is too much? Then again Gail kind of makes it work. Don't get me wrong this is a cluster of a book mess but pulls ahead with something so addictive. Though some of the terms used to describe some "intimate" moments could be a little out there, the plot still managed to sink its claws into me.

I was hooked just a few pages in and had to know what was going to happen next. I spent most the book asking shouting...

I was in one of the worst reading slumps I've ever been in, but A2A brought me out of it. Sometimes I think all you can do to get yourself out of the depth of a slump so deep is to read something so ridiculous, so smutty, so out there that it pushes you back into reading... A2A is that kind of book. This isn't going to be a book that for everyone, heck it might not even be for 90% of people. And yeah it a book I would normally hate but for some out there reason just did it for me.

READ THIS REVIEW AND OTHERS OVER ON OUR BLOG:

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Michelle says

ARC provided by author/publisher in exchange for an honest review

Gail McHugh is one of those rare authors who can immediately spellbind you with her literary writing and story-telling. And Amber to Ashes is one of those books that grips you. It is the kind of story that guts you, compels you, and has you feeling torn. In all honesty, this book is one of those can shatter your heart to pieces but leaves you wanting more.

If you are not a fan of love triangles and cheating, then this book is not for you. But if you can overlook that and take a chance on this story, then this is one of those reads whose story line has tons of raw emotions, heart, mystery and suspense. I really went into reading this book not knowing what to expect but knew that I had to read Amber to Ashes because it was written by Gail McHugh.

In all honesty, Amber to Ashes is a book that cannot be reviewed or summed up. It is one of those reads that you have to experience because this story is so much more than a love triangle. It is about exposing the real nature of LOVE and how complicated it is to define. LOVE is about knowing and feeling from the depths of your soul, that you need that person in order to breathe, survive, and depend on. But what happens when your heart is torn and you fall in love with two men, who happens to be best friends? So is it true when they say love can be selfish?

So yes after reading this book, I am utterly torn between the two men that is after Amber's heart and love. I know that there are TEAM BROCK and TEAM RYDER but in all honesty whatever Amber's decision may be, a big part of me will be sad. Sad for the one man who wasn't enough to have all of her heart.

Once again, Ms. McHugh knows how to play with those heart strings. If you have read her previous books, then you know she has perfected in tugging those emotional heartstrings. Amber to Ashes was a well-written book that had emotions seeping out from every chapter and had me highlighting like crazy with all these beautiful and heartwarming quotes I found throughout the book. So if you are looking for a book that will utterly leave you feeling raw, vulnerable and exposed while tugging those emotional heartstrings, then I would recommend you to read Amber to Ashes.

Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly...>Gail McHugh

D.D. Lorenzo says

*** I DIDN'T LIKE IT***

Gail McHugh is evil. She did not write "Amber to Ashes" with the mindset that you would simply read it. Oh no! From the moment you sink your teeth into the first chapter you're slowly lowered into the concoction Ms. McHugh is prepared for your mind. You are fully immersed into the lives of her characters, Amber, Brock, and Ryder. You soak in their emotions, marinate in the rawness of their circumstances, and drown in their pain. No, I didn't like the book ~ I LOVED it!! This is not just a story, it's an experience, and I honestly believe it's Ms. McHugh's best work to date!!!♥?

D.D. Lorenzo, Author

The "Depth of Emotion" Series
