



A Tangled Web

M.L. Sparrow

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Japan, 2011

Taiyo is a normal high-school girl living with her Grandmother in Sendai. She goes to school, partakes in club activities and hangs out with her two best friends, twin brothers Ryu and Kairi. However, her perfect world is shattered when she begins dating Kairi but quickly discovers she's already in love with Ryu.

A tangled web of lies surrounds the pair, but everything is suddenly knocked into perspective on March 11th when they are caught up in a natural disaster that devastates the country and robs thousands of their homes, their possessions and their lives...

A Tangled Web Details

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From Reader Review A Tangled Web for online ebook

Anjie Basi says

I am always excited when Sparrow asks me to review her books. I am a fan of her writing style and I have enjoyed all of her books I've read. I was worried because this time around it would be a short story. I was worried that I wouldn't have enough time to really get engrossed by the story and really feel for the characters. I shouldn't have been worried because it was such a wonderful read. I mean, it was depressing me because it surrounded the real life tsunami that devastated Japan in 2011. I really loved the way it was written. The book started before the tsunami and I love how the book was separated by date and it further emphasized the normalcy of their days that was all of a sudden disrupted. The crazy thing is that there was no warning, at least not enough of a warning. Unlike in Miami, where I live, we get plenty of warnings before a hurricane hits us. We can get reinforcements and have time for evacuation. But a tsunami, of that size and magnitude, what is there to be done?

The closer the novella got to the date, the more anxious I got and I loved that the book affected me this way. I love how Sparrow wrote the story, that even though we've only been given 94 pages, we knew Taiyo's story and her history and relationships with Ryuu and Kairi. I don't know much about the Japanese culture and honestly didn't even know much about the tsunami and Sparrow only heightened my curiosity. I love that there is so much Japanese culture in the novella. I really loved that we had a glossary in the end to help us with the Japanese words used in the book. I'm serious guys, I actually looked into the tsunami. I watched videos and researched the whole thing. It is a really interesting topic that I have yet to read about and I am so glad that Sparrow wrote on it. I enjoyed the characters. They were very unique and the love story was very believable in its progression.

Kaitlynn Taylor says

A Tangled Web- M L Sparrow

4 Stars Review

A Tangled Web was a great novella about the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in 2011. This book was emotional, moving, and at times heart wrenching.

This story follows Hayashi Taiyo and her two best friends Kairi and Ryuu. Taiyo is a fun, laidback girl who doesn't seem to take life too seriously. Twin brothers Kairi and Ryuu couldn't be more different. Kairi is a polite and sweet young man who is very focused on his studies, while Ryuu is a more serious and rugged young man who doesn't take school too seriously.

Taiyo finds herself in a tough situation when she finds herself dating Kairi but wanting to be with Ryuu. As her relationship with Kairi continues she finds herself telling lie after lie. After lying to her family and friends for quite some time Taiyo finally comes to the realization that telling the truth is always the best thing to do. She could have saved herself a lot of heartache had she just told the truth.

What starts off as a beautiful day soon turns tragic as an earthquake hits and Ryuu and Taiyo must find themselves to safety. A Tsunami follows soon after the earthquake hits leaving them trying to fight for

survival. Ryuu and Taiyo are separated as they try to find higher ground.

During the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami Taiyo volunteers to help the search and rescue team so she can find Ryuu. As the days go on Taiyo starts to lose hope but she finally hears from Ryuu's family. After experiencing such a terrifying and tragic event their lives will be forever changed.

This book finished much too early for my liking. It was such a great story and I would have loved to read more about Taiyo and Ryuu. I've never read a story quite like this one and I was definitely not disappointed.

Heidi says

A Tangled Web by M.L. Sparrow is a YA story that takes place in Japan. The setting is right before and after a huge natural disaster. The story is focused on Taiyo and her friends who are twin brothers, Ryuu and Kairi. Having attended the same school for years, they all have a very strong friendship. Turmoil surrounded them As Kairi and Taiyo start dating but soon sees that it's Ryuu she loves deeply. Before long things are so chaotic and these three friends need to see how important it is to stay strong and rely on each other. As March 11th, we get insight to the web of lies that are affecting these three friends. Life isn't easy for these three and add in a tsunami, their lives are about to get even more uprooted then they ever imagined.

I loved this book but only wish it could have been a full length because I truly loved the story line and the love triangle these three were in. I loved that this story show a reality that faces many young adults and still was able to keep my interest as an adult. I give this book 4 stars, this is truly an amazing read with three main characters that will pull you in. I love that this book didn't just have a love triangle but also a huge natural disaster to bring the lives of these three characters to a whole new level. I can't wait to read more by this author and hope to read about these three again!

Shannon says

This story tells about a teenage Japanese girl named Taiyo with twin boys for best friends, Ryuu and Kairi. The usual amount of school aged drama ensues when Taiyo is asked out by Kairi. Ryuu then asks out Taiyo's friend, Aya. This causes Taiyo to realize her true feelings. Since Ryuu has feelings for Taiyo as well this should have been an easy story but both are too shy and quiet to tell each other. Lies begin to happen causing "a tangled web" of deceit. Taiyo must learn that being honest is much better than deceiving the ones you love. Teenagers love deeply and hurt easily. When a natural disaster strikes and all is believed to be lost, is there any hope for any of them? Young, old and any age in between will suffer.

This story was very interesting. I enjoyed reading about the Japanese culture. I do wish the story was a little bit longer. I felt like while the ending was good there should have or could have been more. I also felt the same as Taiyo did, that even though they had survived the natural disaster, their way of life had changed. What seemed important really wasn't so much.

"It all seemed so childish and insignificant in the face of the tragedy many Japanese people now faced. The weeks before the disaster no longer seemed like such a big issue; it was all just teenage drama."

I recommend this story because this is an entertaining and enlightening story. I look forward to reading more from Sparrow.

Elena says

A Tangled Web
by M. L. Sparrow
My 4 Star Review

A Tangled Web is a perfect book for young adult readers, it contains no sexual scenes and no violence at all. This is the first book I read by Author M. L. Sparrow and I have to say that this story is very well written and I did find it very enjoyable even though it's definitely different from what I'm used to reading. This is only a 126 page book but it's full of teenage high school drama, young love, friendship, and tragedy. This story covers the devastating 2011 Tohoku Tsunami which was one of the largest ever recorded. I thoroughly enjoyed the Japanese terminology used in this story, as well as the Author's detailed description of the Japanese culture, it really made it easier for me to be able to understand the story completely. This is the short story of "Taiyo", a young girl who has lived with her Grandmother and who constantly reminds her to be kind, gentle and thoughtful towards the feelings of others, just like a Japanese girl should be. Taiyo has two best friends in her life, twin brothers, Ryuu and Kairi who live nearby. The three of them have been friends since they were toddlers. While Ryuu is the fun, "take life less seriously" brother, Kairi is serious, has his future well planned and spends most of his time studying in order to accomplish his goal. While spending a day together, tragedy strikes Taiyo and Ryuu. These two teenagers find themselves right in the middle of it. I highly recommend this beautiful and sad story. It does have a drastic end, but overall I enjoyed reading the short story.

April Amey says

A Tangled Web by M.L. Sparrow is a young adult story that takes place in Japan in 2011. This is the first book that I have read by M.L. Sparrow. Taiyo is a teenaged girl who was abandoned by her parents at a very young age. She now lives with her grandmother in Sendai, Japan. She has been good friends with twin brothers, Ryuu and Kairi, since she was very young and throughout the years they have become almost inseparable. Now that they are older, Taiyo starts dating one of the twins but it isn't long before she realizes that she actually has romantic feelings for the other brother and only wants to be friends with the brother she is currently dating. She is a very sweet girl and doesn't want to hurt anyone's feelings by telling the truth and in turn this creates a tangled web of lies and confusion among Taiyo, the brothers, and another of Taiyo's friends. Just when all the lies come to the surface, a huge earthquake hits Japan which then causes a major tsunami. This tsunami causes huge amounts of destruction and costs many people their lives. Will Taiyo and both of the twin brothers survive or will they be one of the many casualties that are caused by this natural disaster? I feel this book had a little bit of a slow start but once things got going it made you feel a very wide range of

emotions and kept you turning the pages in hopes that everything would work out for the best for these characters. Overall it is a very solid story and I think it was just the right length.

Laura Furuta says

A Tangled Web

By: M.L. Sparrow

5 out of 5 stars

The story A Tangled Web by M.L. Sparrow is a young adult/coming of age book. This story takes place in Japan right before and then after a natural disaster. The story revolves around Taiyo and her friends Ryuu and Kairi who are twin brothers. They attend the same school and have had a long-time friendship. Then things start to change when Kairi starts dating Taiyo who then discovers that she is really in love with Ryuu. What happens next can only be described as chaotic. Will these three friends finally realize what is really important in their lives?

This is a very interesting story. I found it in some ways light-hearted as the characters are friends and banter back and forth with each other. Then in other ways, it has a deeper meaning. It shows the effect that lies and deceit can have on your friendships, especially with those that you love the most and even if the lies are told to spare their feelings. I enjoyed the characters of Ryuu and Taiyo. Both of them are going along and have always thought of themselves as best friends until situations happen that makes it clear they both like each other. This begins a series of events that not only causes them pain but others as well. All of this is set before the earthquake that happens in Japan on March 11th, 2011 and then continues after. This story had me going from laughing to sadness and from anxiety to disbelief. This is the first book I have read by the author and I like her style of writing. I can't wait to read more of her books. I had the book finished quickly and while I wanted to know how it ends, I couldn't help but wish it was a little longer. It is a book that had me thinking of both the story and the characters after I had finished.

Dori says

A Tangled Web by M.L. Sparrow is a novella about a teenage girl, Taiyo growing up in Japan. She lives with her grandmother in Sendai, goes to high school, runs track, is very disorganized and always late. Taiyo's two best friends are twin brothers, Ryuu and Kairi. The twins are like night and day; Ryuu is lazy and Kairi is the studious one. Taiyo likes Ryuu but for some reason starts to date Kairi. That is until Ryuu and Taiyo like each other. But she does not actually tell Kairi, a tangled web is weaved.

The friendship between Ryuu and Taiyo take a turn no one could imagine when a deadly tsunami hits Japan and their world will be changed in an instant. Ryuu and Taiyo skipped school that day, not telling anyone, leaving their families scared and very nervous. Ryuu and Taiyo become separated and she is sick with worry that Ryuu has died.

A Tangled Web is the story of three good friends who grew up together. And what it is like to be teenagers

who go through a horrible natural disaster. M.L. Sparrow does a wonderful job describing the Japanese culture and intertwining Japanese words in the story. The way she describes the tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 made you feel like you were there. The characters were believable and were like your typical teenagers. I definitely look forward to reading more by M.L. Sparrow.

Elizabeth says

A Tangled Web by ML Sparrow is a novella centered around three teenagers in Japan in 2011. The story begins just before a major natural disaster, and continues to just after. It revolves around Taiyo, and her best friends, twin brothers Ryuu and Kairi. They have been friends for years, and hang out daily. Taiyo's life started to turn into a tangled mess when Kairi asks her out, and she doesn't have the heart to tell him no. Before long, she realizes she actually likes Ryuu, and gets very jealous when he goes out with her best friend. Instead of talking to them both, and being honest, she begins keeping secrets and telling lies. Before long, everything is all twisted up and friendships are being ruined.

Then March 11, 2011 rolls around, and suddenly, teenage love triangles are the least of her worries. Her home town is hit with one of history's worst earth quakes which triggers one of the worst tsunami. Homes are destroyed, whole towns are flooded, thousands died, and even more are injured.

This was my first book by this author, but it won't be my last. I really enjoyed the style of writing, how it wasn't super romantic and mushy, but not entirely serious either. It was a perfect mixture. I liked that it told a fictional, but realistic, story centered around an actual event. The author used Japanese words, but put their meanings at the end of the book, as well as a summary of the true facts surrounding the event. I really liked this aspect. The story was detailed enough and got me involved, but still didn't seem like a short story.

Overall, I really liked the story and read it in one sitting. 4 star review.

Lisa says

A Tangled Web by M.L. Sparrow is a young adult novella and honestly not my normal type of read. When I opened the story I remember thinking to myself, high school kids? Japan? What am I doing? Then I started reading a novella that grabbed my interest right from the beginning.

The story is set in a small Japanese town in the early months of 2011 and follows Taiyo, our heroine, who is a 17 year old high school junior along with her friend Kairi and his twin brother Ryuu. The three have grown up together and are pretty much inseparable. The first part of this book is filled with high school drama typical for any 17 year old life. Taiyo is in love with Ryuu but dating his brother Kairi, while in an effort to move on Ryuu dates one of Taiyo's friends, Ayu. Because she doesn't want to hurt anyone Taiyo makes matters worse by lying to everyone, and as the lies start to come faster and faster Taiyo ends up making a mess of things.

While trying to resolve the situation something even more catastrophic occurs changing the course of everyone's life as they know it, the earthquake and following tsunami that hit Japan in March of 2011. The author did a tremendous job of making the earthquake and tsunami come to life, I could see myself running alongside Taiyo as the ocean water was coming up on us, I could literally hear the people calling for help, I was freezing alongside Taiyo on the apartment building roof while waiting for help to come and I was there with her when she was helping the volunteers in the days following the disaster.

If I were going to change anything about this book it would be to make it longer. I enjoyed the build-up in the beginning of the book, but I truly was overwhelmed by the aftermath of the tsunami. What insight into what a person will do to when forced to deal with extraordinary circumstances, the strength alone it takes to

go back day in and day out to help when all you really want to do is give up. Thank you M.L. Sparrow for giving me a glimpse into that fateful day in Japanese history, it is something I won't be forgetting anytime soon.

Sue Holmes says

Readable but lacks depth and character development

Donald Armfield says

This short teenage love story is out of my reading genre that I usually read. Following the characters through a web of confusion and love.

Sparrow powers a tsunami of writing skills. Putting her characters in a real life happening that tears apart homes and loved ones. A very interesting story for all those who like young adult love stories.

Cheryl (I Heart Fictional People) says

Review originally posted on my blog: I Heart Fictional People

INITIAL THOUGHTS

I have read three of M.L. Sparrow's books. I have always been offered her books in exchange for an honest review, and I've been such a big fan of hers. I'm always intrigued by her books, but this one sounded so interesting. It is fiction, but it takes place during the very real Japan tsunami of 2011. I knew I had to read it. I received this book awhile ago, but after my long break from reading and blogging, I'm still trying to do some catching up. And I remembered this book, so I jumped right in!

WHAT I LIKED

Taiyo and Ryuu's relationship. I loved their friendship. They've known each other since they were kids. It's so obvious that Ryuu is in love with Taiyo, but Taiyo is so oblivious to not only his feelings for her but also her own feelings for him. Sometimes, this can get annoying in books, but this time, I thought it was super cute. I just wanted to keep reading to see how everything developed and how Taiyo came to the realization that her best friend just may be in love with her and she may even feel the same. Loved it!

Hard to put down! Each chapter ended in a way that made it impossible to put down. It wasn't obvious cliffhangers. It was more like it was just so well-written that I just had to know what happened next.

How the tsunami and a love story combined to make this story. It reminded me of Titanic. The movie was about the tragedy that happened to the ship and the people on it, but the heart of the story is the romance between Jack and Rose. Same with this book. It's about a horrible tragedy where hundreds of people died, but the heart of the story is the romance between Taiyo and Ryuu. I love how the tsunami was embedded into this love story.

Gave me all the feels! I cried twice. I won't say anything else, but it definitely got to me.

WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE

The length. It is a novella, and I tend to find novellas too short. There was no difference here. I just felt like the pace was too quick, making the story seem a bit rushed. This would have been such a perfect story if it was a full-length novel.

OVERALL THOUGHTS

I really enjoyed it! My only complaint shouldn't even really be a complaint. It was intended to be a novella, so I really can't complain that it was too short, but unfortunately, that's how it felt. BUT, ignoring that, the book was really good. In such a short amount of time, I was emotionally invested. I got attached to these characters. I had to know what happened to them. And given that this book was barely 100 pages, I'd say that takes some real talent from the author. M.L. Sparrow continues to amaze me. I will literally read anything written by her.

I received an eBook copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review

Jenni Bishop says

Seventeen Taiyo is a young teenage Japanese girl who lives with her grandmother, . She is best friends with Ryuu and Kairi who are twin boys. They all attend the same school and have been friends for a long time. The twins could not be more different, Ryuu is the lazy one and Kairi is far more fastidious. As they get older things start to change when Taiyo is asked out and starts dating Kairi and Ryuu asks out Taiyo's friend, Aya. Unfortunately Taiyo likes Ryuu but is so shy she doesn't show her true feelings. Ryuu has feelings for Taiyo as well but is just as shy as Taiyo and neither reveal their true feeling to each other. Chaos ensues and after many lies and deceit Taiyo learns that being honest is much better than deceiving the ones you love. She doesn't want to hurt anyone but that is what ends up happening. Teenagers and hormones are a deadly combination.

When they find themselves at the epicenter of a major earthquake and are then faced with a deadly tsunami that hits Japan their world is changed in an instant. The devastation is insurmountable and leaves nothing in its wake. Ryuu and Taiyo are missing and their families scared and very worried. Ryuu and Taiyo skipped out of school and didn't tell anyone and when they become separated and Taiyo is frantic that Ryuu and the others are dead.

How far will Taiyo go to find those she loves? Will Taiyo, Ryuu and Kairi finally realise what is really important in their lives? Will they be forever changed?

If you want a quick and easy read, grab a copy. As it is a Novella it is a very very short story. You will find yourself immersed in the world of one of Japan's devastating natural disasters.

Sunday says

A Tangled Web by M.L. Sparrow

Four Stars

The story A Tangled Web by M.L. Sparrow is a Young Adult story set in Japan in 2011. I love Sparrows books. She shows such detail when describing characters and locations. The emotions brought out reading this book range from laughing one moment to being angry and crying the next. It is about teenage love, lies and betrayal. It is set in the backdrop of a natural disaster, the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011.

Taiyo is a young girl who goes to live with her grandmother after her mother's death. Ryuu and Kairi are twin brothers and all three are best friends. Taiyo starts dating Kairi and find out that she is in love with Ryuu. Taiyo doesn't want to hurt anyone's feeling so she starts lying with complicates the situation. Then the tsunami hits which truly change the course of everyone's lives.

Ms. Sparrow really brought the earthquake and tsunami to life. The struggles to stay alive with the water rushing in, the emotions of volunteers as they continue to search for loved ones. The emotions alone brought to the surface were extraordinarily sad and showed great strength of character. I would highly recommend this book just for the fact that the events that occurred in Japan when this happen are so beautifully and horrifically set in this book. I wish the book would have been a little longer, because I wanted it to go on and on. This is a wonderful book and I look forward to reading more M.L. Sparrow's books in the future.
