



When You Are Mine

Kennedy Ryan

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Forever is a heartbeat away . . .

Kerris Moreton knows how to make things work. Bounced from foster home to foster home as a kid, she adapted; when opportunity arose, she thrived. Now, about to open her own business and accept a marriage proposal, Kerris is ready to build the life she's always wanted. The only thing missing? A passionate connection with her would-be fiancé, Cam. Kerris wants to believe that sparks are overrated-until Walsh Bennett lights her up like the Fourth of July.

. . . but what about love?

As one of the East Coast's most eligible bachelors, Walsh enjoys financial independence, fulfilling work with his family's nonprofit, and plenty of female attention. But lately he's been distracted by the one woman he can't have. Lovely to look at and even sweeter to know, Kerris is the soul mate Walsh never thought he would find. The problem is, his best friend found her first . . .

Approx: 50K words.

When You Are Mine Details

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From Reader Review When You Are Mine for online ebook

Sofia Tate says

Love triangles are tough to write. But when they're done right like the one in WHEN YOU ARE MINE, it is pure bliss for the reader. The heart wants what the heart wants, and this is the case for Walsh and Kerris. The attraction between them is undeniable. I shivered with anticipation every time they were in a scene together. Together, they make the pages sizzle! I can't wait to read book 2, LOVING YOU ALWAYS! An outstanding debut from Kennedy Ryan!

Duchess Nicole says

4.5 Stars

This is a debut novel, folks, and I'm happy to say what a shocker that was for me. It's rare that I pick up a newbie author's ARC from Netgalley and get this bowled over. It's purely chance that I clicked the synopsis and decided to request it. Not since Terri Osburn have I been this excited about a debut.

When I picked this up, I expected a love triangle. That's good. I enjoy love triangles. What I didn't expect was this multi-layered, in depth story that covers a few years in the lives of these people...all of them flawed but still fantastic characters.

Kerris has been an orphan since the day she was born. Left on the steps of an orphanage and raised by numerous foster homes, she craves stability and the constancy of family. Instead of using her life situation as an excuse to be held back by her lot in life, she takes the hard route and makes something of herself, doing well in school and catching the attention of the Bennett foundation, a family run organization dedicated to improving the lives of people just like Kerris. And when Kerris meets Cam and he persists in chasing her for six months, she believes she's finally found a man that loves her enough to give her the emotional security that she craves. Their relationship is strong and faithful, and if it's not explosively passionate and volatile, that may be just one more reason to stick with it.

Then she meets **Walsh Bennett**. The golden boy of the Bennett family, Walsh seems to have it all...money, power, looks, a heart kind enough to take on the task of helping those less privileged than himself, and the backing of not only his father's huge company behind him, but also his mother's old money as well. To put it mildly, Walsh is everything that Kerris is not. Kerris is a nobody, Walsh is and always will be a *somebody*. And the clencher...Walsh and Cam have been best friends since childhood. So this instant sizzling attraction that sparks between them is somewhat easy to ignore...for awhile.

My Kerris and Walsh:

When Kerris and Walsh begin to run into each other at the hospital while each are intent on separate philanthropic undertakings, they realize that they have a few things in common. Both of them have a burning need to help people. It's what they live to do. Although Walsh does it with financial backing, he is just as hands on with underprivileged children as Kerris is.

Now, it sounds contrived a bit in order to allow the love triangle to unfold. But at about the halfway point, more and more layers are peeled away and Kerris and Walsh especially start to undergo these fundamental shifts in their core. Cam is so good to Kerris. How can she even contemplate another man when everything she's ever dreamed of is finally within reach?

"Please don't let me hurt him..."

And Walsh knows that moving in on Cam's girl is completely out of the question. It would destroy not only his longest friendship, but his family is also Cam's family. They're more like brothers than friends.

And still...

And still, there is an undeniable pull between the two, and they can't ignore it forever. Life pushes them toward each other until even the somewhat cynical Walsh begins to think words like "fate" and "soulmates." At the same time, life feels as if it pulls them apart. Both are trying desperately to do the right thing. When tragedy strikes, it is each other that they want to lean on. Right or wrong, there is an indefinable *something* there. They know in their gut that the fire and pull that they feel for each other won't just go away. So now they have to decide whether to unleash a scandal and vast amount of heartbreak on not only their own lives, but also on everyone's lives around them.

Things I LOVED:

I love the dynamic between Walsh and his parents. His mother is gentle and proud...a true matriarch of the family, and a wonderful woman. His father is hard, business minded, and seemingly without tender emotions. Walsh has mixed feelings about his father, but for the most part, he doesn't understand him and isn't much like him at all.

"Walsh strode to the door, eager to get out of his father's presence. His soul needed a shower..."

Another plus for me is that this isn't a white cookie cutter romance. Kerris has no idea what her lineage is or what race she is, but it's definitely not white Anglo-Saxon! And let's face it...biracial people are just more beautiful. At least, I've always thought so. It was nice to get a mixed race heroine but not have the race card shoved into your face constantly either.

After the story settles in and you slowly realize just where everything is headed, it all just feels so *full*, for lack of a better word. The characters are all well rounded and nothing feels overdone. Their lives are a bit tumultuous, but it's because of their circumstances, not (for the most part) their choices. You don't often get this in a love triangle. There is angst, but it's not this teenage disquietude that generally permeates this type of story. There's a big question here, and it's a realistic one. Do you go with your head or your heart? Do you accept a marriage of security and stability, or do you chance a failure of a relationship on someone who evokes much stronger longings?

It's a question often brought up in romance, but this book stands out for me because of the author's voice, her evocative story that had me bawling like a damned baby, and her true to life flawed, lovely characters. **This story goes where you just don't expect it to go!** But I'm glad it did because it gave gravity to their actions and ended up feeling more fleshed out and thought out than other stories like it.

The story ends on a cliffie. And my friends probably know how averse to cliffies I am. However, I honestly can say that these characters needed a break at this moment in time. I put the book down with a big sigh and a heavy heart, but one that is also hopeful that the next book will be as fantastic as this one was.

Advance copy provided by Forever Grand Central Publishing via Netgalley for review.

Quotes used with permission

Angie - Angie's Dreamy Reads says

WOWOWOWOWOWOW! NO. FREAKING. WORDS. RIGHT. NOW! OH MY GOD! Going to read book two! HOLY ANGST ALERT!

Maria Rose says

In Kennedy Ryan's emotional debut novel we are treated to a tale of love and desire, friendship and forbidden attraction. This first part of the Bennett series is the story of Kerris, a woman who has risen above her troubled upbringing to create a satisfying life for herself and the two men who will turn her world upside down - Cam, an artist and the man with whom she shares the bond of a foster parent upbringing and Walsh, Cam's wealthy best friend who sees in Kerris the woman of his dreams - until he finds out that she is the one with whom Cam wants to spend the rest of his life. With Cam, Kerris feels safe and content and doesn't regret that her feelings for him don't include sexual attraction. But Walsh sparks in her strong feelings of intense sexual desire that alternately scare her and make her realize that her feelings for Cam will never be the same as what she feels for Walsh. Her choices and the emotional aftermath make up the first book of this serial.

Writing with a fluid style that is captivating and emotionally riveting, readers are pulled into the story from the very first page. Each character is portrayed with all their perfections and flaws. Kerris is generous, kind and unassuming but unsure of her ability to attract and keep love. Cam has an artistic temperament. He is devoted to his work and to Kerris but prone to emotional outbursts and carrying pent up anger from his troubled youth. Walsh is a good man, patient and understanding, trying to perform his business tasks and charitable work in a fashion that will please those around him. His attraction to Kerris threatens to ruin his lifelong friendship with Cam yet he is drawn irresistibly to her like a moth to a flame. Their love triangle sizzles with sexual tension and emotional depth, and the choices made propel the story forward. Secondary characters play a key role in the plot as it unfolds, evoking emotional responses from all involved, including the reader. There is laughter and there are tears and the overall story is compelling. The book ends not with a cliffhanger but with the sense that there is much more of the tale left to be told. Readers will be anxious for the next instalment, planned to be released in late 2014. Highly recommended, 5 heart-wrenching stars!

Note: An ARC of this story was received from the publisher via NetGalley for review

Kimberly Belle says

Kennedy Ryan's debut is a beautifully crafted and heartwrenching story about Kerris and Cam... and Walsh. Oh, how I adore a love triangle, especially one where both men are handsome and successful and smart. How is a girl to choose? I found myself rooting for Kerris to make the right choice, really getting into her journey as her feelings changed and grew, and I LOVED the steamy chemistry between her and Walsh. Lucky for readers, this book is the first in a trilogy, and I'm already looking forward to the next "The Bennetts" novel!

scribes23 says

"Figure that out before you marry my best friend."

That's what he said. And guess what!! She didn't listen.

Feeling a wordless, mindless connection that strong with your boyfriend's best friend would border on tragic."

And acting on it is stupid. Poor Cam..

•

I hated Kerri, she was stupid, immature and selfish, and insecure oh the adjectives to describe her are limitless. She not only decided to go through with the wedding because she thought that Walsh is going to marry Sofie, she also then cheated on cam by kissing Walsh.

I get Walsh, on how Cam should find someone who adores him as much as cam adores Kerri but why the fuck would he allow the wedding then kiss her? Okay that is not fine. Have some respect for Cam..

Cam's my baby! I don't know why would anyone do that to him. The author better try to ruin his character on the second book. The ways she's making Cam seems bad and touchy with Jo is irritating!

I'm usually one for love triangles but marriage is sacred, I know that's kind of cliche but true. The only thing I love about this book is walsh's mom and dad's story. It was heartbreaking and moving.

And the Eding! It was perfect.!

Kennedy Ryan says

Well, what am I supposed to say? I wrote it! I must think it's good, right? :-) Even as I say that, I understand there are some things about this book that will prove difficult for some readers. Can I warn you, gentle reader, that this is only part 1 of Kerris and Walsh's story? May I ask you, even though you have no reason to do so, to trust me? To trust that I want a happily ever after as much as you will, but I also want to see my characters change and grow? Our mistakes have the capacity to transform us if we recover from them the right way. I don't rescue these characters from the decisions I bet you'll wish they hadn't made. I don't resolve everything in this first book. Their struggle to learn their lessons and grow into their best selves continues in book 2, which releases Oct. 7.

And I know this will be a biggie. I don't endorse infidelity, even if it's only emotional infidelity. I don't believe in compromising my values and blaming it on attraction or inevitability or fate...but I'm not Kerris. But I wrote her. I know her. I love her, despite her flaws. And I hope you will, too.

Debi Smith says

I'm not one who enjoys or chooses stories in which situations like Cam, Kerris, and Walsh are in in this debut novel, but I was absolutely riveted from the first page and could not put the book down. Kennedy does a stellar job making you root for what you would probably abhor in real life. The characters felt so real and the tension holds well throughout the book. This is one of my favorite reads this year.

♥ Jx PinkLady Reviews ♥ says

Amazon US * Amazon UK

WHEN YOU ARE MINE is the first in a two part love story between Walsh Bennett and Kerris Moreton and as stupid as it sounds, I feel like Kennedy Ryan wrote their story especially for my ears. Love triangles are one of my reading LOVES. They have to be executed to perfection, and each emotion has to be depicted without creating a hero or heroine that seem contrary in nature. The characters have to be given the STRONGEST of MOTIVATION for all their decisions, thoughts, words and actions. If you're a reader who basks in the raw emotions evoked by a perfectly written LOVE TRIANGLE then this is a **MUSTREAD?** story because Kennedy Ryan executes this story to perfection. SO BEAUTIFUL in SO MANY WAYS, I won't give away the story but I'll attempt to express the crafted excellence penned on the pages of this eloquently told story.

WHEN YOU ARE MINE is told in third person but I still felt privy to the inner most private thoughts of the hero and heroine. I was totally in their heads, feeling their pain, hope and angst. It's about facing your demons, acceptance, understanding and realising life is too short to live with mistakes when they can be rectified. Some people are meant to be together and the Prologue leaves the reader in no doubt at all where this story is heading, who the leading characters are, and who are destined to be together. The narrative shows the reader with crystal clear clarity the LOVE TRIANGLE web Kennedy Ryan is about to catapult us into. The angst she'll lead us through. The raw emotion that will come our way but let me profess that every single angst filled moment is worth the reading pain. The mistakes of the protagonists are evident and, as the story unfolds their excruciating reality and the vulnerabilities of the heroine, ones that motivate her decision making process, become glaringly apparent. This story is perfect for those readers who bask in the raw emotion of protagonists waging a war on their feelings, making choices that are not always right, going through the hurt and coming out the other side.

Walsh's privileged upbringing and wealth offer a stark contrast to Kerris' nightmare of a childhood that left her with complex issues and a void that she longs to fill with something certain. The third character's feelings and circumstance in this story mirror the heroine's making him seem like an ideal suitor. I love the way Kennedy unravels the character's rich history and motivation so we truly understand the whys. She holds them up so we see all their faults their triumphs their desires, their needs, their mistakes.

I simply have to mention the pure unadulterated beauty of the subplot to the main story which caught me by surprise and completely blew me away. I don't want to provide a single detail except to say that it made me feel, and hurt, and sob and oh how I love this aspect, even though it ravaged my book heart. It comprehensively enhances the shape of the story arc and the realisation that seriously, life is too short to NOT put things right when mistakes have been made.

WHEN YOU ARE MINE treats readers to exquisite sentiments and pictures evoked by the most exquisitely descriptive prose overflowing with an abundance of emotion, depth of character and angst driving the story arc through scenarios that seem unsolvable. I had no clue how the author would puzzle out the situation of these three characters that had firmly embedded themselves in my book heart. I basked in the angst that was skilfully thrust at me whilst the story unraveled with creative descriptions and emotive imagery. On finishing this story I went straight to the second and concluding part of this story and devoured another 5 Star read by this author.

Note: This is the first of a two book series (Books 3 & 4 are both about a different couple so can definitely be read as STANDALONES)

My review thoughts of LOVING YOU ALWAYS

LOVING YOU ALWAYS (Bennett Series #2 and the conclusion to this two part story)

Available here?

US <http://amzn.to/1RjxCok>

UK <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00NPCWL4I>

★Teasers created by myself with Stock image I purchased from deposit photos★

mich says

I bought this book on impulse after coming across and reading just ONE glowing review for it. I do that sometimes. (Ok, that's a lie, I do that a *lot* of times.)

This time, it was a mistake.

The writing just didn't click with me. There's nothing overtly *wrong* with it, but bottom line is that I didn't care for it. I felt like I was just reading words.

For stories like this that are fueled by drama and angst, I want - no, I NEED - writing that grips me emotionally. For example: the works of Tarryn Fisher and Karina Halle. Strong, engaging writing that pulls me into the story -- even if it's a story that I may not like or have major issues with -- I can't deny that I'm fully *into* the story. I want to keep reading the next page and then the next page after that. That ability alone is enough to make me admire an author's work, but I didn't get that here.

As for the story itself -- I wasn't convinced of the instant connection between Kerris and Walsh, and really, everything else that didn't work for me stemmed from that. This ended with a cliffhanger and while those

used to be enough to suck me in for book 2, I think I'll be ok letting this one go.

Side note: I saw in the author description on this book's Amazon page that 25% of her royalties is being donated to a good cause, which definitely lessens the blow of having just paid \$3.99 for a book I didn't enjoy. Always nice to see an author who is a cool chick :)

Malene says

What can I say about Kennedy Ryan's prose. It's flawless, intoxicating. I need it like I need air. I've read her Souls series and I loved every book in that series. So I decided to try the Bennett series. The writing style is different from her Souls series. The story is told in third person but I loved this POV here because every character is important and how their lives intertwine with one another is what really makes this story shine.

When You Are Mine created so many emotions inside me and it's all because of Ryan's talent for fabulous storytelling and compelling characters. Yes, the story revolved around Kerris and Walsh but I connected with Cam, Jo and Sofie too. This ensemble was perfectly constructed and their dynamics intense with emotions.

Kerris and Walsh's connection and chemistry gave me goosebumps. Especially their first kiss. When they tried to hide or neglect their feelings because of their current circumstances created some angst, heartbreaking and powerful scenes.

The story was fast paced but with a well developed story and depth to every character.

When You Are Mine isn't a standalone and is part of a duet. It didn't end with a cliffhanger but it definitely made me want more. Not just more of Walsh and Kerris but of every character from the Bennett family.

5 BadAssDirtyOrchidStars

★Moonrise Books says

This story was a true joy to read, which surprised me a bit, since it deals with some serious subject matter. But I was glued to the pages! The intense moments, and a series of reveals, caught me off guard, and had me hooked to the end! These are flawed characters, with real life challenges. But they are so well developed, and compelling, they jumped off the pages. It was hard not to root for them!

Kerris had a tough start in life, but it hasn't gotten in the way of her hopes and dreams. As a new college graduate she is full of ambition for her future, and plans to open a vintage clothing store. Things are just starting to fall into place. So, when she arrives at an awards ceremony packed with wealthy donors, and sponsored by a prestigious foundation, nothing can prepare her for Walsh -- dark green eyes, 6'4" ... and staring holes through her.

Of course, Walsh and Kerris are from different worlds. As the heir to the Bennett family fortune, Walsh has been groomed in acquisitions, travel, and philanthropy. Kerris, on the other hand, is used to doing things for herself, and finds creative ways to cut corners. But when they run into each other at a local hospital, they realize they have more in common than meets the eye -- Kerris volunteers her time locally, while Walsh travels the world helping children in need. And so begins an unlikely friendship. The problem is, Kerris' boyfriend, Cam, has just asked Kerris to marry him... and Walsh is Cam's best friend.

As the friendship between Kerris and Walsh intensifies, so does their attraction. But it goes far beyond physical. They understand each other, and are hopelessly drawn together like a moth to a flame. And they soon discover the pull is stronger than either one of them. Even their friends begin to notice. And then there is the kiss...

"His kiss was a feather and a flame, raising goose bumps and heating her skin. She pressed closer, defenseless against sensations she'd never experienced before ... An intimate invitation. An irresistible dare."

Of course, it would be easy to jump to judgment. But Kerris and Walsh are caring people, who never set out to hurt anyone. Above all this is a love story, but one where loyalties and friendship are at stake. And while matters of the heart are never simple, Kerris and Walsh's story is particularly complex.

To find out more, you will have to read the story -- lovely, well written, and sometimes heartbreaking. But it is well worth the read!

Note: This book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

djdavis~*Sivad*Sex Pocket says

To read more of this review and others visit us @

The Book Wranglers

Heat: warm butterflies

Rating: ** 4.5 out of 5 Stars**

Provided by: NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

WOW!!! This book is achingly bittersweet...so much love, so much loss.

Kerris Moreton is a young woman driven by hope and determination. Hope that she will one day be able to start a family of her own, and determination to be better than those who 'helped' take care of her throughout her years in foster care.

She's now on the verge of opening her own store, and just minutes away from accepting a proposal that will rocket her into the life she's always wanted, **until she comes face-to-face with what she never thought existed—her soul mate**. For years she thought she would never find the 'one' that could open her heart and break down her walls. **Her current boyfriend, Cam—who seems more like a close friend** than boyfriend—has never been able to ignite her, but she loves his friendship, his understanding of their similar backgrounds, she loves the feeling of safety.

But what is Kerris to do when her soul mate slams right into her the night she's accepting an award for her volunteer services, and **the only thing stopping them from being together is the brotherly bond he has with Cam**.

Walsh Bennett has enjoyed what most would call a charmed life. As one of NYC's most sexy eligible bachelors, he can have any woman he wants. He's financially independent, a successful philanthropist with

his mother's orphanage foundation, grooming to take over his father's business, and is as sweet as they come. **He thought he had everything going for himself until the wind was knocked out of him by the pure beauty of Kerris' spirit.** Just being around her caused him pleasure and pain—an internal battle that he was slowly losing. **For the first time in his life he was being denied the only thing, the only person he'd ever really wanted because she belonged to his best friend, his brother—Cam.**

The connection between Kerris and Walsh was like a fine piece of silk—easy and smooth. For inexplicable reasons they bonded over their differences and somehow found solace in one another. **But time and circumstance stood between them, too many people would be hurt by the betrayal** of them finally accepting what most seemed to already know...that they were the real thing.

So begins the bittersweet story of a love that came a little too late. A story that would mold the harsh edges of truth and splinter throughout those that were around them leaving their relationships broken and aggrieved.

The Best Thing:

This was such an interesting and fresh story. **The love, the connection, the undeniable truth that Kerris and Walsh shared was perfectly written across the pages to create a world where only supreme joy existed.** While the characters—Kerris, Walsh, Cam, and even Jo—were experiencing different variations of loss, whether it be a loss of friendship or love, when Kerris and Walsh were together the world seemed calm, seemed right, and everyone else faded away. **It was a pleasure to read such an intense development between characters, especially when they did not have an extensive background together.**

I loved how real, but how unfortunate the story was. Maybe there will be a HEA in book two, because this one was filled with anguish and severe heartache. **The love-square (if you can call it that) was interesting and sad to see as well.** To know that **Jo, Walsh's cousin, had been pining away for her friend Cam for over 15 years** and was now having to watch as he started a life with someone else...just sad. To watch while **Walsh struggled not to ruin his closest friendship and to deny his love for Kerris** was no easy feat. And lastly, **to see the uncertainty and the fear that Cam wore around himself like a blanket, knowing that his wife Kerris loved Walsh** and could be taken away at any moment was just painful, but so well written.

The Worst Thing:

I really...honestly don't have a worst thing. It's been while since I've read a book that I didn't have something to nitpick about but it is what it is.

Every character acted so perfectly and realistically in this book that it was hard for me to not like how something was written or a character's profile.

Overall:

Great story and can make you believe in love again.

TeriLyn says

****When You Are Mine** generously provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

3 Undecided Stars

As a firm believer in soul mates my love for whirlwind romances runs pretty deep. While I understand not all love happens at first sight I hold on to the notion of its existence. I'm a hopeless romantic, you see, in love with being in love. For those reasons this book proved difficult for me to rate and review.

Before you go any further, let me be up front - this book contains a love triangle of the most angst-filled proportions. If you're not into love triangles this definitely isn't for you. I'm not usually a fan, either but the blurb intrigued me.

In *When You Are Mine*, a new adult romance, love does not come easy even after it's at first sight. Two men. One girl. Understated chaos in the heart ensues. Walsh Bennett - a consummate alpha - handsome, refined, rich - sees Kerris Moreton, his best friend's girl, before he knows with whom she belongs. An instant attraction stuns both Walsh and Kerris into oblivion. Cameron Mitchell, best friend/boyfriend, is the constant, safe, shining light Kerris never had in her life.

Told from both Walsh and Kerris's points of view, *When You Are Mine* takes on a push/pull journey between two people who can't deny the intimacy between them. So far, so good. I'm okay with a love triangle, up to a point. Then the heroine has to go and make life changing decisions based on assumptions without ever bothering to learn the validity of these assumptions. Huge deduct for the heroine from me. A love triangle can only go so far for me and there needs to be some concrete reasoning behind the heroine's actions. Kerris disappointed me because up until a certain point I totally sympathized with her.

The writing in this book engages the reader. Even when I was over Kerris I felt myself still needing to know what happens. The magnetism of Walsh's character draws into the story. He's the third wheel but you find yourself rooting for him in a major way. The secondary characters and subplots throughout the book are all excellent, as well.

Thus, why I found it hard to review. Again, don't even bother if you can't stand a love triangle and mild cheating because it happens - blatantly. The heroine will make you want to reach through your Kindle and grab her. But there are strong elements to the book that cannot be denied. Walsh, his cousin Jo, and their parents being a few examples. I'm intrigued. I didn't love it to the moon and back but I also didn't dislike it and I'm excited to learn what comes of these characters in the second book.

Jill says

3.5 stars

? *Torn Between Two Lovers....?*

The Heroine

Kerris Moreton is gorgeous, smart, independent, with a heart of gold. She grew up an orphan, has no idea who her parents are, and has had a painful past. But now at twenty-five she's making something of her life; she's starting up her own business and her boyfriend is about to become her fiancé.

The Heroes

Cameron Mitchell has a lot in common with his girlfriend, Kerris. Both graduated from the school of hard knocks, grew up in foster homes, and life has never been easy. His best friend and brother-of-the-heart, for thirteen years is Walsh Bennett.

Walsh comes from one of the wealthiest most prominent families in America. Schooled on the one hand in business by his hard-nosed father, and educated in philanthropy on the other by his mother, Walsh runs the Walsh Foundation, an organisation that helps kids - orphaned or homeless - all over the world.

The Love Triangle

Walsh first saw Kerris and became intrigued by her, before he ever knew that she and his best friend, Cam were together. Though Kerris loves Cam, she has never felt that overwhelming passion and desire. Until... Walsh. *What's a girl to do?*

The Good

It kept me reading wanting to know how it ends.

The author has taken a risk, but it's different and I like different.

The heroine, Kerris is of unknown ethnicity. She's been mistaken for an immigrant with her darker skin and features. I wish more authors would write the hero and heroine of different racial backgrounds more often.

Walsh's father was particularly well-written. At first somewhat of a stereotypical businessman, towards the end of the story he was painted with a lot more complexity.

I want to read the next in the series.

The Not-So-Good

My biggest dilemma here is that I'm not a big believer in soul-mates, destiny or star-crossed lovers. My opinion: Walsh should have butted out and left Kerris and Cam. If it didn't work out between them, *then* make your move, Walsh. Which brings me to dilemma #2....

Kerris and Walsh. I didn't particularly like them. Fidelity, loyalty, trust, these are important attributes which these two seem to lack.

Kerris shares two *major* reveals about her life to Walsh first, instead of Cam.

Kerris makes a big decision about her life based on something she overheard....ugh!!

Kerris and Walsh are *almost* too perfect, bordering on Mary Sue and Gary Stu.

Some characters (eg Sofie) are a little one-dimensional.

The writing is solid, but not outstanding.

Some Things Readers May Not Like

Though none of these things bothered me, I'm pretty certain that some readers will find at least one of these things hard to take.

- a) The love triangle
- b) Cheating - emotionally and physically (mild)
- c) No resolution, to-be-continued in the next book in the series

My Final Thoughts

This is a hard one to rate. The story isn't finished in this book and rating *When You Are Mine* is like rating a book at the halfway point; it doesn't seem fair. But. The publishers have sold it this way, so I have to rate it accordingly.

Steam: 2

ARC courtesy of Forever via NetGalley
