



## **After Math**

*Denise Grover Swank*

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Scarlett Goodwin's world is divided into Before and After.

Before she agreed to tutor Tucker Price, college junior Scarlett was introvert, struggling with her social anxiety and determined to not end up living in a trailer park like her mother and her younger sister. A mathematics major, she goes to her classes, to her job in the tutoring lab, and then hides in the apartment she shares with her friend, Caroline.

After junior Tucker Price, Southern University's star soccer player enters the equation, her carefully plotted life is thrown off its axis. Tucker's failing his required College Algebra class. With his eligibility is at risk, the university chancellor dangles an expensive piece of computer software for the math department if Scarlett agrees to privately tutor him. Tucker's bad boy, womanizer reputation makes Scarlett wary of any contact, let alone spending several hours a week in close proximity.

But from her first encounter, she realizes Tucker isn't the person everyone else sees. He carries a mountain of secrets which she suspects hold the reason to his self-destructive behavior. But the deeper she delves into the cause of his pain, the deeper she gets sucked into his chaos. Will Scarlett find the happiness she's looking for, or will she be caught in Tucker's aftermath?

## After Math Details

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# From Reader Review After Math for online ebook

Jacqueline's Reads says

**FREEBIE!!!! - > AMAZON**

**4.5 Stars**

*Tell me to leave you alone so you can have the life you deserve, Scarlett Goodwin, and not get stuck with a f&ckup like me.*

**The agony on his face tells me he believes every word.**

**It makes me want him even more**

I REALLY enjoyed *After Math*. I was instantly drawn in by the summary and beautiful cover. When I started my read, I knew within the first few pages I would be taken to a happy place.

I would describe *After Math* a little angsty and has a relatively mild to moderate tension. This isn't a light-hearted book, but it doesn't make me want to pull-my-hair- out. It's just enough to keep me interested, wondering and anticipating.

[Summary]

Scarlett is your typical brainy-nerd, majoring in Math. She of course is beautiful, but because of her difficult childhood she has anxiety issues and is anti-social. Tucker is a soccer playing, partying, handsome man-whore on campus. Tucker is on academic probation because of his low grade in his algebra class. Hesitantly, Scarlett agrees to tutors Tucker and soon learns there's more to Tucker than what she and everyone sees on the surface.

[Scarlett]

Let me just say this...

**PROPS TO ALL MY NERDY GIRLS!!!**

Sure, I read books where the Heroine is "smart", but I rarely get one who is so studious, so academically driven, who I cannot but help LOVE! Scarlett reminds me of me and maybe that is why I liked her so much. I get her motivations and I get her issues with being anti-social. My one tiff, I felt that her anxiety wasn't enough to warrant an "issue". I kind of wish she has other problems, like severe OCD. Oh and yes, she cries too much! Every time I read "cry" I really did skim that word over and ignored it.

*...one small part of me likes that he makes me feel something, even if it's bad*

[Tucker]

Oh Tucker, I liked Tucker, but he's not my favorite Hero. I didn't like the fact that Tucker's vice is Algebra, really, Algebra? I mean, couldn't Denise Grover Swank pick a harder class, like Calculus II, I think I took Algebra my Freshman year, BUT I am digressing and that's a personal issue with me. I also didn't like the times Tucker cried. Don't get me wrong, I LOVE venerable Heroes, but it seemed to emasculate Tucker a little bit. Some redeeming qualities I liked about Tucker, he cares for Scarlett and defends her when it's needed. He can be very sweet, adorable and thoughtful, yet so severely damaged

I LOVED how Scarlett and Tucker's formed their relationship. I can't stress enough how much I enjoy character development and friendships blossoming into something more. This is my main reason why I felt *After Math* was just more than a 4 star read.

Thank you for no Flashbacks and I was perfectly fine with Scarlett and Tucker telling me stories from their childhood than me reading a flashback. Honestly, I wasn't really interested what secrets Scarlett and Tucker were hiding, I was simply interested in how they would work on their relationship.

I went back and forth between 4.5 and 5 stars. *After Math* easily could have received 5 stars, but there was always something a little off with the dialogue. I felt like some statements were a bit cheesy, over-the-top, and at times awkward. It's hard for me to admit that because I am a HUGE fan of cheesy dialogue, BUT it didn't quite flow for me. HOWEVER, this wasn't anything too major and *After Math* is still a great read.

*After Math* comprises a lot of qualities I enjoy in a read. I felt that the story was perfect as a single book, the length was just right and there was enough character issues and tension to keep me excited.

I recommend *After math* if you are looking for a mild to moderate angsty read.

AMAZON

For more reviews, visit <http://jacquelinesreads.blogspot.com/>

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### **\*J\* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

3.5 stars....no 4 stars....no 3.5!

This book was good, just not great to me. Did I enjoy it--yes. Would I read it again--probably not.

*After Math* is the story of Scarlett and Tucker. Scarlett and Tucker are both damaged and come from broken pasts. Tucker is the star soccer player at the school and gets tutored by Scarlett. Scarlett is rather anti-social.

Both Scarlett and Tucker share similar pasts and are able to experience feelings when they are together that they've never felt before. They both find peace with each other. Tucker is able to see within Scarlett, to the real person she is and Scarlett is able to do the same with Tucker. She can see past his cocky, soccer star persona.

*After Math* is about Scarlett and Tucker giving in to the feelings that have always been so foreign to them--love and acceptance--and finding happiness in a life that was always tainted with pain and sadness.

I would have definitely liked to have seen more of Scarlett and Tucker together. There was no insta-love in this book. The build-up of their relationship felt real but then by the time they got together the book pretty much ended. Even the epilogue didn't go very far in to the future.

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### **P.A. Warren says**

WOW. After Math Blew me away.. The story is about Scarlett and Tucker. Scarlett is a math tutor and Tucker needs a Math tutor due to being on Academic Probation. They both have harsh pasts and have to overcome those to figure out what's best for each other.

The Good... This book drags you in and drowns you in emotion. I fell in love with Scarlett and Tucker. They both have pretty bad pasts and they are both emotional wrecks. I do not rate many books up there with Jamie McGuire's Beautiful Disaster but this is one I would rate up there with it. The Not so Good: I think it could have been a bit longer. I think some parts were rushed. Especially towards the end. I think a few chapters more would have added to the book. I loved that there was an epilogue though. I would definitely be interested in reading a 2nd book with them. I mean the stuff they are dealing with could totally be turned into another book. Although it's really not needed. Just wanted by this mere Blogger. Pretty Please with a Cherry on Top? Definitely a book you MUST read!!!!

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### **A. Bookzilla. says**

This book has a very depressing tone, despite being a feelgood read. I know that makes no sense, but just bear with me.

I guess I could say that I didn't expect to like it as much as I did after some reviews I read, but it wasn't amazing, either.

Being in Scarlett's head was sometimes exhausting. It's not just the fact that she was so closed off, but she would often turn into a real drama queen and it was annoying as hell. It was really okay during the first half of the book, but during the second it was almost unbearable how much she made a big deal out of everything.

On the other hand, she's a genuinely good person, and I liked that she really cared about Tucker rather than being swayed by his good looks and *football* superstar status. She actually didn't care about that, at all. She's also not the virginal, naive heroine, as much as she seems so at first. Oh and, she has no self-image issues, she knows she's good looking, she just doesn't like the attention.

Tucker, on the other hand, was an enigma from start to finish. This will probably sound weird because, sure, you get to know him some, and I actually really, really liked him, but overall, he was a mystery and he remained a mystery to me. I understood his struggles, but I didn't connect with him all that much. Sometimes I wished it was dual POV just so I could get inside his head.

I said it in my status updates, and I'll say it again: These two were one huge mess of insecurities. But nevertheless, you can see that they were made for each other, and I had some seriously *aweeeeee* moments reading it. They were just so sweet together. There's no insta-love, their relationship progresses naturally, they're so real and honest with each other, and you know - I liked that they somehow made each other complete.

It's written in first person present, and it just didn't sit right with me. But that's okay, overall I did like the writing style.

Thankfully, the author didn't succumb to the-big-misunderstanding, although it was an easy trap, what with Tucker's character being a such a mess.

Supporting characters were good and I liked them. I didn't like the love-triangle attempt, because in the end it turned out to be pointless.

The ending was *very* rushed, and that's ultimately why I decided to keep my rating at 3.5. It's like, you get to see very little of the two of them together, then poof, he's gone. And then poof...you know? Rushed.

There are a couple of mildly graphic sex scenes, just a heads up. For some reason, I was hoping it was clean.

Like I said, this book was a nice surprise, I didn't expect to like it so much. It's about two people being exactly what the other needs to get over their demons and be complete. I definitely recommend it.

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### **Natasha is a Book Junkie says**

*“How long have I existed in this nether world? Living in it but not part of it? Standing on the sidelines as a bystander? I’m like an alien, exiled to a foreign land in which I never fit, no matter how hard I try. For twenty years I’ve lived alone, keeping me safely tucked inside, but it’s an illusion. A lie. I thought I could protect myself from the horror of my home life growing up, but all I’ve done is isolate and ostracize myself from the world. I’d always hoped someone would hold the key to open the door to my prison. Someone I felt safe letting in. Now I’ve found him. And he doesn’t want me.”*

Every coin has two sides, every stick has two ends, and every person has two faces. This is the story of two people who live their lives presenting a brave façade to the world around them, keeping their true vulnerable face hidden deep inside them where no one can hurt them. It’s a story of finding the one person in the world who makes you want to lower your defences for them, finally let your guard down and let them see the real you. And hopefully find yourself in the process.

*“Could someone really see past the walls I put up and see me?”*

Scarlett grew up in a trailer park, raised by a mother who only saw her as a burden and a way to get welfare. Never having experienced unconditional love or any love for that matter from the one person that should have taught her the meaning of love, Scarlett has not only moved away from the only home she’s ever known and the only family she has in the world, but also left her past behind forever. Desperate to become the very opposite of what her mother always expected her to become, she now lives her life surrounded by rules, structure, set plans for her future. Striving to achieve independence in her life and to never need anyone to feel complete, Scarlett steers away from romantic relationships, seeing them not only as a distraction she cannot afford, but also as something that could potentially break her fragile heart. Afflicted by anxiety attacks compliments of her traumatic childhood, she struggles in social contexts and in a world without order, she finds solace in the only constant in her life, the only thing she could always rely on to give her the control that her life lacked – math.

*“With math, as long as you have all the necessary factors, you can find the answer. Life, on the other hand, is so much messier... Math is the one constant in my life, the one thing I can count on to always be the same.”*

Tucker Price is in appearance Scarlett’s very opposite. He is the famous soccer player the entire school idolises; he is cocky, arrogant, irresponsible and popular with the opposite sex. He appears to have the world at his feet, a bright future, guaranteed success. But one chance glance exchanged between them and their lives suddenly but irreversibly collide. They recognise a deep but suppressed sadness in each other’s eyes and an unexpected connection immediately sparks between them.

*“I’m surrounded by people every day, yet I always feel alone, no matter how hard I try to connect. It’s as though a veil has been thrown over my heart, and no one has ever been able to tear it down. Until this boy. This unattainable, untouchable, unreliable boy.”*

What starts as a math tutoring arrangement benefiting both of them in different ways, slowly grows into a friendship that becomes something they both start relying on and drawing comfort from. Scarlett is comfortable around Tucker, he calms her, appears attuned and responsive to her emotional needs, he sees all her quirks and does not judge her for them. For the first time in her young life, Scarlett is able to just be herself and slowly let her guard down. He makes her want to live life, not just watch it pass by, and he makes her feel things she has never felt for another boy before.

*“The door to me, the me deep inside, has cracked open, and I’m emerging into the daylight for the first time in years.”*

While they both initially try to ignore and fight their mutual attraction, theirs is inevitably a superbly heart-warming and utterly addictive tale of first love, self-acceptance, learning to love another person selflessly and bravely, and feeling deserving of being loved. It is also a story that puts emphasis on making your own choices in life and then living with those choices. I experienced so many different emotions while listening to Scarlett’s sad but oh-so-very brave inner voice. She is a heroine to admire and learn from, a beautiful example of how much a human heart can endure and still not shatter and remain optimistic. Her quiet hope to feel loved someday by someone, but not feeling worthy of making a man want to stick by her, ultimately never expecting her own happy ending, are heartbreaking. Nothing gets to me like the false perception of unrequited love, it pulls my heart strings every single time, and by the end of this book I was as emotionally drained as I was ecstatically happy. And then I went back and re-read some of those scenes because I was not ready to let go of Scarlett and Tucker just yet, knowing all too well that another ten books would have not satisfied my craving for more of their story.

I cannot recommend this delightful book enough – it was my undoing from the very first page. I am now eagerly awaiting the second book in the series, *Redesigned*, which will be Scarlett’s best friend Caroline’s story.

*“I look up into his face and his gaze lowers to my mouth. His arm tightens around my back, and he closes his eyes, pressing his forehead against mine. For several seconds, our breaths mingle and we’re breathing each other in. I’m amazed at how right this feels. Like I’ve been*

*searching my entire life for this peace I feel in his embrace.”*

[4.5 STARS]

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### **Cyndy Andren says**

WOW!!!! After Math is book filled with believable characters and a story line that most of us can relate to. Scarlett, a college student who doesn't date much because she's more concerned about making sure she doesn't end up with the same lifestyle of her mom and sister.

Tucker, the college soccer superstar, the golden haired boy that all girls want to date and most guys envy. However, there is more to Tucker than meets the eye and Scarlett realizes that when she's hired to tutor him in math.

Denise Grover Swank does a fantastic job of making her characters jump to life so that we care for them. I found myself laughing, crying and cheering throughout the pages.

I'm a huge fan of this author. This book is a bit of a change from the others that she's written and all I can say after reading it is "what took you so long to write this?" I am hoping with every fiber of my being that there will be a sequel.

I was fortunate to be able to read an advance copy of this book and highly recommend it.

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### **Tessamari ♥Many Waters...♥ ~ Sweet Spot Book Blog says**

4.25-4.5 Stars

*“Scarlett, open your eyes.”*

*I do as he says, looking up at him with confusion.*

*His eyes burn bright with desire. “I want you to see me when I come into you. I want you to know I’m here. I want you to know I see you.”*

Holy. Mother. Of. God. This was such an unexpected surprise hit for me. I mean, just reading that opening quote above makes me both squirm and swoon at the same time. Before I go on and review, I have to stake my claim on Tucker Price. From this day forward, be forewarned, chicks...Tucker Price is *Mine!* Yea, that’s right. *Mine!* I love him!!

I have to admit, when I read the blurb, I had already taken a keen to our heroine. She’s a Math major for cripes sake. Oh, just an FYI, I’m a Math geek myself. Proud owner of a Mathematics degree over here – love being a geek :) Therefore, it’s no surprise that I’ve always loved nerdy/geeky girls getting the hot jock. In this case, the hot jock is Tucker Price. But what brings these two souls together? Well, believe it or not, this story is far from typical.



***“I’m broken, Tucker. I’m hopelessly broken inside, and I’m not sure there are enough pieces in me to put back together. But when I’m with you, I feel like maybe I can actually be whole.”***

Solving math problems is Scarlett’s way of de-stressing. Her goal in life is to not end up like her alcoholic mother, dependent on people to get by. Her career ambition is to work for the CIA as an Analyst. It’s safe to say Scarlett is beyond shy. As a matter of fact, she suffers from social anxiety. She likes to keep to herself and has a hard time trusting people. And when it comes to her past, she definitely wants to keep that hidden. Except for her best friend, Caroline, no really *sees* Scarlett...that is until Tucker Price enters her life.

Tucker is a star soccer player at the University, as well a well-known man-whore. However, to continue to play soccer, he needs to remain in good academic standing, which includes passing his Algebra class. So whom does he run into at the math tutor lab...Scarlett, of course. Tucker sees something in Scarlett, and vice versa. For some odd reason, no matter how opposite they might seem on the outside, they can both see past their façade and just be themselves around each other. They’re both hiding their past, afraid that what others may see, might make people run the other way. However...

***“Everything just feels so right when I’m with you, Scarlett. I can be me. But it’s more than that. You give me something I haven’t had in a long time, if ever. You give me peace. It’s like the jumbled mess in my head can settle down, and I can be still with you. Like none of the other stuff matters.”***

I really, really enjoyed this book. If it didn’t start out a little slow, I probably would’ve given it more stars. I loved both Scarlett and Tucker. Their relationship started out slow and they both initially started as friends, but slowly turned into something more. And what was amazing was how they could be themselves around each other, how they became better and amazing people because of each other. Just loved it. Definitely recommend :)

Other favorite quotes:

***“If I kiss you now, I won’t be able to let you go, and you’ll end up hating me. Tell me to walk away right now before it’s too late. Tell me to leave you alone so you can have the life you deserve, Scarlett Goodwin, and not get stuck with a fuckup like me.”***

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***Nothing easy is worth having.***

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***“I’ve never wanted anyone as much as I want you, Scarlett. That scares the shit out of me.”***

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***“You make me want to be a better person. This is me being a better person.” ~ Tucker***

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**Jamila says**

I wana go with meh... It started of promising but it lost its juj and the ending was rushed..

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**Candice says**

**3.5 Stars**

I will admit, I thought this was going to be a higher rated book from me. It started out great! Then, it fell flat for me. I am not sure where it turned, maybe when Scarlett became needy and walked out of tutoring because it hurt too much? Why do females have to act like that? Why can't we just go with the flow? I am definitely a go with the flow type of person. I don't ask questions, because I am not sure I want to hear the answers to them. I don't pry into people's business, so I don't dig further. If they want to tell me something, they'll tell me. I don't need to ask them about it. Hell, I don't even ask my friends what movie they saw last weekend. If they wanted to tell me, they would. I value my privacy and respect others as well. However, if someone asks me something I tell them the truth, flat out. I do not sugar coat. If they don't like the answer, there's the door. I believe in communication if you want relationships to work. I don't like secrets. I say what's on my mind, whether I think it's right or wrong. Note, I said I speak my mind. I don't question anything. I loved this about Scarlett and Tucker.

Never shied away from the truth, well...Scarlett. Tucker needed some pushing, but then again, I thought Scarlett was asking too much at times (not about Tucker leaving in the middle of the night, that would have freaked me out too). I really liked how Tucker "got" Scarlett without her even speaking. He could just read her. It made my heart happy.

I loved watching their friendship/relationship build, I just wanted more of them as a couple. I would have liked to see them out in the "real world" together. What were people saying? The infamous playboy settling down?

Even the Epi was lacking for me. I just wanted more. I shouldn't because I got an HEA, but I still feel cheated. (view spoiler)

Overall, it was a good read, I just wanted more.

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## **Candace says**

### **Cute, College Romance**

If you're in the mood for a cute, heartwarming story, this is a good choice. It was sweet, predictable and cliché. Yet, it had a nice flow and was easy to listen to.

When I read a college-aged romance, I expect certain things. Angst, melodrama and a bit of naïveté are a given. Sometimes it can be a bit much and I find myself rolling my eyes at the immaturity. Other times, an author nails it. This story fell somewhere in between for me.

This is a story of familiar themes: "nerdy girl meets the campus star athlete", "good girl and promiscuous bad-boy", "emotionally damaged/tortured soul", etc. If you're an avid reader, there's nothing here that you haven't heard before. That isn't to say that it isn't an entertaining story though.

If it isn't broke, don't fix it. Those themes work for a reason. They worked for this story and I was glad that I listened to it. Sometimes you just need something a little less intense to balance out the heavy stuff. This was the perfect "filler" book for just that.

It was nice. It was cute. It was sweet. I liked it, but it wasn't a life-changing type of book that will make a lasting impression. Still, it was a good way to pass some time. Overall, an enjoyable story.

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## **Carol [Goodreads Addict] says**

I couldn't decide to give this book 3 or 4 stars. I think the true answer is somewhere in the middle. First I want to say that I love Denise Grover Swank. I love everything she writes. Her words have a way of pulling me in and making me a part of her stories. *Aftermath* is a story of young love/first love. Scarlett (I love her name by the way) is a college junior and is a math whiz. She has super high goals for herself after college and is focused on obtaining those goals. Tucker is a handsome soccer jock who seems bent on partying and sleeping with as many girls as possible and keeping up his reputation of being the school bad boy. But his grades are slipping and needs a tutor to help him pass algebra. So he meets Scarlett. Both Scarlett and Tucker are hiding painful past histories. Neither of them has ever experienced the love of a family and both try to compensate for their pain in individual ways. But when they meet, they both realize that they truly get each other, understand each other in ways no one else ever has. And that they need each other. But there are a lot of other people that don't want them to be together. There are a lot of obstacles in their path to overcome before they can truly be happy together. I instantly loved both Tucker and Scarlett and was rooting for them from the first page.

The only thing I didn't like about this book and the reason for the wavering decision on how many stars to give is just that I feel like variations of this plot have been used so many times. Painful pasts to overcome, college love. So it just didn't feel like something new to me. With that being said, it is a sweet story of personal growth and love. It is definitely for the over 18 crowd due to language and some fairly steamy bedroom scenes.

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## **Jessica Viteri says**

*"Why do any of us do what we don't want to do?"*

*"Because we're afraid of what will happen if we don't."*

First and foremost, thank god this is a stand alone. Sometimes you want to just grab ONE book, devour it and be done with it. No series. Just that one good book. (That is unless the author is thinking of expanding this into a series...for now it's a stand alone).

Second, I really liked Scarlett and Tucker together. Once she got over her anxiety and he stopped being a prick-a-zoid, their banter was great. They started off as friends and not some cheesy insta-love. They build their love from that friendship and trust. (Oh trust: big word, big action.) These two poor kids needed each other in the worst way. Their souls were connected do to their shitty past. They really were meant for each other.

*"You're doing great, Tucker. You may not need my help for much longer at this rate."*

*"Then I guess I'll have to work on looking more inept. I like knowing I have you to explain the lessons. You're my safety net."*

*"I've never been called any one's safety net before. But the arrangement is that I tutor you until your grades have improved, and you no longer need me. As long as you need me, I'm yours."*

*"You have no idea how much I need to hear that."*

Really good story over all.

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## **Elizabeth (Liz) says**

4 Stars

Mmmm Mmmm. I do believe Tucker Price makes a very fine addition to my collection of book boyfriends! I've also developed a somewhat sudden and urgent interest in soccer.....players ;-)

Scarlett Goodwin is a total introvert with social anxiety disorder. She was determined to escape the trailer park her mother and sister still live in back home, and she did. However, the college-party scene isn't for her. Heck, even dating is outside of her comfort zone. As a mathematics major, she sticks to what gives her comfort, and that's numbers. She goes to class, tutors in the math lab and spends the rest of her time holed up in her apartment which she shares with her best friend. Tucker Price, on the other hand, is the university's star soccer player and partying womanizer. Tucker's eligibility is at risk because he's failing his required Algebra course. When Scarlett is manipulated into tutoring Tucker, her careful life is thrown for a loop. Surprisingly, the more time they spend together, the more Scarlett begins to realize that the persona Tucker shows everyone else isn't actually the real him. He comes to trust Scarlett and allows the mask to drop when he's with her. Scarlett finds that being with Tucker eases her anxiety and gives her a sense of peace she's never known. They quickly come to mean a great deal to each other, and their feelings are intense. But, are they ready to expose their innermost pain and insecurities to each other, to really allow themselves to know one another? Or, is it easier to walk away?

I thoroughly enjoyed AFTER MATH by Denise Grover Swank!! There was so much in this story that grabbed me and held on. This was my first book by this author, but I can tell you that it won't be my last.

Denise Grover Swank has a very authentic and fluid 'voice'. She writes with an ease and seasoned ability that I look for and love. Whether it's tackling high-level mathematics, soccer, anxiety or the emotional intricacies of a new relationship, there's no wondering if she knows what she's talking about. That thought never entered my mind, and, because of that, I was able to fully immerse myself into Scarlett and Tucker's story.

Tucker was just...well, he's MINE. I can tell you that right now ;-). There was \*something\* about this guy that really got to me. He's gorgeous and damaged, yeah....which I love. But, I'm pretty sure it was the way he treated Scarlett that did it for me. He accepted her, but he also gently challenged her. I loved the way he so thoroughly dropped his bad-boy, womanizing persona with her and found a peace he badly needed.

Scarlett, aside from the aptitude for mathematics, is someone I found myself easily relating to on a number of levels. Introvert, check. Anxiety, check. Lack of social skills, check. Doesn't respond well to her world being upended, check. I could go on ;-). But, the point is, I could \*feel\* what this character went through. I could identify, easily. I love, too, that she allowed herself to be gently and lovingly pushed and prodded out of her comfort zone. She also managed to stand up for herself when she needed to, when it was important, and I respected that, as well.

Together? Scarlett and Tucker have great chemistry, but also a fast and deep connection that I really enjoyed. Were the ILYs too soon? In real life, yeah, undoubtedly. But, I felt their connection from the very beginning, and, in the context of this story, it worked for me.

I do have to say, the one thing that didn't work for me was the end. I felt it was rushed and too easy. That tends to spoil a story for me as it's the last thing I read, but, even with that, I still very much enjoyed AFTER MATH.

If you're a fan of the New Adult genre, I don't see how you couldn't enjoy this story. It's one that might get overlooked a bit in the constant stream of New Adult books flooding the market, but I think that would be regrettable. So, my advice? Go. Buy it. NOW. Don't miss out! And, Denise Grover Swank? I'm waiting for more!!

**\*\*Copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review\*\***

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## **Tandie says**

I have mixed feelings about After Math. Scarlett has severe social anxiety and panic attacks. She had a crappy childhood & excelled in school, specifically math, to get herself out of the trailer park and into university. She took advantage of free counselling on campus for 14 months, & has learned many techniques to calm herself down. Scarlett has a tutoring job in the math lab, which works well with her social anxiety. One on one, small environment. She has two close friends, one a roommate, but avoids going out. No crowded, unfamiliar places. Everyday situations can cause her to panic. She does equations to calm herself down, guided imagery too.

I was impressed by how accurately the author depicted this kind of disorder. I can relate so much to the main character, as I have social anxiety myself. My brother & I used to joke and call it Walmart-a-phobia. It's gotten harder to deal with as I've gotten older (although middle and high school were so so difficult), and I found out it's a real thing. Acute Agoraphobia. I feel safe when my environment is controlled and familiar. New places & people make me nervous, even when everyone is friendly. I use some of the same coping mechanisms Scarlett describes. Not equations - I'm only good with the basic math used in my every day life. I would've spotted BS, so the author either did her research well or has some type of personal experience.

So why 3 stars? From me, 3 stars means I liked most of it but had some significant dislikes. The writing was good, markedly better than The Substitute by the same author. I was skeptical of the way that Scarlett & Tucker recognized something in one another. It actually developed into a nice and healthy friendship, they helped each other in different ways.

The romance was super needy and unhealthy, and it moved way too fast. I hate the idea that another person can heal you. Granted, Scarlett took some serious steps with therapy, but I didn't understand why she no longer went. She's not fixed. There's mention of the medications that the MC wished she could afford to take. That was a blunder, because there's assistance available that her therapist would've alerted her to. She qualified for free campus counselling, and she's clearly not able to function normally, even with the calming techniques.

Tucker was an emotional mess. Drug addicted mother. Abusive foster homes. Self destructive behavior, like binge drinking and sleeping with all the girls. He even has a temper problem that results in emotional, if not physical abuse.

Seriously, why are there so many romances about emotionally damaged people healing each other through love? My issues sometimes affect my family. I'm thankful that my husband, while not perfect, doesn't suffer from anxiety or problems from a violent past. My kids know what I deal with and see me being proactive about dealing with my panic attacks. Having a calm, confident spouse helps enormously. We've been at it for almost 20 years, and I can tell you that regular marriage has enough hard spots. I'm not saying it's impossible, but the odds aren't ever in your favor if you have 2 people with major unresolved issues try to live happily ever after.

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## A\_Ryan says

### Sometimes a Re-read just isn't the same....

My original review is below for those who are still interested. But I have to be honest... this time around I'm giving it **3.75 Stars** at best.

Its sweet. It's romantic. But after having read some truly awesome 5+++ star reads, this just doesn't compare anymore.

Um... I compared this to KULTI! What was I thinking?!?!

Have you ever had this happen? God, I hope so. Otherwise, it's just proof that my heart has finally turned to a black lump of coal and that this year's dry-spell is not a dry-spell at all. But rather a sign that I've finally "romanced myself out". Over indulged. Read too many. And now nothing seems new or fresh or remotely swoon worthy.

Gah!

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*Original Review Posted 2015 .....*

### **5+++ Totally Blew Me Away Stars!!!**

>i> "First rule. No saying goodbye , never goodbye."

I loved EVERYTHING about this book!!

Scarlett suffers from a very real social anxiety and she finds solace in the logic and reliability of mathematics. Her idea of a great night involves her algebra text book and a pair of comfortable pyjamas in her dorm room. That is until Tucker Price enters her life.

*"Life is so freaking complicated. People make it even more so. Why can't they just follow rules?"*

Tucker is the university's soccer superstar, on his way to the European pros. He's cold, crass, totally out of control..and he doesn't trust a soul. After breaking one too many rules, he's been arrested once too often and is placed on behavioural probation, which wouldn't be so bad if he wasn't on academic probation already, (mostly for failing algebra). Now his scholarship is seriously threatened but the university is in no way ready

to give up on a kid with such unparalleled potential. So in order to get people off his back he agrees to meet with a maths tutor. He just never expected a tutor who called him on all his shit and wouldn't take anything but his absolute best. And he likes it.

*“You treat me like I’m everyone else. You’re not star-struck by Tucker Price, the soccer star.”*

She seems to be the only one who is honest with him, the only one who doesn't need anything from him...and the only one that gives him any real sense of peace.

Much to everyone's disdain and disapproval, the two become friends. No one understands it. And people always fear what they don't understand. The connection between Scarlett and Tucker will either threaten their futures and destroy them both, or it will be their only saving grace.

“Nothing easy is worth having.”

I loved the academic-minded Scarlett, preparing for her career with the CIA with such determination and clear-set agenda. I loved her love affair with mathematics, which brought her such comfort that in many ways it was the family she so desperately craved.

I loved Tucker. He was sexy soccer personified. I loved his rebellion and his self-preservation, and most of all I loved the way he loved Scarlett against all the odds. Their romance was slow coming, always simmering under the surface as they slowly became friends and learned to trust one another.

If you loved KULTI you'll love this. It moves along a little faster, the friendship is a little sweeter, and the romance and devotion is palpable.

After math is romantic, touching, sexy, and utterly absorbing.

I can't wait to read #2 in the series!

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