

## All the Little Lights

*Jamie McGuire*

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**All the Little Lights** Jamie McGuire

**From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Jamie McGuire comes a riveting tale of first love that starts young but runs deep.**

The first time Elliott Youngblood spots Catherine Calhoun, he's just a boy with a camera, and he's never seen a sadder and more beautiful sight. Both Elliott and Catherine feel like outcasts, yet they find an easy friendship with each other. But when Catherine needs him most, Elliott is forced to leave town.

Elliott finally returns, but he and Catherine are now different people. He's a star high school athlete, and she spends all her free time working at her mother's mysterious bed-and-breakfast. Catherine hasn't forgiven Elliott for abandoning her, but he's determined to win back her friendship...and her heart.

Just when Catherine is ready to fully trust Elliott, he becomes the prime suspect in a local tragedy. Despite the town's growing suspicions, Catherine clings to her love for Elliott. But a devastating secret that Catherine has buried could destroy whatever chance of happiness they have left.

## All the Little Lights Details

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Author : Jamie McGuire

Format : Kindle Edition 444 pages

Genre : Romance, Young Adult, Contemporary, New Adult

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## From Reader Review All the Little Lights for online ebook

Danielle ♥? Pretty Mess Reading ♥? says

\*\*\*3 STARS\*\*\*

I want to start with 2 issues I have the All The Little Lights by Jamie McGuire.

Issue #1 – It was long AF for no damn reason.

Issue #2 – It was advertised as adult romance but it is not. I don't mind that it leaned more towards the YA side, just don't try to trick me as a reader.

Look, I don't like being lied to. This year, 2018, seems to be the year of miscategorizing books. If a book is advertised an adult romance or contemporary romance read but it is not I get a little salty. It reads more like a YA book. I have been trying to read more YA so I would have read it at some point but I was in the mood for a romance novel.

I'm going to start by saying that I am a HUGE Jamie McGuire fan. I will always be a Jamie McGuire fan. Even though All The Little Lights was wee a bit difficult to read and get into, I will still read anything she writes.

I didn't enjoy this book much. It was okay. I didn't hate it but I damn sure didn't love it either. By the end of this week I most likely won't remember the details either.

I can normally read a 300 – 350 page book in a day or so but a 400 – 500 page book takes 2 days – max. It took 4 days to finish this book because I was bored. I kept putting it down because I would get distracted with more interesting thoughts in my head. Even though I got side tracked a million and one times, it wasn't a horrible or overly difficult read.

I quite enjoyed Catherine and Elliott's relationship. It was pure, deep, and at time visceral. Their feeling poured from the pages and I believed every single emotional they expressed. Their relationship kept me interested and swooning from time to time. I found myself wondering where boys like Elliott were when I was in high school. I loved everything about him.

Catherine's life difficult to say the least and Elliott's wasn't much better. The main difference was that Elliott had a support of family and friends while Catherine had no one. Elliott had a desire to be Catherine's rock and strength whether she wanted him to or not.

*“Don't look at them. Look at me.” – Elliott*

He wanted to protect her and love her.

*“She said you weren't her boyfriend.”*

*“ . . . not yet. I’m having a good night, though. I think I just might talk her into it.”*

Yet, there was a darkness to the story that I wasn’t expecting. It was a slow, slow, slow, slow burn story. I think they could have shaved off a good 100 pages and still kept the same story. I will admit I had to skim a few pages as they were repetitive.

There is an interesting plot twist but it doesn’t occur until 85% or 90% of the book and I wish it would have been revealed a lot sooner.

My overall impression of *All The Little Lights* by Jamie McGuire was not a bad one. The book touches on a lot of social issues that are going on in high school such as bullying. The relationship between Catherine and Elliott was organic and sweet. I don’t feel like I wasted my time by any means and I can see why others might enjoy it more than I did.

Now here are the most important questions.

**Do I recommend this book?** *Yes and no. If you are looking for a YA book with a sweet teenage love than yes. If you are a die hard Jamie McGuire fan (like me) than yes. If you were looking for a books that fits into the type of stories Jamie McGuire normal writes, no.*

**Will I read another book by this author?** *Yes. If Jamie McGuire writes it you can guarantee I’m reading it.*

**Remember to follow all things messy. . .**

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## **Mischenko says**

What is it about Jamie McGuire’s books that I love so much? It’s that they captivate me! I simply can’t put them down until I finish and that’s exactly how I felt when reading *All the Little Lights*.

When Catherine and Elliot met they seemed to click right away. As young teens, both were dealing with their own problems, yet they became very close and started–what seemed like–an unbreakable friendship. When Elliot is forced to leave town, Catherine is left to fend for herself and as time moves on, she has to find a way to heal. When Elliot returns for senior year a few years later, he’ll do whatever it takes to win Catherine back, but everything is different. They’ve both grown and changed so much. He’s now the high school football team’s star quarterback and seems to have no problems making friends and being popular, while Catherine struggles to make ends meet with feeling like an outcast at school, and maintaining her family-owned bed and breakfast. As if their relationship wasn’t complicated enough, Catherine has a secret she struggles to hide and Elliot gets caught up in drama involving a missing student.

I thought this book had a very interesting and complex plot. The story alternates with Elliot's and Catherine's point of view. It seems simple, but there are other elements and a lot going on in the background to where you're left to guess until the end what's really happening. I didn't feel like it was too predictable and I was surprised with the outcome. There were a few themes that did remind me of some of my other favorite romance books like *The Notebook* for an example, but I won't spoil anything with details. This book deals with many teen struggles including divorce, bullying, racism, neglect, family/peer pressure, mental health, and others.

I thought the characters were unforgettable and I was totally invested! Elliot was everything I wanted him to be including persistent, loyal, courageous, and totally supportive to Catherine. He would do anything for Catherine and puts up with a great deal from her. Both of them want what's best for each other, but deal with drama and pressure from students and both sides of their families. With that said, I did find Catherine a little annoying sometimes, but I needed to remind myself that with all she'd been through, how she acted was understandable as she was quite confused and dealing with a lot. I liked her strength and appreciated that she stood up for herself and for what was right regarding certain events, especially with the other students in her school. By the end of the book, everything tied together nicely.

Overall, I loved this book. Even though it was different from other Jamie McGuire books I've read in the past, I was very pleased and it didn't disappoint. This is easily a book that can be finished within one sitting, even with its length. I could barely put it down. I do highly recommend this one!

I'd like to thank NetGalley, the author, and the publisher for sharing a copy of this book with me in exchange for my honest review.

5\*\*\*\*\*

This review can also be seen @ <https://readrantrockandroll.com/2018/...>

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## **jessica says**

i love books about love. there, i said it. especially when its about a boy falling for the girl next door. ughhh. why did my parents insist on raising me in the middle of nowhere?! i would have loved to have my own cute boy next door to pine over. lol.

its a good thing this book made up for the tragic absence of my own teenage love because this was soooo cute. so if youve seen other reviews for this, youre well aware the first 3/4 or so is literally just about catharine and elliot fawning over each other. once tragically separated, but now reunited, their love can finally blossom. gosh. i love this trope. its the last 1/4 that totally threw me for a loop. its dramatic, and thrillery, and very shocking. total surprise ending, but a dang good one, nonetheless.

i dont want to say too much because this story is something that should be experienced individually, but wow. what a great book. i swooned, i cheered, i laughed, i gasped, i breathed a heavy sigh of relief. what a journey!

P.S. disclaimer for future readers: this was labelled as adult fiction in my library, but it is 100% YA. its actually on the younger side of YA, if im honest. ive read other books by jamie mcguire and i was shocked at how tame and innocent this was. not that thats a bad thing, but i feel like it would have been even better if the

maturity level had been kicked up a notch. ;)

? 5 stars

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## **Sophie "Beware Of The Reader" says**

I've been given an advanced reading copy of this book by Montlake Romance via Netgalley but it had no influence on my willing and always honest review.

### **5 "I've been tricked" stars!**

When I learned that Jamie McGuire would publish a new book I requested this one immediately and ...crossed my fingers. I was really overjoyed when I learned I could read it because:

The cover is so pretty :-D ;  
I had a good feeling and so far my intuition never misled me.

**Now that it's all read and done I can honestly say that it was totally different from what I expected and from what I had read from Jamie so far.**

First of all there is **one major ingredient in this book: the atmosphere.**

I got a **gothic vibe** from the story and it was a constant companion. Always present, weighting on my thoughts. Surprisingly right from a book happening in Oklahoma and not in a Scottish castle! The reason for this feeling is an **additional unanimated character: Catherine's big, old and spooky house.** This house is filled with whispers and creaking noises. The Juniper is looming ominously throughout the book filling the pages with a constant tension. **What secrets are hidden within these walls?**

### **Second important element: the secret.**

When I was reading Catherine and Elliott's story I found it sweet, cute and somewhat angsty but I was headed toward 4 stars. The "I liked it very very much but I did not get my wow factor". **Then I learned Catherine's secret and I was BLOWN AWAY!** I nearly fell off my chair!

I had been tricked all along. Blinded. Totally and utterly blinded!!!

**So now I want to bow to Jamie McGuire because she wrote a really unique and grave story.**

**But the worst is .... I CAN'T TELL YOU!**

Of course if I explain the secret all your fun will go away and that's a big no no!

**So let's get back to a mini plot summary (think Mini Moy summary) and develop the main characters.**

Catherine's family has been wealthy decades ago but their business had poisoned the town and now she and her mom are considered like pariah. They are responsible for every illness striking the town's people.

Catherine will be constantly bullied and lonely.

Elliott Youngblood is part native American and met Catherine while he was young, up in a tree to catch great pictures. He saw her at a very sad time when little Catherine had to bury her dog in her backyard.

**From that first glimpse Elliott fell for Catherine.** He really fell hard for her but she didn't see him before years as he visited his aunt and uncle every summer, needing a breath from the constant fighting between his parents.

When they properly met Elliott had braces, glasses and was all gangly.

*“I know. I'm Elliott. Want to walk down to Braum's with me for an ice-cream cone?” He was half a head taller than me, but by the looks of it, we weighed the same. His arms and legs were too long and skinny, and he hadn't quite grown into his ears. His high cheekbones protruded enough to make his cheeks appear sunken, and his long, stringy hair didn't help the appearance of his oval face.”*

They soon became friends. Catherine was not alone anymore. They spent a wonderful summer together that ended dramatically.

When Catherine lived the worst day of her young life Elliott had to leave suddenly without saying goodbye.

**Can you imagine what Catherine felt?**

**Betrayed and lonely. Rejected once more. These were her feelings.**

When Elliott came back years later ....let's just say that he had much groveling to do.

**This story about loyalty and love.**

**Elliott's loyalty to Catherine.** His utter devotion to her. He was protective. He would have given his life before letting her be hurt.

**Catherine's loyalty to her mom.** I have never read about a more dedicated daughter to her mother. Her

mother was fragile and Catherine had to protect and care for her constantly. She had no happy childhood or carefree teenage years.

**Catherine's mom loyalty to the family house.** She could not bear to be parted with this family inheritance even if it was in dire need of repairs and they had no money to care for it. This huge and menacing house dragged them down.

**This was a story about abuse, be it from bullies, from neglect by parents or by physical blows.**

**This was a story about saving you and helping others.**

You can't help others if you are trapped. *You can't get someone out of quicksand if you're stuck in it, too,"*

**This is a story about difference and racial issues.**

In this small town many people would treat Elliott badly because he was part First Nation or native kid. Elliott had to grow a thick skin and to let it go. But of course once he became the football star all was forgiven and people did not see his skin color anymore! **I'm always angry when I read such hypocrisy! I consider someone's worth not based on his skin color, religion or gender but I will rank him based on his actions.** There are good and bad people in every culture. The same you have smart and idiots in every religion. To say witnessing such hypocrisy made my blood boil is an understatement!

And on that topic I so loved that quote!

*"My uncle John says people can only make us angry if we let them, and if we let them, we give them power." "That you either get good at rising above and meeting ignorance with education, or you get really good at being bitter."*

**I loved both main characters but Catherine was harder to really connect to.** As he holds her secret close she held the reader at arm's length. Hard to connect with someone who wants to be left alone for fear of having her secret unraveled! **Yet I had so much compassion for that poor girl** who shouldered so many responsibilities alone! When I discovered the truth I was horrified!

**Elliott Youngblood on the other hand was very easy to fall for.** He was a handsome giant who preferred hitting trees when he was angry than risk hurting someone.

Elliott is dedicated, protective, smart, artsy, handsome, courageous and loyal. The perfect her for this young adult novel.



**To conclude I would say that Jamie tackled very difficult topics with an absolute mastery in the storytelling.** When you'll reach the end of the book you'll realize that Jamie spoke about a very sensitive and not so well-known topic in a realistic and skilled fashion.

Recommend it? Without a doubt and please go on with the book, don't DNF because you'll miss the whole purpose of the story.

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Another favorite quote because it happened when Presley bullied Catherine constantly and Elliott defended her (it was sooo good)

*“You know why you’ll never outgrow the need to make others feel like shit so you can feel better, Presley?” She narrowed her eyes at him, watching him like a snake ready to strike. Elliott continued, “Because it’s a temporary high. It never lasts, and you’ll never stop because it’s the only happiness you’ll ever have in your sad, pathetic life that revolves around manicures and highlighting your hair. Your friends? They don’t like you. No one ever will because you don’t like yourself. So every time you give Catherine a hard time, she’ll know. She’ll know why you’re doing it, just like your friends will know. Just like you’ll know that you’re overcompensating. Every time you throw insults Catherine’s way, it’s that much less of a secret.” He made eye contact with each clone and then Presley. “Have the day you deserve.”*

Once again a huge thank you to Montlake Romance for its trust.

Let's chat: do you love surprises in books? Have you read Jamie McGuire's books before?

Thanks for reading!

Sophie

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☆ Bianca ☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆ says

## **Elliott & Catherine.**

The book starts with 10 year old Elliott spending the summer at his aunt's house because his parents are constantly fighting.

While playing around with his new camera he sees Catherine for the first time behind the huge house she lives in with her parents. But it isn't until he's back the summer when they're both 15 that they talk for the first time.

His parents are still fighting all the time and her parents.... It's difficult.

Elliott and Catherine become the bestest of friends that summer. He helps her stand up to the bitchy mean girls. They're having a great time walking all over town to take pictures, they talk, they just spend time outside of the house. Until Elliott has to leave again - at the most traumatic moment in Catherine's life. And she's very mad at him for that.

But it wasn't his fault - and when he finally comes back to her - to go to school in town and be the school's star quarterback - she's still mad at him and things at her house are even weirder!

But of course Elliott didn't wait two years to see her again, to give up that easily!

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Oy! That was ... adorable and heartbreaking and sweet and innocent and exciting and mysterious!

An amazing book. I didn't really expect such a huge story.  
It was so full of ... things!

First love. First losses. Depression. Racism. Hate. Bullying. Excitement. Fear. Lonliness. Anger. Mystery. Love. Hope.

We hope all through the book that those two will end up happily ever after at a college somewhere far away... but of course it's not that easy. They still have a long while to go before we can even think about a happy end.

And everything is so mysterious too!!! What the heck is happening at Catherine's house? What's that all about?!

And we're pretty sure some people or events will make even more problems for our darlings along the way!

Ugh - I just wanted to fast forward to the end to find out if everything would turn out amazing for Catherine & Elliott!

**Amazing Young Adult romance!** A very mature young adult story with lots of problems from so many different points - a really complex book! But there's also lots of hope and love - so much love. Elliott is just

the most adorable young man - the way he loves that girl!

I just loved the book! I loved both Catherine and Elliott so much and I wouldn't mind seeing this as a Netflix show one day!

(view spoiler)

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### **TeaAndBooks says**

Please could someone else read this because I need someone to talk to about this book??

The plot was incredible

That ending has me shook and I don't know how to react or feel because it was so unexpected- I swear, the author did such a phenomenal job of creating a story that was so shocking and stunning all at the same time

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### **Mindy Lou's Book Review says**

This was different and I liked it! I have not read the popular series by this author but even I know this was nothing like her other series.

I wasn't sure what to expect but I was completely engrossed. The author did a good job of keeping me guessing about what the heck was going on behind closed doors.

It starts out with a sweet boy crushes on girl story and as the story developed, the more I wondered if there was more going on in the background. It was subtle and brilliantly done. This has a great love story with a bit of dark side to it and I'll leave it at that so as not to ruin anything.

This is actually one of those stories that I wish I had read with a buddy so I could discuss a few things. Great story. Great writing. ARC provided by NetGalley.

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### **NiCoLeTa E. says**

**\*\*\*3 ...mysterious... stars\*\*\***

Hmm... I'm trying to find the right words, but after two days, i still don't know how to say what I want to say about this book...

The truth is that my expectations were very high about this story, but unfortunately the author haven't met them...

I had to read a book by Mrs. McGuire since the "Beautiful" series which I loved, so while I was reading this book, I was wondering "What the Hell"???

No, the story wasn't crappy and it could be quite interesting, if it wasn't for the first 70% of the book... The truth is that in this 70%, i was so bored!!! I was struggling to finish it and this was something unlike me...

I might be the minority here, but i just have to be honest...

Most of the book was flat and it could be described with less words...

Yep, there was some intriguing phases with the "guests" of the Juniper, but there weren't too many...

But i have to be honest that i didn't realize what the "secret" was... My mind was making other kind of assumptions!!!

But let me tell you some things about the plot...

***"Falling is easy. The hard part is getting back up."***

Elliott and Catherine met each other when they were still kids and they became friends...

They both had family issues and they found comfort to each other...

But then, tragedy struck Catherine and Elliott was forced to leave because of his mother...

Two years later, Elliott is coming back and at the beginning Catherine is very hesitant to let him in again...

And mostly, because she has a big secret that noone should know...

So, what will happen with those two when everything around them will fall apart???

***"He left and didn't say goodbye. And he broke a promise."***

***"What promise?"***

***"To come back."***

***"My baby... He did come back... Sounds to me like when he did, he came straight home."***

Well, Catherine was very isolated and it was such a pity...

I was feeling sorry for her so many times... She didn't deserve that kind of life...

Elliott from the other hand, had his own issues, but he was such a lovely person...

He was so caring and protective of Catherine... And so damn insistent...

But i wasn't feeling the connection between them...

***"You can't save everyone."***

***"I just want to save her."***

Well, the storyline wasn't bad, but i think that it could be avoided to be soooo... flat and slow paced!!!

There were intiguing characters in there, but something felt off for me and I'm so sorry about that!!!

***\*\*\*Arc generously provided for the exchange of an honest review\*\*\****

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

3,5- 4 stars

I haven't read a book from Jamie McGuire in years so I didn't know what to expect from this. This was definitely an interesting and unique story! I find myself captivate in the story! I was hooked from the first pages.

Catherine and Elliot are both unique characters. Their relationship was sweet. I don't want to give anything away from the story. I think it's better to go in this one blind, it will make it more enjoyable! I enjoyed the premise of the book. It has great suspense and I was curious to see what will happen next. There is a mystery around the characters and I loved it. The only reason this wasn't a 5 stars was the fact that it was a little bit slow in some parts and also some things was strange.

Overall, it was an interesting story and I'm glad I had the chance to read it!

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### **Wendy says**

I have loved every novel I have read by Jamie McGuire. Her stories are unbelievably heartfelt and "All The Little Lights" is one I won't be forgetting any time soon.

"All The Little Lights" is Catherine Calhoun and Elliot Youngblood's story. Not only a love story but a coming of age story. I loved getting to know both strong characters through their own eyes and how they view each other. Elliot's steadfast loyalty and Catherine's inner flexibility had me rooting for them through the many obstacles and anguish they faced.

There is also a mystery surrounding the Calhoun household that Catherine is determined to keep secret. I can honestly say I have never experienced such a jaw dropping moment as when the secret is revealed at the end of the story.

Bravo Ms. McGuire!

Thank you to NetGalley and Montlake Romance for an arc of this novel in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Nina says**

**\*Thanks again to Montlake Romance for sending me an ARC of this book via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\***

"All the Little Lights" is a book about Catherine and Elliot who meet during one hot summer in a small town in the United States. They fall in love but when Catherine needs him most, Elliot has to leave town. A few years later though, he comes back to her and he's determined to win back her heart. But just when Catherine

is ready to fully trust Elliot again, he becomes the prime suspect in a local tragedy and a dark secret Catherine is keeping, could destroy whatever chance of happiness they have left.

I really liked the premise of this book and overall really enjoyed Jamie McGuire's "Beautiful" series back when I read it, so I was super excited when I received an ARC for "All the Little Lights". Unfortunately though, my expectations for this novel weren't met and I ultimately was disappointed by it.

The first 80% of the book were incredibly boring and it was basically just about the relationship of the two main characters which made me lose interest in the novel quite quickly. Furthermore, Catherine and Elliot were pretty unoriginal characters and even at the end of the book, I still couldn't have cared less about either of them. She was the quiet girl with some personal problems while he was the guy who for some reason felt the need to save her. I also thought their love story was kind of weird because in chapter one you find out that he'd already been pretty obsessed with her prior to them getting to know each other. Catherine apparently thought it was cute, I personally thought it was kind of creepy.

The last 20% of "All the Little Lights" were a little more interesting and partly made up for the other 80% of the novel. The book stopped being too much about their relationship and instead started dealing with a local tragedy which put a strain on Catherine and Elliot's relationship. But even though that part of the book was definitely more interesting, the big plot twist at the end didn't surprise me at all because as soon as tragedy had struck the town, I had already been guessing the book would end just as it did.

So overall, I unfortunately have to say that I just didn't enjoy "All the little Lights" and can't give it more than two out of five stars. Furthermore, this was the first and probably also the last one of Jamie McGuire's YA books I've read but that doesn't mean I'll just give up on her books. I still really like her writing style and like I said, I did enjoy her other books I've read. So if you want to check out any of her books, I highly recommend you read one of her NA novels.

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### **Jenny••Steamy Reads Blog•• says**

All the Little Lights has a bit of thrillerish vibe going on throughout the book for me. I wasn't sure how I'd like this from her previous reads, but I must say I did like it, it isn't anything like her previous books though.

Elliot & Catherine have that once in a lifetime love that carries with them through separation. My heart ached and healed during this read. There are many twists and turns and surprises that will keep you guessing ?

Although I struggled with the middle of this story, I enjoyed the ending.

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## Camila Roy •RoyIsReading• says

RATING: 3.75/5

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

Okay...I am not sure how to feel about this book.

The first 70% felt flat for me. Nothing really happened except two characters falling in love (in a very unrealistic way, if you ask me), then a tragedy and then a time jump into the future.

**The characters** are nothing special really. **Catherine** is the type of girl who thinks of herself as plain and boring and **Elliot** is the type of guy who needs to save their significant other no matter the cost. Both of those tropey-character-traits annoy the hell out of me. Also, they both seemed really fake (I know they're fictional but come on) and all of their conversations were the exact same. It was always Catherine being insecure and Elliot telling her she was beautiful.

**Now, about the plot:** It is clear from the beginning that the home lives of both Catherine and Elliot are really crappy. I can't say much without spoiling, just that Catherine's been keeping a secret from everyone and it's scary.

**And the ending:** It is really smart and, even though I guessed it, I still applaud the author's intelligence. My rating jumped from 2.75 to 3.75 because of that.

**In conclusion,** I don't know if I should recommend this or not. It wasn't terrible, it was just meh. 70% of the book is nonsense. But if the premise interests you then go for it.

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## Chelsea Humphrey says

As everyone who has come before me in reviewing this title, I'm having trouble finding the proper words (and the spoiler free topics) to discuss just how this book made me feel. While it was unforgettable, multi-faceted, and tender, it was also dark and mysterious, mostly in the second half. I was pleasantly surprised with the change of pace and tone in the latter portion of the story, and almost wish that had been a focal point for the entirety of the novel. It was a bit lengthy for the type of book that this is, so I felt about 75 pages could have been cut without changing any major vibes or story anchors. I was, like most others have stated, surprised and shocked by the twist in the ending. It was moving, but felt slightly disjointed from the overall feel of the novel. As a whole, I enjoyed reading this, and as my first Jamie McGuire title I'm eager to continue on with her books.

*\*My review copy was provided by the publisher via NetGalley.*

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## Sharon ∞ is an emotional book junkie ∞ says

3 ★'s

Okay, first things first. I went into this book thinking it was a YA romance...and it was in the beginning. Then, things took a really creepy, sinister turn that was both intriguing and freaky as hell.

I wish I would have known going in that it wasn't just a romance because I'm not sure I would have read it. Have you seen that awful movie *The Visit*? Well, this gave me the creeps like that one even though it's not exactly the same...*just a lot of creepy things going on at night*.

To be fair, the romance of Elliott and Catherine is really sweet. They had seen each other for a few years when he would come visit his Aunt and Uncle during the summers but they finally get to know each other the summer after ninth grade - and what a summer it was.

Unfortunately, it ends on a pretty heartbreaking note and they don't talk for two more years. I have to hand it to Elliott, he's pretty persistent and I *melted* at how he always knew what to do for Catherine.

There's some typical drama...mean high school girls, problems with parents and unknowns about the future...and that would have been fine before things took a left turn down crazyville.

So, "crazyville" - yes, there are some really weird things going on at Catherine's house but she keeps her secret *very* close. It takes a l-o-n-g time to find out what's going on even though there are hints along the way. Looking back, it creeps me out even more.

But the worse...is what her Mom told her at the end because there was that "time"...Ugh! It just ruined things for me.

So, just be aware. this is a YA romance with a thriller involved and if you're good with that, enjoy!

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