



A SECRET LIFE

RACHAEL BROWNELL



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“I think you and I were meant to meet. I think all of this was supposed to happen. You are my destiny.”

She never thought that her life would be this complicated. Or this dangerous. Running from her past, Kat and her mom end up in a small Colorado town when Kat run’s directly into her future. She changes everything about herself to try and blend into the background, to go unnoticed. She pushes everyone away and erects walls around herself and her heart. As hard as she tries, though, Kat can’t seem to escape the pull that Cam has on her.

Cam has never been so intrigued by anyone. Not only is Kat the most gorgeous girl he’s ever seen but also the most mysterious. She’s hiding something and he’s hell-bent on finding out what it is. The only problem is that she’s trying to shut him out which only furthers his determination to get close to her.

When Kat learns that her past is catching up with her again she has to run, leaving Cam, and her broken heart, behind.

A Secret Life Details

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Author : Rachael Brownell

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From Reader Review A Secret Life for online ebook

My Secret Book Spot says

"A Secret Life" by Rachael Brownell

5 out of 5 stars

I've developed a slight writer's crush on Brownell. This is the second book I've read by her and I simply love her writing style. Her words just seem to move so effortlessly on the page and I feel like I'm in the ocean just floating along on her narrative. Her characters are well developed, realistic, and charming. Brownell has a way of writing beautiful love stories amid harsh circumstances and this one is no exception.

Katrina has secrets. Her life is not really her own and she's living one big lie. Starting her senior year at a new school, she tries to fly below the radar but a literal run-in with a hot guy changes the path she's on. Will Cam see through her walls and convince her to trust him or will the past catch up to her first and destroy her chance at happiness?

Katrina is a little rough around the edges. She's trying to create a new persona and failing quite miserably. Aspects of her true personality keep shining through and there are just some traits that are so inbred that you can't hide them. I like that there was a constant inner struggle waging war in her head...between who she was and who she must become. This battle gives her a very realistic quality and makes her feel a little bit raw. Those are the things that allowed me to really connect with her and feel what she felt on her journey.

Cam isn't perfect and I love that about him. While his family seems All-American on the outside they are harboring a few secrets of their own. He is ready to leave behind the person he has been and work on becoming something better. From the moment he sees Kat, he sees a chance at a future that's beyond his wildest dreams. I love that his faith in her never wavers, even when it's apparent that she is holding back from him. I love his easy acceptance of her life and her circumstances and his desire to be with her at all costs.

Brownell does a great job switching the narrative between Kat and Cam. There are very distinct differences in their voices and I really enjoyed getting to be in each of their heads. Their chemistry was palpable and I found it very easy to root for them. Their journey wasn't easy but it was well worth the investment. This is a great book and I can definitely recommend it. I really hope that Brownell continues their story and I get to live in their world for just a little while longer.

I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Shannon, My Secret Book Spot

Em says

A Secret Life by Rachel Brownell. The story started sort of in the middle and jumped back and forth as the plot demanded it. A few typos and word placement errors.

I think this book was marketed to young adults therefore I had to keep this to the fore whilst reading. Main stage characters Courtney/Katrina and Cameron are shallow in the extreme. Secondary characters like Mum Dad etc hardly get a bit part and only get a rare appearance out of the wings.

The story medium is a good idea but the plot timeline is all over the place with first mention of Witness Protection Programme not until quarter of the book has been read.

Courtney now called Katrina and her mum Lilly have moved twice in 6 months, leaving behind friends and family, after the death of her father Phillip and brother Cameron in a car accident. Enter rich high school kid Cam (very confusing bother and friend same name) who has the hots for Katrina (Kat) gets her a job in his dad's resort. Just getting acquainted when off Lilly and Kat go again to another state another identity. One year later college beckons and as if by fate Courtney/Kat meets Cam again. Act 2 brings revelation, kidnapping, jealousy, death and more story threads with gaping holes like my knitting.

A great idea just needs some tweaking. Maybe not my kind of book and I'm too old to be reading it

Stacey says

First of I was super excited to pick my book up while in Nashville and meet Rachel .

This book has you the moment you see the cover but once you open up after just 3 maybe 4 pages your hooked .

The story is very much about destiny and maybe a little about fate too .

When your life is turned upside down due to no fault of your own and your life is ripped apart

You have to try move on .

Kat has a new start and doesn't want any attention (which is hard when you are a very beautiful young lady) trying to stay out of the way and blend is all she wants to do .

Cam well he see her and wants and whatever cost .

When your heart is saying one thing but your head says another What do you do .

Life is complicated .

When kat falls in love to be ripped apart will destiny help or leave these too Broken hearted .

What happens when your passed become a you'd present and life takes another flip .

Read to find out what happens

Meg K says

Great suspense!

This is the type of book that works its way into your brain and completely takes over! A Secret Life is filled with mystery and suspense. I was on the edge of my seat the entire time. I've already begun the second book in this duet!

Casey Bond says

I was fortunate enough to read this book before publication. It is an awesome new adult romance. Kat and Cam were vivid and amazing. There is also a lot of suspense and I just loved it! Rachael is a very talented writer!

Kimberly says

Oh the suspense

I love a good book with some suspense mixed in. This one hits that so well. Homerun on the suspense, enough to make me want more. Clean romance loved it

Toni says

Isn't that book cover beautiful? I was drawn to the book the moment I saw it.

A Secret Life is a romantic suspense tale told from the perspectives of both Katrina and Cam. Katrina and her mother are starting over in a small town in Colorado after being accustomed to the high society life her father provided. Katrina makes slight changes to her appearance, hoping to blend in, to fly under the radar at her new high school. It's her senior year. She just wants to get it over with and move on to college, leaving behind the new messed up life she's been dealt. But then she meets Cam who refuses to be dismissed. There's something about Katrina that makes him want nothing more than to get close to her. That isn't the only problem, though. When Katrina's past catches up to her, they are forced to run... and leave Cam in her wake.

The author's writing style is very different from any I've read before. It's razor sharp and to the point. For readers who dislike a lot of flowery prose, this is the perfect style. There is an air of suspense and urgency woven into the story that pushed me to the next page and the next. The pacing is as quick as a race horse, so be prepared for a quick read.

I had mixed feelings about the relationship between Katrina and Cam. On one hand, I really wanted to see them succeed and was bummed when Katrina's past forced her to move forward without him. On the other hand, their romance moved like lightening and lacked some of the development that would have made it feel more organic to me. I had to keep reminding myself that they were teenagers and teens seem to 'fall in love' quickly. Cam seemed a little too smart to be that foolhardy, but he was determined to get what he wanted and I appreciated that.

I do have to point out that this book needs a good sweep from an editor. There were quite a few grammatical errors, and repetition that could have been avoided.

Overall, I thought this was a good story that had me engaged from the get-go. Brownell has a real talent for storytelling. I will definitely read more by this author, and recommend A Secret Life for fans of romantic suspense!

Miranda says

I received my copy in the mail and the cover made me instantly excited its just so pretty and mysterious! This was my first Rachael Brownell book and probably wont be my last. Her writing is very to the point and

not overly fluffed. Which can make or break a book for me. But in her case it was nice. The plot was very crazy and you fall in love with Court-Kat-Stacey-Kat yes the names were a bit much I was pretty excited to read a story based off a girl in the protective services cause honestly I haven't read any so it was a nice breath of fresh air for me. Cam was swoon worthy yes a tad on the stalkerish side but dude they belonged together so I let that slide. :)

It had the most epic twist near the end that blew me away I devoured this book in one night I couldn't put it down. Definitely a re-read for me later on. I had a few quirks within the book that I didn't like. Or more wanted more from it etc but they didn't put me off to bad. Maybe alittle more detailing in the story add more to it since it felt really short. Time flew by with the time tables skipping so fast. Wanted more of Cam and Kat felt we didn't get to see them grow too much other then it being destiny and all... And the ending left me slightly bitter since it felt so....sudden maybe I was just feeling sad due to it being over but I wanted soo much more from that ending. All in all it was a good read.

Rating:4 Stars

Re-readable: yes

Heather Bridson says

I picked up this book, and its matching bookmark, at the Traverse City Women's Expo in 2014. I met the author and wanted all her books she had set out, but we all know finances usually don't allow for large impulse purchases, so I bought this one. Rachael signed it for me, and I tucked it away for a couple months until I had time to read it.

Honestly, I thought it would be just another cute romance novel. Boy was I wrong! The Characters are so well done, I cried so much in this book, and with only 173 pages that says a lot! I was so brought into the lives of Kat and Cam, I just felt Kat's heartaches and fears. So well written!

I was not expecting the drama and intrigue used in this short book. I am very pleased with it, and have been telling people about it, although the guys and my hubby really don't care since its "A girlie book". Really, they need to read more! Anyway, this is a true gem in my collection, and I will be looking into Rachael's other books soon!

I bought this book, and was not paid for my review in any way, All opinions are my own.

A Book Vacation says

To see my full review:

<http://abookvacation.com/2014/08/21/r...>

I read this novel a few weeks back, and it's stuck with me ever since. While I did find the insta-attraction portion of the novel just a tad cheesy in the beginning, as the novel progressed and the characters grew up, going from high school to college, I found myself rooting for the lovebirds, Cam and Kat, enjoying their antics and so happy that their attraction to one another lead to a much deeper relationship. Brownell tells their story in two parts, glossing over a few years in between in order to take her YA novel into the NA world while keeping it clean, and it works very well.

This novel has many different layers; many stories to tell. It's about a mother and daughter in witness protection. It's about first love. About danger. Crime. Grief. Protection. The FBI. Doing what's right. Outrunning your past, and looking to the future. And I enjoyed this aspect of the novel very much. There is so much going on and Brownell slowly peels back the layers, providing a fun, easy, engaging read, though I will admit that I have many more questions than I have answers, and I think that's one of the reasons this novel has stuck with me long after I finished it. I find myself trying to figure it out at random times during my days, and that's a rarity for me as I read so many books and move from one to the next quite rapidly.

I am intrigued by Cam and his love for Kat. I love Kat's tenacity and her yearning for a simple life. Together, they are perfect, insta-love aside, and I'm glad they found one another. What I don't necessarily get is what happened during the climax of the novel—we're led up to it, but as we're looking through Kat's eyes, and she's not watching events unfold, we seem to miss everything as it unfolds, and as no one clarifies the event for Kat, we are left in the dark. All we know is that some very bad things went down, and I'm dying to know what happened to everyone. I need to know. And I also need to know how some of the people mixed up in it all got mixed up in it all. I'm not giving names nor explanations, because that'd be a spoiler, but I keep wracking my brain trying to figure it out. I need to know, and Brownell's next novel in the series, *Secrets and Lies*, releases tomorrow... so here's hoping for more.

Nikkita says

Such a great story!

Wow! Rachael Brownell is simply amazing at drawing you into the thick of the story. I was hooked from the first page and it never let up til the last. There was constant action, and suspense on every page.

Shana says

This is a good book, especially if you are looking for something that is a little on the cleaner side. It's a lot different than the books I've read lately. This book is about a young girl, at a new school trying to finish her senior year. But she just wants to blend in, she can't take the chance of getting close to anyone, she has a secret to hide. Cam "bumps" into her on her first day and he immediately wants to know her, he can't get her off his mind and he won't give up trying until she gives him a chance. But the secret she's hiding isn't just hers, and she knows if she lets Cam into her heart like she wants to and tells him the truth, he could be in danger. So what does she do? Ignore the feelings for him that she's never felt before and possibly miss out on love or take a chance and risk putting him in same danger she's in.

Terri M. says

I can't. I just can't. Cam is creepy and a stalker.

Kim Howlett says

4.5 Stars

Firstly I want to say that I absolutely love the cover for this book. It's stunning. Seeing the cover instantly gave me the impression of mystery in a very sexy way.

This is the second book I've read by Rachael Brownell. I really liked her writing style in her previous book I read , so I had high expectations for "A Secret Life" and it didn't disappoint.

Courtney Martin is in witness protection because of something her dad has done. She has had to move to a new town with her mum, change her name to Katrina and is not happy in the slightest. Her dad and brother are now dead and all she can focus on is graduating.

Because "Katrina" is in witness protection she makes sure that she never stands out and doesn't get close to anybody or make friends. This is until Cam sees her and he wants to get immediately. It takes Cam quite awhile to get through to "Katrina" and just as he is starting to make progress, "Katrina" has to leave again. She can't tell Cam she is leaving as it's very sudden . Will they find their way back to each other again? I loved Cam throughout the book, he was very determined to have Katrina and nothing was going to stand in his way. I personally found that a great quality and loved that about him.

The story was full of mystery, action, twists and turns throughout. The story was not predictable at all. I loved I never knew what was going to happen on the next page or even how the story was going to end, The story was told at a good pace. I never lost interest at all throughout the whole book.

I really loved this story and think Rachael wrote it brilliantly.

Jennifer says

I loved this book! It definitely sucked me in!

Kat and her mother have moved to a new town and are in hiding. There are some bad people after them. Kat's only objective is to get through her senior year unnoticed and to go to college after that and lead a normal life. Fate seems to have other plans for her when she runs into Cam at school, quite literally. From that point on Cam won't let her go.

Her past seems to have caught back up with her though and she wonders if she's going to have to leave Cam behind. After all of the running all she wants is a normal life and she wants that with Cam.

This book definitely leaves you wondering what is going to happen next. I had come to one conclusion as to why they were running and boy was I wrong! I couldn't put this book down and I can't wait to read the next book. The chemistry between Kat and Cam is breathtaking!
