



The Final Piece

Maggi Myers

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Life shouldn't be about picking up the pieces. Beth Bradshaw has spent her life hiding from her tragic past. From the moment a trusted family friend steals her innocence until the moment another rescues her, she struggles to just survive. Surrounded by the comfort and protection of her extended family, Beth embarks on a journey of healing far from the horrors of her home. In her darkest moments, she meets a boy named Ryan. For one incredible summer, Ryan shows Beth what it's like to act her own age. To feel free and let go. If only for a while. Years later, another tragedy threatens to shatter the life Beth has carefully crafted. When faced, yet again, with more pieces to pick up, Beth begins to question what her choices have cost her. Leaving her old life behind, she sets forth on a pilgrimage that will bring her back to the boy she could never forget. He wants to help her pick up the pieces of her life, but is she willing to do what it takes to become whole again? Can she trust him with a piece of herself?

The Final Piece Details

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From Reader Review The Final Piece for online ebook

Akanksha♥ Søren? says

I am so confused what to rate the book, a 2 or a 4!

Hmm.. So I kept seeing a lot of this book on my homepage here on GR first in the dirty old cover, which I never picked up, Now it came out in the new cover and I totally grabbed it..

Yes, I do judge covers by their books :P Btw..

This story is about a child facing sexual abuse for years.. lucky for us, the author hasn't gone into vast details of it.. just a chapter or two about it, thus you can totally cope and read.

So after the abuse part is over in lik 2-3 chapters, All we see in this book is how Beth and Ryan mop over each other, ~~two children who fall in love one summer~~ How in the span of **10 fucking years** they don't meet each other, they love each other but they don't meet.. they try dating others but it just never works **WHY?**

Because they love each other

SO BITCHES..... ACT THE FUCK ON IT, RIGHT?!

Agrh, so frustrating.. the whole book appart from the first 5 chapters and the last 2-3 chapters were them moping over each other, trying other relationships and those failing!!

This book didn't feel like an abuse book, it felt like a weird sappy romantic love lost kinda book!!!

I am pissed. I mean, yes the author had to show something appart from the abuse and the saving and blah blah blah, but the place where she took the book in the middle was nice and yet irritating.

I loved this book, yet at the same time I didn't... I was mainly irritated at Beth and Ryan I think. I loveeddddddd Beth's savior, her uncle and aunt and grandparents! They were like super duper amazing.

I'm confused if I liked the story or not, I mean somethings were super duper pissing off... but something were all OMG :') types..

Yackie says

It's really a shame cause I thought this had all the elements for a good story. But it was really lacking. I had some issues with this book.

SPOILERS

I had a hard time believing the emotional connection between Ryan and Beth. We're told they've known each other all their lives but we're only shown two summers. Even in their last summer together, I didn't feel the connection between them. It's hard to believe they pine for each other for 10 years, but they don't see or

speak to each other in all that time and a strong relationship was never established beforehand. I wish their relationship would've been more developed in the beginning. There are some flashbacks of them in the second half of the book but it's too little, too late.

Actually none of the relationships in the book are really developed.

There were some inconsistencies or stuff that didn't really make sense. At the beginning, Beth mentions a cousin that was with her by the lake one summer. The only uncle mentioned doesn't have any kids. So where did this cousin come from? And she's never mentioned again.

I didn't think the graphic scenes of the child abuse were really necessary. A fade to black would have gotten the point across just fine. A little less of the graphic, disgusting scenes and a little more character/relationship development would've been nice.

The way the child abuser got away with everything made no sense to me. He molested and raped a young girl for 8 years but he's not going to jail because they don't want him to press charges against Tommy? First off, once he's been arrested, it's not up to the family to not press charges. It's up to the DA. And they won't let a pedophile off just like that. A plea deal I understand. Getting off without jail time, I don't. Tommy would not have been okay to be the reason why that sicko got off. The DA would've had a hard time convicting someone that was defending a young girl from a pedophile, I doubt they'd press charges against Tommy. The whole thing was just swept under the rug too easily for me to believe.

Overall, I didn't think the writing was bad. It just needed more.

Lisa says

4.5 Stars

I interviewed Maggi Myers awhile back and she told me her favorite quote in the book was simply "Pretty". At the time I didn't know where she was going with that and why that simple word would mean so much but now I do. The Final Piece was a terrific story about trauma, love, forgiveness, loss and strength. This book tackled the impact of molestation and, truthfully, I wasn't expecting that level of hurt and pain in this book but Myers did it with taste. The character development was exceptional and storytelling ability captivating.

Beth feels like everything she had to give someone was taken from her. A person has so many firsts: a kiss, a touch, etc. What happens when you don't get to choose who gets to experience those with you? Beth feels a lack of control and will do anything to get it back. She guards her heart with everything she has and when she finally finds someone worthy of taking it, she can't be with him. She may feel like every piece of her is gone but the one thing she hasn't given away. Her heart is hers and hers alone and she has complete control over it.

"I follow him blindly. I'd follow him anywhere." – Beth

In the beginning of the book, we get to know a younger Ryan who likes to torment Beth but don't all teenagers do that when they like a girl? I liked some of the sweet gestures like the concert tickets and how he could use a little humor to make Beth open up and feel a little more normal. Ryan grows to be a caring, determined and smart man and I think he was everything that Beth needed. He is Beth's everything and Beth

is his always. He could say so much with the one word: pretty.

“It’s all I have dreamt about for years. But I also remember how good it felt to have your trust. We were kids, but it was special, Beth. You were always special.” – Ryan

While Beth’s hurts outweigh Ryan’s, they both had lonely, painful childhoods and it seems to bond them. They both are looking for the something that is missing in their lives, the space that Tommy couldn’t fill but rather the space only true love can. This story grabbed my heart because of the number of years Ryan and Beth knew each other, the number of years they spent apart and what they had to endure to come back together. They stole each others hearts with a kiss ten years before and no matter how hard they tried, they could not get past their feelings for each other. I think it is easy to replace a first love when that first love falls apart but it is painful when the heart has no choice but to move on. These two had a love that withstood miles and years. They needed each other, their final piece.

“We are all broken in one way or another. It’s how we put those pieces back together that matters.” – Beth’s Mom

I loved Maggi Myers’ writing style and the way she covered so many years without making the book unnecessarily long. She included little flashbacks that helped me understand the characters and their past; she also tackled a very touchy subject with class and honesty. It was painful to read and I felt the emotions of a little girl who no one would listen to. A little girl who felt alone in her own home and longed for attention and love. Beth was a smart, beautiful girl who deserved all the goodness the world could give her.

I highly recommend this to anyone who likes emotional, yet sweet love stories. I promise the characters will capture your heart!

Lise *friends don't flag* says

4.5 Beautifully Broken Hearts

This book broke all of the pieces of my heart and put them back together again with a beautifully written story of a young women’s journey through the depths of the worst child abuse and then the ten years after the abuse occurred when she was healing, feeling and loving for real, for the first time.

“We are all broken in one way or another. It’s how we put those pieces back together that matters.”

And... Beth was able to put the pieces back together with the love and support of some incredible people including her one true love, Ryan.

"Together forever, never apart. Maybe in distance but never in heart"

The author, Maggi Meyers created some of the most amazing characters. I completely connected with them and became so attached to Beth, Tommy, Ryan and Charlie; they definitely stole a piece of my heart and I wish I had more of them to read.

So many of the scenes: painful or beautiful were written so well that I wept with sickening anger and then with smiling joy.

I am so impressed with this first novel and encourage Maggi to keep on writing girl, you got to me and made me feel some intense emotions!

This is how I see the adult Ryan and Beth:

"Until you can share all of the pieces of your past with someone, you can't possibly know what it means to love the way you say you love Ryan."

"Pretty," his breath dances across my ear and it takes a concerted effort not to swoon. I am a goner."

Celesha Carillo says

2.5

"Where only a fool would build a house in shifting sand, the same goes for those who would build their lives on a lie~eventually, it is going to crumble"

"Illusions can be very convincing. No one has any reason to suspect that I am anything less than what I appear. I don't fit the typical victim profile."

I actually don't know where to start with this book, because I don't like writing negative reviews but this book really disappointed me there was just too many missing pieces to the story.

The first few chapters were brilliant how she portrayed Beth's life through her eyes was just heartbreaking no little girl should have to go through what she did. You felt part of the story at that point, and when we meet Tommy it's instant love (he was the only character I connected with) After Tommy became her superman it went down hill from there in my eyes, don't get me wrong when she first went to the lake house it was like a breath of fresh air for Beth even though she had just been through some of the worst things in her life, she still tried to stay strong, at the time she was only 14, The lake house was meant to be her tranquillity but we didn't get a chance to experience any of that with her, she had like a mini flash back right at the beginning about things she did there,

but we never saw any of that apart from when it was her birthday. These should of been the times were we saw a happier side to Beth a carefree Beth this should of been the time were we connected to her emotionally but we wasn't given that.

There was just too many missing chunks to create an amazing story.

I felt we should of saw Beth spend more time with her therapist, so we could understand that damaged little girl so then we could understand choices she would of made in her adult life. This part of the story should of been when we connected with her emotionally in the sense of what she had to suffer only a year ago, but the author didn't give us chance to do that either, it's like she gave you a little but kept the big things away.

Then we have Ryan now this could of been a beautiful summer's love, but the author didn't give us chance to see that either, she didn't develop their romance at all, he said a few things to her about trust then kissed her then it was like they were instantly in love but it felt like we had missed a big chunk of the build up to that love. The way it's described in the blurb is that Ryan gives her a summer to remember like shows her how to have fun, but we didn't see any of that. Just a few here and there but nothing to say they should have this crazy love, he didn't save her. If that's what the author was trying to portray then it didn't work, there was just too many missing pieces. I think one thing that really annoyed me was this "Pretty" I'm not even going to waste my time explaining that, but I swear it really pissed me off.

Then after all that she suddenly has to go back home. Now again the author didn't give you that chance to connect with her parents it's really hard to explain but there was just no description, we never saw the parents sit down with Beth discussing her issues you never saw any emotionally encounters with Beth like you would of thought because what she had been through, (I swear I don't know the father's name lol) it just jumps to much one minute she was 14 next minute she was 17 and had this amazing best friend who we never knew nothing about, then all of a sudden they were dating. Which you never got to see any of that, The only thing you got was just him saying sorry for how they broke up, which you didn't see any of that either. it was really frustrating because these little things are what helps you connect with the characters.

At this point it was switching POV which I thought okay maybe it will start picking up. Errmm no it so didn't, it was exactly the same. Ryan meets a girl she becomes his best friend they become lovers they break up that's it, but you didn't even get to see them break up or even be lovers, he just ends up back at the lake house, again the author didn't give you that chance to connect to Ryan in his adult years which I thought it was really important, Again so many missing pieces. It always felt like you was missing a massive chunk of their lives.

Now we have Tommy now here is a character I did connect with I loved him sooooo much every women and girl actually every human needs a man like him in their life. He was an amazing guy especially to Beth she really was his baby girl his Nick name for her, every time he said it was so endearing. But again that was

only at the beginning and when Beth was having her flash backs, but the author took him away in the sense you didn't know anything about his life, then bam something happens and its like nooo that so shouldn't of happened I'm not going to lie at that point I did cry, but It was because I loved him so much!

"Together forever, never apart. Maybe in distance but never in heart." (Tommy)

"Rule number one in adapting, Control the situation at hand before it has a chance to control you."

So ten years past without Ryan or Beth's crosses paths (bullshit) because from when someone is pineing for someone the way they were you would of thought they would of found a way back to each other, but they never did in all them ten years.

So they finally come back together and I swear I don't know if the author did this to make the story longer, or to give a bit of suspense but I swear to God the argument they have at the end was just pathetic I don't think I've ever read something so stupid to be honest, I don't think that should of been in the story it really was pointless! Another thing which I didn't like about the ten year thing was when they were brought back together, it felt like Beth was still 14 and Ryan 16, but I think this was because we didn't get to connect with them in their adult years! So in my mind they were still young kids.

This is way description is so important in a story like this because of how it jumps from years to years.

Another thing that bothered me was the fact Drew was never mentioned again in the book, like once he was caught by Tommy he just disappeared, I'm sorry but Beth was being sexually abused from the age of 5 to 13, and we didn't get to see any justice I'm sorry but that I was very disappointed with.

I think the author is an brilliant writer this book could of been amazing and I really mean that because the first few chapters had a lot going for them, but I felt like she just lost her way. I'm not sure if I would recommend this book to be honest.

"After a while you learn that even sunshine burns if you get too much, so you can decorate your own soul and plant your own garden instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers."

Leslie says

One of the most remarkable books I've ever read. The circumstances of this story are difficult and tragic at best, but Ms. Meyers draws a gentle, yet beautiful picture - one that will make you wish you had stashed the Kleenex a little closer.

The Final Piece is not for the faint of heart. It deals with some extremely tragic events of abuse in a young girl's life and quite frankly, some parts are terribly ugly. Life unfortunately hands us "ugly" at times, but it's how we choose to deal with those pieces that gets us through our once shattered lives. Beth, the main character, picks up the shard remains of her past and evaluates them; eventually realizing that the final piece of her salvation is closer than she thinks.

The characters that stick by her without condition are some of the loveliest "pieces" a reader will ever encounter and that's exactly what a very fragile Beth needs. They embrace all her brokenness to hopefully reveal the obviously exquisite person that is still hiding within her. The rich and undeniable romance between Beth and Ryan is simply a once in a lifetime kind of love, and will make the reader delight in their sometimes rocky journey together.

I honestly don't often cry in books. I actually held it together until the very end, when my heart had finally met its breaking point. When a book can reach that level of emotion in me, it earns its place in my five star ranking - and this one certainly made the mark. Ms. Meyers wrote a book in a most profound way. Her gentleness in handling such unfortunate events in a child's life was sweet brilliance.

I sincerely loved this book.

Aestas Book Blog says

“We are all broken in one way or another. Its how we put those pieces back together that matters.”

“Together forever, never apart. Maybe in distance but never in heart.”

4.5 stars! I loved this book!

It was a captivating, emotional story of a girl healing from shattered trust and childhood abuse, rediscovering her self worth, falling in love, putting back together the pieces of her life and of the boy who helped her find that final piece and brought love, trust and safety back to her life.

I felt for Beth, I loved Ryan, I was drawn into the story, and I couldn't put it down until I finished reading it at 4:30 AM.

This book doesn't ease you in – right from the first chapter you are faced with the sexual abuse endured by Beth as a 10 year old child and honestly I wasn't sure at first if I could handle the book. I mean, she was TEN. years. old!

The story quickly progresses forward 4 years and she is still in the same situation. But worse now, when she finally musters the courage to tell her drug- addicted mother, she is not believed. Its hard to say which is worse – the act itself or the helplessness of being under the thumb of someone who chooses to be blind to your pain.

Despite how horrible it made me feel to read what she was going through, I was also absolutely pulled into the story. And by 10% I was already near tears.

“I am a kind of broken they can't fix. I am no longer the same little girl they loved.”

Luckily, Beth's extended family of grandparents and uncles come to her rescue and take her away for the summer to heal. Their love, understanding and caring just warmed me heart to the very core!! Especially Tommy – who truly was one of the most amazing father-figure characters ever who just loved her unconditionally with all warmth and protectiveness you could ever want from a parent.

I loved their whole family dynamic – there is something about family that is created out of emotional attachment and not just through a direct blood link that really always tugs my heart strings.

At her grandparent's place, she meets Ryan again. Two years older than her and once her child tormentor, she's now seeing him in a different light now that they're older. What developed between them as they went from teasing to attraction to first love was just so beautiful, sweet and heart warming made me connect with them very deeply.

"Trust me," he pleads, and there is a sincerity in his tone that has me believing him. With a faith I didn't know I still possessed, I lift my head and smile."

"Ok, Ryan. I'll trust you."

There were a few rather detailed scenes of her abuse that I found hard to read and stomach. They were both graphic and sickening but having read the whole story I can understand how they served to give you a more "full" understanding of Beth's character. It was hard to read but it was what she went through and having to read through her trauma as opposed to just alluding to it I guess made me as a reader feel that much more strongly for her as a character. But still, I just cringed my way through that scene.

But the book wasn't all heavy. Ryan didn't know about her abuse so he brought an element of lighthearted flirting and happiness to the story. And despite the heavier scenes, there were also many that made me grin and squee and feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

But the perfect summer doesn't last forever and too soon she is forced back home, having to leave behind the comfort, safety and love that she has just found. At this point, she is 15.

Although the whole first part of the book is from Beth's POV, at 40% in, we start being treated to snippets from Ryan's POV which was really wonderful!

The story skips forward a year. Then three. School happens, life happens, and although they can't stop thinking about each other, they are both forced to move on their their lives.

I found this part of the story painful because you know how much they both miss each other. But at the same time it was understandable and "real" because I could easily see their separations as being a situation that would have happened in real life. It wasn't a bad parting or anything that had transpired between them that kept them apart. It was just the flow of life. And despite the fact that the romance reader in me desperately wanted them to find a magical way around it, life just doesn't always work out that way and I really felt it gave the story a sense of realism.

And then came a time jump that literally just made me gulp — 5 years later!! At this point I was just reading with this intense feeling of omg-when-are-they-gonna-meet?? Now? Now?? NOW???

But when a tragedy called her back to her home town and she finally saw Ryan again, I seriously SQUEE-ed out loud! I was utterly breathless!!!!

It was really one of those stories where you feel and just KNOW from the start that they just belong together. Plain and simple. At the end of the day, they had been in love since that summer they spent together.

My heart was really wrapped up in this story – all the way. I felt the tragedy very strongly – it was gut wrenching and the whole situation nearly brought me to tears more than once.

I have to say though that I didn't ever actually cry, but I did tear up a few times. But this story still reached

right into my heart and I really really loved it!!

I also loved that it was a bit of a shorter book – I read it in only a few hours but in that time, I always felt fully connected to the characters.

I swooned over Ryan, wanted to hug Beth and just flat-out loved Tommy (but in a father-figure kind of way).

I'd consider it a New Adult book in terms of sex. There is a sex scene and its not closed door but also not super graphic – its more emotional than anything and really felt right for their characters.

It was a beautiful book – hard to read in places, but really well written, with characters that I felt strongly connected to and also a happy ending.

I'd definitely recommend adding it to your TBRs :)

4.5 stars

CASTINGG (see above)

BLURB --> *Life shouldn't be about picking up the pieces.*

Beth Bradshaw has spent her life hiding from her tragic past. From the moment a trusted family friend steals her innocence until the moment another rescues her, she struggles to just survive.

Surrounded by the comfort and protection of her extended family, Beth embarks on a journey of healing far from the horrors of her home. In her darkest moments, she meets a boy named Ryan. For one incredible summer, Ryan shows Beth what it's like to act her own age.

To feel free and let go.

If only for a while.

Years later, another tragedy threatens to shatter the life Beth has carefully crafted. When faced, yet again, with more pieces to pick up, Beth begins to question what her choices have cost her.

Leaving her old life behind, she sets forth on a pilgrimage that will bring her back to the boy she could never forget. He wants to help her pick up the pieces of her life, but is she willing to do what it takes to become whole again?

Can she trust him with a piece of herself?

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Tough Critic Book Reviews says

Reviewed at <http://www.toughcriticbookreviews.blogspot.com/2014/07/the-final-piece.html>

This book left me with a whole lot of emotions that I'm having a hard time putting into words. A hard time processing. Writing a helpful review at this point seems as possible as Christian Grey speaking at a true love waits seminar. I'm--I'm just...I feel violated by my own emotions. *The Final Piece* is a book that miraculously found love, passion, and strength in spite of trauma, loss, and sexual abuse. It's a story about growth and forgiveness. This book tackled the impact of molestation and pain, but it was done with taste. It was done with heart. It was done beautifully.

This book didn't just explore the romantic relationship. It explored the relationship between family. It showed the intensity of friendship. But most importantly it revealed the growth of Beth's relationship with herself. Doing this made *me* develop a relationship with the story.

Beth's relationship with Tommy was achingly beautiful, but I have to admit the relationship between Ryan and Beth was my favorite. Ryan's love for Beth returned to her an innocence that was lost. An innocence that was stolen. It was heartbreak.

Despite my love for this unique and emotional story, I do have some wishes for *The Final Piece*. I really, really wish more time would have been spent developing the start of Ryan and Beth's relationship. They fall in love as teenagers, but I feel like I was short changed on that experience. Ryan sees Beth in a bikini and given how it's written...BOOM! He's in love (or his dick is). That seems to be the turning point of their relationship and then things progress quickly, too quickly. They do have a beautiful moment in the cherry tree, but I wanted to experience them falling in love instead of getting told about it later in the book. Beth and Ryan falling in love as teenagers is the foundation of their relationship and if that would have been a little bit stronger I would have molested this book with stars!!

Other issues such as with dialogue and pacing were easily overlooked because of the strength of the story. The emotion of the story. The intensity, and the passion. This book will break your heart and put it back together. It will make you feel emotion and passion that's almost paralyzing. Is it perfectly written? No, but the journey...the journey was perfect! READ ON!

A. Bookzilla. says

A fair warning - this is *not* a YA read. There are very explicit scenes of sexual abuse (I still shudder at the thought of one particular scene. Brutal.), and a graphic sex scene or two.

I was surprised at how good this was. It's a beautiful, heartbreak story about a young woman trying to piece her life back together and get over her tragic past.

I teared up more than once reading this. Maggi Myers clearly writes for some major emotional impact, throughout the book I was crying from outrage, heartbreak, relief and happiness in turns. I just finished it and I still can't get my emotions back in check. I am *so* glad I picked it up (purely by mistake, I must add, but it was a good mistake!).

Beth is such a wonderful character, so thought out and developed. Despite the things that happened to her she is strong and determined to not let it destroy her life. I felt everything she felt and at times it was just too much. It's been a while since I sympathized with a heroine so much.

And Ryan is one of those silent heroes. The romance is so sweet, the chemistry between them was great without being over the top - realistic, and you just know they were meant to be. (view spoiler)

And Tommy. I can't talk about him without crying. Whatever she needed - he was it. His story broke my heart, even if we are not told much you can tell he is somewhat of a loner, and this little girl holds a special place in his heart and he was just generally radiating goodness.

Like I said, Maggi Myers did a great job writing this, it keeps you engaged the whole time and has the perfect pace - it's slow when it needs to be and fast when it needs to be. All the characters somehow feel real, even if their appearance is brief the author has you get to know them. She gives us glimpses into Ryan's life and I loved that because I wondered about him.

I loved the ending. There was this huge teary grin on my face and everything was right with the world. It ended just the way it should have.

Everyone needs to check this out, I'm a fan of Maggi Myers for life! Oh, second-chance romance fans, you will absolutely *love* this! It's the perfect (and original) story of getting the timing right between the two people who are meant to be.

Christy says

4.5 Stars Warning: You will need some tissues for this one! An emotional read, not for the faint of heart!

"We are all broken in one way of another. It's how we put those pieces back together that matters."

Beth has had a devastating childhood. Her parents are absent, so into themselves and their habits, they don't even know what's going on with their only daughter. From the time Beth was 5 years old, she has been abused by a friend of her parents. Luckily, a family friend, Tommy, is able to step in and help Beth. The summer she is getting ready to turn 15, she spends with her grandparents, uncle, aunt, and Tommy- along with his 17 year old nephew, Ryan. She has feelings for Ryan, but being a victim of abuse doesn't make it easy.

He stole every 'first' from me. How do you get past that? I'll never know what it feels like to give the first piece of myself to someone I choose, someone I care about.

Ryan and Beth start to fall for each other that summer. Though they go in different directions, Beth back home to Miami, and Ryan in Iowa, they never forget about each other. More years pass, and although they are not directly in contact, there is always a link to each other through her family and Tommy.

Ten years later, Beth is 25 years old. Tragedy strikes in her life again. (view spoiler) These terrible circumstances bring Ryan and Beth back together.

You will grow attached to these characters. Beth's journey is heartbreakingly strong. She is strong, despite all that she has been through.

"You amaze me, Beth. You are so strong, so beautiful and full of love. Life could've broken you, but you

didn't let it."

Ryan and Beth have a sweet romance, I only wish that they wouldn't have spent all that time apart... communication anyone? But when they were together, it was perfect.

"I want everything, Beth. All of it. I love you, and I want to share your burden. You don't have to carry this one alone anymore."

And my favorite character, Tommy... thinking about him chokes me up. He was exactly the person that Beth needed in her life. Someone who loved her, was always there for her in a way her parents never were, and protected her.

You were my champion. You gave hope back to me. You are my hero.

A touching story about abuse, love, friendship, family, forgiveness and second chances. Loved the dual pov's from Beth and Ryan. I read this in one sitting, the story was so engaging. A really beautiful book, a sweet, yet emotional read. Some of the scenes were a little graphic, just an fyi. A wonderful book I couldn't put down! I highly recommend this one!!!

AJ says

"We are all broken in one way or another. It's how we put those pieces back together that matters."

I LOVE THIS BOOK!!! It is fairly short (unlike this review... sorry, I just have to gush!), but packs a punch with heaps of emotion, and the most gorgeous love story that had me squeezing out loud.

We meet Beth when she is 10 years old and dancing around her bedroom, singing into her hairbrush to Xanadu (I loved her immediately!). With emotionally absent parents, Beth endures a traumatising childhood, being molested from a very young age by a family friend. And let me warn you, these scenes are emotional, graphic and incredibly disturbing. Told from the POV of a confused, distressed and terrified child while she endures the abuse (and later in flashback) it's very tough reading.

But the story quickly moves to when 14 year old Beth is 'rescued' from her situation by her Uncle Rob, and family friend, Tommy. Both of these characters are incredible, but Tommy is something very special.

"Tommy senses me cowering behind him and grabs my hand. Without missing a beat, he pulls me forward and into a reassuring hug. "I got you, baby girl.""

Beth calls him her "*champion*", and that is exactly what he is. She has always had a special relationship with him, and he is 100% there for her – protective, loving, and utterly adoring of her, he is Beth's rock, and gives her everything that she needs.

"Tommy cocooned me in his arms. The same arms that struck out to protect me, the arms that saved me.

"In my life, I have never known, nor will I ever know, someone as strong and courageous as you, Elizabeth Irene Bradshaw," Tommy whispers against my temple. *I have no words, so I nod my head against his chest, hoping he understands my acceptance of his praise. "You honour me with your trust, baby girl. I am so very*

proud of you.””

Tommy and Uncle Rob whisk Beth away to the home of her grandparents, where she spends her summers every year, and the one place in the world that she considers home. There she meets up with Ryan, Tommy's nephew and her childhood friend / tormentor. He is two years older than her, and recognises that she is suffering with something and with his tenderness and gentle teasing, he is the one to bring her out of her shell and back to herself, and feelings start to develop between them.

The emotions and excitement of first love are captured beautifully as Beth and Ryan tease, play and share meaningful stares. And even though they are surrounded by their families, I love that they are open with what they are feeling, and they don't try to hide their growing affection for each other.

*“I hold my breath and close my eyes as Ryan brushes the hair off my shoulder and whispers in my ear.
“Pretty,” his breath dances across my ear and it takes a concerted effort not to swoon.
I am a goner.”*

Me too!!! SWOOOOON!

But Beth and Ryan are torn apart before their fledgling romance really takes hold, and we then watch them through the following years as they go about their lives, trying to move on but never forgetting about each other.

Flashforward 10 years later (yes! 10 years!!), and both Beth and Ryan are pulled home to deal with a family tragedy. This is not a secret, it's in the synopsis, but when it happened, I felt like the rug had been pulled out from under me. OMG, the emotion!!! It's devastating, and watching Beth and Ryan deal with their grief absolutely broke my heart.

But it does provide our separated lovers with the opportunity to reunite. As they come together in their grief, they lean on each other in an attempt to cope with their tragedy, and find that the feelings that were stirred in them all of those years ago are still very much there. But is that enough to overcome Beth's tragic past, and all that has happened in the intervening years?

I love these characters!

Beth is amazing. She goes through so much, but she pulls herself together and moves on. She never becomes a tragically whiny emo, she does her best to deal with what life throws at her, and lives her life. She is so brave, and I so admired her for that.

“You plant your own garden instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers. In other words, take responsibility for your own needs and your own happiness.”

And Ryan is romance hero perfection! As a teenager, he is funny, caring, gentle and oh so swoony. All grown up, he is exactly the same, just more intense... and a whole lot hotter! He was never afraid to tell Beth what he was feeling, and I loved how he laid it all out for her and was so determined to not let her get away.

“No you don’t, Beth.” Ryan furrows his brow and closes the distance between us with two steps. “Don’t push me away because you think you shouldn’t lean on me. You need me, Beth, and I need you.”

I read this book in one sitting, unable to put it down. Reminiscent of A.L. Jackson and Priscilla Glenn, it is

beautifully written, with heaps of emotion, and off the charts swoon.

"I love you, all of you. Every scar, every freckle... I love that you didn't let your past stop you from chasing your dreams.

Hell bent and beautiful, you're my heart."

I absolutely loved it – 5 stars.

Jill says

Ummmm....WOW!

I borrowed this book for free on Amazon Prime. The cover was cute and the description was convincing. Nothing to lose, right? Wrong! I lost all control of my emotions during the first 5% of the book! This book made me ugly cry in only a few pages! Needless to say, I returned the book (since it was only borrowed) and bought it. I knew right then I wouldn't want to return it.

Elizabeth Bradshaw (Beth) is a broken little girl. She has endured more pain and abuse than anyone should ever experience in hundred life times. A family friend, Tommy, turns out to be her angel in disguise. He saves Beth in more ways then she would ever be able to comprehend. This begins her journey to trust and forgiveness....and Ryan.

Ryan is Tommy's nephew. He's a young kid who likes to tease and taunt Beth. He is a few years older than her but they become childhood friends. Over the years, they start to see each other in a different light. Ryan is Beth's first love. Things happen and their road to life takes them in different directions, but never giving up hope it will one day lead them back to each other.

This book is about abuse, trust, forgiveness, family, and love. Getting to see the world through Beth's eyes is heartbreaking. The book is mostly told from her POV, although we get to see Ryan's POV a few times. I loved that the author chose to do it that way, I thought it was perfect. It's hard not to go into detail about how much I loved this book, but I don't want to give too much away!

This is NOT a fluff or YA read. It has a very disturbing and graphic storyline, but it was written perfectly. I couldn't even explain how much I loved this book. Maggi Myers is an amazing author. I can't believe this is her debut novel. I couldn't put this book down. I highly recommend it but make sure you have tissue.

"Pretty"

Charles Sheehan-Miles says

Okay so... here's the thing. Within the first five pages, this book broke my heart. And then slowly, carefully, in detailed, beautifully crafted writing, Maggi put it all back together.

I honestly can't do any justice to this book in a review. The book takes us through a journey with Beth, who went through hideous abuse as a child. Maggi doesn't shy from the detail, capturing both the physical and emotional experience of a child being sexually molested and raped. It's devastating. But really, that's only one piece of the puzzle.

Beth's story doesn't just add up to abuse. She's a survivor. She fights back, and she's blessed to have others who fight for her, especially Tommy, the older family friend who rescues her as a young teen and watches over her as she grows older. The reader gets taken along on her journey as she heals from her experience, pushes through her boundaries learns to live, and love again.

This book made me cry like a baby. I'm in awe of Maggi's talent as a storyteller.

Melissa Brown says

I was given an ARC of this for an honest review.

There are so many words to describe this book: heartbreak, gut-wrenching, hopeful, romantic, and sweet. Just as the title suggests, there are many pieces to this story. We follow Beth through parts of her painful childhood as well as the love she is given a second chance at in adulthood.

Maggi's writing style is clean and refined. Her imagery is strong and poetic and so I was able to feel like I was a fly in the wall in so many scenes. I laughed, I cried (a lot), I gasped during difficult flashbacks and I grew very attached to several of the characters in this book, especially Beth, Ryan and Tommy.

A beautiful debut novel from a very talented new author.

Lelyana's Reviews says

*Dear Tommy....Do you remember what you used to say to me when I missed you?
"Together forever. Never apart. Maybe in distance but never in heart."*

I'm sorry I never told you that you're in my heart every day. Every. Day. I never told you, that of all the horrible things I went through, YOU made the biggest impression. Not Drew, not the drugs, none of it. You made me believe in the goodness in people when all I knew was evil. You showed me what it meant to sacrifice yourself for someone else and you showed me that I was important enough to fight for. You risked going to jail to defend me when no one else would acknowledge what went on under their noses. Above all else, you believed me. You never wavered or doubted that I was being hurt and that it needed to stop. When you grow up in a house where you're preyed upon and no one believes you, it makes you feel like you deserve what you're getting. It makes you think that your word is useless. The world is an empty and hopeless place when you don't have anyone in your corner. You were my champion. You gave hope back to me. You are my hero

I never have anyone like uncle Tommy (my daughter has). I know when you lost someone like Uncle "T", you will have a broken heart, losing a shoulder to cry, losing your real life diary...sigh...

[image error]

This is not a Young Adult typical story, the way Maggi drove us fro Beth the 15 years old, to Beth 25 years old, feels smooth.

Tommy was just a friend of family, a neighbor, but Beth have a sanctuary in him mostly after "Drew" thing. (view spoiler)

Beth at least having "someone" to talk to, someone who believe in her. That was precious !

And this guy, Ryan...who can't fall in love with him ? He's patient, adorable and love Beth the way she is. I wasn't feel like they're separated for ten years after their vacation and one kiss that day (a kiss that stay forever in their heart).

Maggi wrote it beautifully.

Tears here and there...crying over what they had been through...

This was about forgiveness, acceptance, love at second chance, a meaningful love..and true love from someone who's not even having a blood relation with us.

Some part of the story made me smile, when Ryan saw Beth in bikini, and when "the kiss of a life time" ..that was cute.

I smile and said "well, it's about time, Ryan!", after Ryan told everyone he broke up with his GF,Liz by calling her "Beth". When he kissed Liz and imagine that he kissed Beth.

It was obvious who's always in his head :)

It was always Beth...Forever.

But lot's of time, I lost in tears...

If you are parents, mother, boyfriend, uncle, grand ma, grand pa...you should read this one...you will have "lesson" from what Maggi wrote....

can't tell you the story line, I'm still overwhelmed after reading this.

I'm still "in love" with Tommy after reading this....

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
