



Touched

Mara White

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Touched

Mara White

Touched Mara White

-Does your sister let you touch her, Gemini?

-Barely, but, yes, more than anyone else. I remember even in preschool when the teacher would grab her hand, she'd stare at the spot where their skin connected as if it were an affront to her existence. Just stand there and glare like she wanted to hurt someone.

-Junipera suffers from a rare phobia.

-Please, what does June *not* suffer from?

-When did she start chasing storms?

-In third grade she started obsessing about the rain. Full blown? I'd say after hurricane Katrina she never looked back. And she didn't just chase them, June became those wild storms.

Junipera and Gemini Jones, Irish twins born during the month of June, survive a childhood of neglect and poverty by looking out for one another. Destined for a group home, the girls are rescued by a rich aunt and uncle who move them from Northern Minnesota to Fairfield, Connecticut. One sister thrives while the other spins out of control. A violent assault leaves Gemini searching for clues, but what she finds might be questions that are better left unanswered.

Touched Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Mara White

Format :

Genre : Fiction

 [Download Touched ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Touched ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Touched Mara White

From Reader Review Touched for online ebook

Shabby -BookBistroBlog says

The book reminds me of the movie *Insidious*. The more you step into the chapters, the deeper it gets. There's so much depth into the characters and their environment is so dismal that their personalities develop phobias to protect themselves.

Junipera Jones and Gemini are Irish Twin sisters to a junkie , depressed Mother -Anne. She's on a deliberate suicide mission, withering away into oblivion, leaving the girls to fend for themselves , barely surviving on scraps . Junipera and Gemini find a surprisingly "normal" companion -Alaric . They form a dysfunctional love triad and just string along together

Alaric was connected to Gemini and Junipera in a tenacious bond. Their friendship was a pact. He became the third sibling and alongside them, suffered through their woes. Gem was ripe. June, green and prickly. Alaric was smooth. He was solid and sturdy. He could carry them both. Be it through snow, cold and poverty, or even death if it came to that.They were a three-person link. He felt plugged in, like the energy could finally circulate.

Alaric had told her, “You’re the captain, I’m the ship and June is the storm .”

And they fall in love.....

It's a wonderment to see how Mara has written Junipera. She's the most unique character with storm in her eyes. She chases danger, wants to taste the adventure, she controls the air around her. Her persona one with the nature. Hepephobic June is of virginal body and soul yet her heart is full to the brim with compassion and love .

A most wonderful person is Cheron . His entry into the story comes at a very complexed moment. June stumbles upon him and a weird ,but unbreakable , soul connection develops over soul food .

Trust means more to Junipera than anything else, second only after food, And Cheron delivers both !

Junipera was his untouched, very real Lover

There's so much crystal clear purity and perfection in their union, I was in awe.

From hunger to poverty to Hepephobia to her unquenching thirst for storms to her connection with supreme being, Juniepra endures and evolves though all

She herself was like the weather. Temperamental , unpredictable, capable of both destruction and unexpected symbiotic perfection.

The only point of contention I had was the huge White Elephant - Metaphor.

Like *The Naked Chef* , Jamie Oliver says, if you have fresh , exquisite ingredients, no need to over flavour it. It spoils the freshness and taste.

The story is so fresh and raw, it doesn't need embellishments of any kinds and Mara has the most fantastic stories in her Pandora's Box .

Very sensitive , yet tough .

Very stark , yet full of soul.

Very dismal, yet full of hope

An immensely engrossing read which redefines the parameters and definition of Love & Acceptance.

You will not remain untouched by this story of Soul Mates - Untouched and Real Loves

The good Lord made us the way he intended us to be. There are no mistakes in His divine hands.

4.5 Soul Food stars

#BookBistroBlogApproved

Follow us on

FB - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BookB...>

Blog -<https://bookbistroblogcom.wordpress.com>

Blog -<https://bookbistroblogger.blogspot.com>

Twitter - <https://www.twitter.com/BookBistro>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/BookBistroBlog>

Courtney says

4.5 Stars

Touched is a story that I will soon not forget. This is my first Mara White book and most definitely will not be my last. While I had some difficulty reading this book due to how it was written, I was still able to feel every bit of Mara's writing.

This story is completely different from what I've read in the past. In all honesty, I think this may be my first women's fiction book. I had no idea what to expect when I jumped into this book. The blurb doesn't even come close to giving you the true depths of this book. It's about so much more.

“God makes us each how we are, June. Unique, special, different from others. You touch people with your actions, with your heart. I can see that and I just met you.”

Gemini and Juniper are Irish twins who grew up in poverty. But they made the most of what they had. Gem was the most resourceful of the two, making sure they both had what they needed to survive. June was the more free bird of two; nothing stopped her once she had heart and mind set on something. And these two were inseparable; they were dependent upon one another in order to survive. But Gem suffered from a phobia that caused her a lot of hindrances as they grew up - she didn't like to be touched by anyone, aside from her sister. Until they met Alaric. These three formed a bond like no other - it was very unique bond too.

"The good Lord made us the way he intended us to be. There are no mistakes in His divine hands."

There are so many important characters in this book, not just Gem, June and Alaric. Each character plays a significant role in their own way. But June really stood out to me. She was an enigma. How largely she lived without ever touching anyone but still touched them each in different ways, speaks volumes about her as a person.

"For a girl who didn't touch people and refused all physical affection, June had discovered a beautiful strength hidden in her imperfections. If she wanted to let go, she simply had to grab hold as hard as she

could."

I know that my review may seem as vague as the blurb as to how truly deep this goes. It's a book that you have to experience on your own. I will state that titles of each chapter will be a huge help in reading and understanding as you go along. Mara flips between past and present within the chapters and it sometimes got confusing, but you are able to figure out where she is going with her story. As I said, this is a book that I will not be soon forgetting.

Emma Scott says

This is a truly beautiful book. It's raw, real, and possessing of a quiet poetry. The prose is so understated and yet contains so much. I know that sounds vague but this is the kind of book you read and savor, as a reader, in your own way.

It's not your typical romance *by any stretch*. And that's not a bad thing. The cover, while beautiful, can lead one down that road but the reality is that it's so much more and yet hard to categorize. Women's lit, romance, and, in part, a coming of age story between two sisters who grew up in terrible poverty. Yet their situation was rendered so well, without shock value; without sensationalism. It put you right there. With unbrushed teeth, ratty shoes, and little kids cooking for themselves because their mother can't. Brutally beautiful and not always easy to read, but sometimes we need a book that feeds the soul, rather than tantalizes. This is that book.

There is romance, but more than that, there is deep, deep, love. Between sisters, between those who love June who has become "untouchable" due to trauma, and from Alaric, who grew to love and need both sisters as they all struggled through the brutality of their childhood.

...she'd always wondered if he was real, or just a creature comfort she and her sister had conjured to ease the cold burn of their childhood.

June was smiling devilishly and her sensuality turned him on. Everything June did, he appreciated. [He] liked how she moved through the world.

I could quote so many more passages but they fit into a beautiful whole, leading to an emotionally gut-punch of an ending. The fact that this book deals with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina at a time when Harvey has ravaged Texas, feels not just timely, but somehow appropriate. The ARC fell in my lap at the exact right time.

I realize this review is all over the place, but the bottom line is this is a unique, lovely *human* story and I highly recommend it.

V.K. Torston says

Mara White never could have expected the climate she'd be releasing "Touched" into. The back-to-back hurricanes are unprecedented, feel apocalyptic. I read her descriptions of New Orleans levees breaking at the same time controversy reignited around the insufficient response to the crisis in Puerto Rico.

Junipera Jones can't stand touch, but needs to feel. This all-consuming desire drives her to chase storms like an addict chasing highs. I wondered how White would possibly pull it off--how could she transmit June's almost religious, almost erotic relationship with extreme weather without downplaying the horrific consequences of natural disasters?

If I hadn't made notes while I read, I don't think I'd be able to write this review. I'm still in a state of shock, as though I just personally witnessed an almighty force of nature. "Touched" is so titanic in scale, so vast in scope, it's impossible to summarize. Like the storms she so complexly captures, Mara White's latest novel is thrilling and devastating and beautiful all at the same time.

She pulled it off. She pulled it off because nothing is ever just one thing. Water is life, but you can still drown in it. One fact doesn't invalidate the other. "Touched" deals with contradictory yet simultaneous extremes.

The Jones sisters grow up neglected and impoverished, but still spend jubilant summers with an itinerant playmate (who needed a kitten, like, so bad). The happiness they find in the refuge of a neighboring garage doesn't prevent them from getting scarred, but neither does the brutality of their existence prevent them from experiencing joy. Behaviors can be pathological and nourishing, perverted and innocent, ugly and beautiful.

Mara White is versed in language of sex and love, but "Touched" is no romance novel. Readers looking for mere titillation will certainly be disappointed--if not devastated. Here, White wields her power of erotic prose to wound.

And, just, the storytelling, man. Often, non-chronological stories can feel like "Mystery Boxes"--the premature doling out or withholding of information a cheap trick to create intrigue where none would otherwise be. Not so with "Touched." Every single moment is presented exactly when and exactly how it should be for maximum gravity. We need to read in this order to fully appreciate the issues she's dealing with, divine meaning. There is no such thing as a straight path through a storm--detours are necessary, and without multiple vantage points, you'll never get a complete picture.

While reading, I had the irrational-yet-familiar sensation that this had somehow been written just for me. As though the author had reached into my head and plucked out the issues I'm most passionate about, the subjects I'm most curious about, the experiences I find most relatable, and woven them all together with exactly the kind of storytelling and prose I most admire. This, I realize now, is what always happens when I read a favorite book for the very first time. This is a novel I never knew I wanted, but now can't imagine living without.

My experience with "Touched" had less to do with what I brought with me as a reader, and more to do with the author's powerful command of detail. By sharply focusing on the specific, White pries open the universal.

Ultimately, life's most powerful forces--economic class, chaotic girlhood, race, loss, adolescent sexuality, prejudice, mental illness, violence, faith--intersect like westerly winds over hot water. With "Touched", Mara White conjures a hurricane.

♥ Jx PinkLady Reviews ♥ says

I have procrastinated and am still mulling over how to review and rate this story, I'm still not sure of my thoughts except that perhaps my expectation was that the plot would take a different direction. Perhaps this is because there is, what I considered, an important line in the narrative that I felt was contradicted when the complex story arc came full circle. Touched has many layers in its makeup, many puzzle pieces and I felt like I spent a lot of time trying to figure out where everything fit and then feeling slightly perplexed as it developed which was further exacerbated by the time transitions that jumped around somewhat. Perhaps as a suspense it works exactly as the author intended. Mara White is definitely a very talented writer, I totally appreciate and respect the written word in her work but somehow the narrative lost my engagement.

I'm not blurb reader, I tend to go into stories with little information, it's how I like to read but in the case of Touched, I think having all the information in the blurb right before reading may have enhanced my enjoyment and added a certain amount of clarity to my thinking. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. The suspense element kept me thinking and surmising and ensured this story stayed with me a while after. A contemporary, intriguing piece of fiction that is very different from anything else I have read, a super plus point in reading material.

CHAPTER 1 -->(view spoiler)

Ellen ♦ Book Bellas ♦ says

4.5 Memorable Stars!!!

I am not sure how to categorize this beautiful and unforgettable story but Mara White really shows her writing skills with 'Touched'. This is not so much a romance as a coming of age story, BUT there is romance and love in this beautiful story. The cover is a perfect rendition of the story inside: ethereal, tempestuous and achingly beautiful.

"Her sister was made exactly how she was supposed to be. Untouchable."

This is the story of two sisters who grew up in abject poverty. But the author doesn't write them as pitiful characters; instead they are resourceful, industrious and most of all, survivors. They suffer through an absolutely brutal childhood which leaves June damaged and unable to be touched by anyone. But there is most definitely lots of love and devotion in this story. The sisters cross paths with Alaric and there are many tender moments between the sisters and their new young friend.

"June was a free bird; no cages could withstand her. Escape or die trying."

I read this story in mid-Summer, before the advent of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. So the story is especially relevant now, as it deals with the terrible impact of Hurricane Katrina on the citizens of Louisiana.

I realize this review is vague but this is an epic story that spans years and locations and jumps back and forth in time. I can't really write any more detail without spoiling the plot. And the ending!! This is Mara White's BEST book yet and should not be missed. If you are up for an epic story with love and suffering and beauty and multi-dimensional characters, then read 'Touched'. You won't soon forget it!

"The good Lord made us the way he intended us to be. There are no mistakes in His divine hands."

(ARC provided by the author in return for an honest review.)

Paige says

5 "Wild" Stars

Masterful storytelling. Different yet completely captivating. A story I won't forget.

Touched is the story of Junipera and Gemini. Irish twins born to a absent mother, they survive on sheer will and determination. Junipera was born wild while Gemini, a year older, was born more down to Earth. Yet as their struggle continues, they both survive their extreme poverty as best they can. Because at least they have each other. Then one day they get a new neighbor. Alaric. He's the "normal" to their odd. Yet really he's just as needy just not on the outside. As these three form an odd love triangle of sorts, their lives weave in and out of the others over the years. While Junipera becomes as wild as the storms she's obsessed with, Gemini is

searching for something too. And for a while they both find that in Alaric. Yet as time moves on and poverty takes hold of these three, the years change them all. When depression and a change in circumstance bring new struggles, the sisters are left to fend for themselves all over again in ways they never expected.

This story isn't a typical romance by any stretch of the imagination. Honestly it's not *really* a romance in the traditional sense. But it is a love story of sorts. It's a powerful tale of what makes us different. It's how we deal with life. It's how we deal with tragedy. It's love in all its forms. Its non-linear storytelling sets up the reader to become one with the characters in a way I didn't expect when I started. It's different. It's touching. And it's powerful.

ARC provided to A is for Alpha B is for Books for honest review.

Laura- BookBistroBlog says

Touched

By: Mara White

4.5 Stars

Well my goodness, where to start with this fantastic story!! Mara White has become an author that I expect a great story from. One that is so unlike any other books out there. This one is no exception!

It is a story that from the very beginning till the very last page will have you so enthralled in it, your real life will suffer.

This book is broken down into 2 parts. Part 1 is June and Gem growing up and the life these two girls were brought up in. Part 2 is the adult lives of June and Gem. No description I could give could do this book justice. It's a book that needs to be read, to give this book all the credit it deserves. I will say though, this is not a romance book, this is a wonderful story that everyone needs to read!

A couple things I want to mention, the layout of this book is a bit confusing to begin with. The jumping back and forth in years, places, make sure to read the chapter titles to keep up with where you are. It helps tremendously. Took me a couple chapters to get this down pat. While the story is a beautiful story, I felt as though situations were over descriptive. Finding myself having to go back and re-read what I was reading just to back up and grasp what I was reading. Sometimes, in my opinion too much takes away from the beautiful story that is trying to be told. For this alone, I am taking a .5 star off my rating. Otherwise, this fantastic book would have been a Solid 5-star book. Just my opinion.

Follow us on:

FB – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BookB...>

Blog -<https://bookbistroblogcom.wordpress.com>

Blog -<https://bookbistroblogger.blogspot.com>

Twitter - <https://www.twitter.com/BookBistro>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/BookBistroBlog>

Debbie says

”Mother Earth lets us live here but we are insignificant, specks of muffin crumbs on her galaxy-sized bakery floor, and she sweeps us aside when it conveniences her, no matter how much significance we bestow on ourselves.”

I am quite certain that I don't have the ability to express how deeply this book touched my soul. It was a deep, thoughtful, and soul searching read that demanded I pay attention, ask questions and change myself accordingly. Any story that demands this much is not easy but is more than worth the effort.

All the characters in this book are unique and add purpose and meaning to this story but it was June who absolutely stole the show. She was such a force of nature. The sum of her imperfections created a beauty and light that pulled people in just as much as she pushed them away. Destined to be surrounded by love but always alone.

” “You never knew with June. She herself was like the weather. Temperamental, unpredictable, capable of both destruction and unexpected symbiotic perfection.”

Much like life, this story is served one small piece at a time. The pieces never quite fitting together until you have them all laid out on the table. And only when the final piece is placed, can you stand back and in wonder at its awesome genius. This gift of words from Mara was an absolute pleasure to read and I urge anyone contemplating this book to snatch it up and hold on for the storm. For me, this was a profound and heartfelt read that will have a lasting impact.

Carlene Inspired says

4.5 Stars

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

It is difficult to review a book that impacts you in an almost uncomfortable way, *Touched* was impossible to put down and is now impossible to not think about. Mara White tells an unpredictable story of three individuals during the peak moments of their lives. We see snippets of elementary school, of their rough living situations, coming of age moments that aren't quite the norm, of adulthood and the learning that comes with growing older. Gem and June are Irish twin sisters and opposite in nearly every way. Gem craves consistency, knowledge, the comfort of another, while June shies away from touch, seeks adventure, and struggles with her connection between food and comfort. Children of an absentee mother, they learn to survive on their own, keeping their situation a secret from everyone except Alaric. Though he is the same age as June, Alaric is more experienced in the world, accustomed to being on the run and the ever changing walls of various foster homes. Together they form a bond, the three of them growing together, maturing together, experiencing together. Their bond is unique, filled with love and compassion and trust, but to outsiders it is inappropriate. Through the years they fall in and out of touch, but their bond remains the same, always connected to one another. As adults Gem seeks stability and what she deems a normal life and June

seeks storms, the wild instability of nature that connects to her soul like nothing else.

"Three blind mice. See how they run."

It's no romance and it's not an easy read, but it is a story that reads much like real life with the beautiful prose of Mara White bringing it to life. The girls and Alaric take life's difficulties and turn them into positives, their outlook on the world is cynical and beautiful at the same time, their desire for independence and adventure is so refreshing. The chaos of their lives makes for an enchanting, other-worldly read, especially with June's calling to nature. The storms mirror their youth, the instability and unruliness make for the perfect adventure for a girl who could never accept the ugly world of poverty, laziness, and handouts. Nature is her lover, the snow and rain her comfort, with Gem tethering her to earth and Alaric offering her the only other compassion she knows how to accept.

"It hurt to hurt her. He swallowed her cries with his mouth and tried so hard to make it something beautiful."

Touched is told over several years, in two parts, and from the perspective of two main characters as well as three fully developed secondary characters. It was difficult to keep up with the pacing, the changing from past to present, and the alternating perspectives. Mara makes sure readers are aware of who is speaking and what year and location each chapter takes place and ultimately the confusion works out for the story. It was like being inside the head of each character, especially that of June's as she dealt with the difficult hand that life gave her while also being so compassionate and the most understanding of individuals.

"Tears rolled down June's cheeks and she refused to open her eyes and let Maude see all of the ugly pain she held onto inside."

I found myself discussing Touched with my significant other, reading him lines and summarizing chapters as I read. Though it doesn't perfectly fit into any single genre, Touched is a psychological fiction that makes you truly look at life and creature comforts. It's a book you start without expectations and finish with a heavy heart, changed forever by Mara White's incredible storytelling ability.

Suanne Laqueur says

This is a book about appetite. Poor appetites and appetites that can't be satiated. The appetite of the belly and the appetite of the flesh. Those who hunger and will never be filled. Those who... oh Christ, I'm never going to get this right. The writing was voracious and hungry and insatiable. It's a story that will devour you as you stuff your face with it. I'm not only touched, I'm digested.

Just read it.

Betul says

****ARC provided in exchange for an honest review****

"Her sister was made exactly how she was supposed to be. Untouchable."

The blurb summarizes the story well however it doesn't prepare you for the impact it'll have on you. Touched was unpredictable, I had no idea what to expect and the direction the author would take with this story. I was blown away with how much I was sucked into Junipera and Gemini Jones' story. I was intrigued by these unique and beautiful characters, I especially loved how free and fearless June was. She touched so many characters in this book, and she touched me as well. The layout of the story in regards to the timeline could be a bit confusing, but I didn't really mind them at all. I think it was the perfect way to tell this story.

"June was a free bird; no cages could withstand her. Escape or die trying."

Touched was fun, emotional, heartbreaking, magical and sad at times. But it felt real and raw. I also appreciated that the author highlighted one particular disaster that happened in the USA. I loved how everything eventually fell into place, how everything was connected. It was hard for me to contain my tears, so I went ahead and cried my eyes out. Touched was such a powerful story and definitely one of my favorite reads of the year. I am going to miss all the characters, and wish there was an epilogue, but it didn't me bother as much as it would for other stories. The author did such a phenomenal job with this book and it will always have a special place in my heart. I didn't go into the plot on purpose because I think it's best to go in blind!

B.B. Easton says

I can confidently say, without a shred of doubt, that this story and these people will stay with me for the rest of my life. They exist on a different plane, a level of importance and sophistication and beauty that most writers will never ascend to. I bow down, Mara White. You wrote a category 5 masterpiece.

Deanna♥Pink Lady♥? says

3 Stars

This was a somewhat hard review to write. I would like to start out by saying that the writing of Mara White was wonderful. The characters in the story were extremely complex and flawed. Juniper and Gemini had a very rough upbringing. Their grownup years would be forever marked. But what I had was a somewhat difficult time with the transitional jumps in this story, the three different timelines, and the many different POVs. For me, it kept me from truly feeling for the characters.

There are many wonderful reviews for this book and I feel that it just may have been a case of me and not the book. This is not a romance book but more of a women's fiction book. The topics of sisterly love, neglect, mental health, crime, death, foster care, storm chasing, and Hurricane Katrina are dispersed throughout the story creating an interesting and at times intriguing read.

advance copy provided by Ardent Prose in exchange for an honest review

EscapeNBooks says

Touched by Author Mara White quickly became one of my favorite reads of this year.

"God makes us each how we are, June. Unique, special, different from others. You touch people with your actions, with your heart. I can see that and I just met you."

I am not quite sure how to wrap up my feelings on this novel in a review that is worthy of the words that Author Mara White gifted to us in the pages of this novel. It was deep, soul-searching, making us question humans, their actions, and the subsequent result of said actions.

Touched reminded me a lot of a Tim Burton movies. We were given the facts piece-by-piece, all the while wondering how these fragments would play out in the story. I loved how the author gave us clues and hints about the characters through their own personal stories, without actually just coming out and saying it. The use of colors and emotions vividly painted objects, actions, and backdrops, making us feel the story on a much deeper level.

"For a girl who didn't touch people and refused all physical affection, June had discovered a beautiful strength hidden in her imperfections. If she wanted to let go, she simply had to grab hold as hard as she could."

Bravery. Humility. Desire. Strength. Love. There are several characters in this story who play significant roles in the development of the plot. But I have to talk specifically about one. June. She was this enigmatic creature whose essence was like a beacon. She was so surreal, she appeared to be other-worldly. Her love was beautiful, pristine, and the most precious commodity to so many. It both thrilled and saddened me to experience affection through her eyes.

"...she knew first hand that when love was put into action, it was enough to save us all. Love wasn't just a band-aid, it was the cure."

For me, Touched was an ugly cry, cut-me-to-the-core novel. It was an exceptional example of life in written word, and I was completely enamored by it.
