



The Fill-In Boyfriend

Kasie West

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When Gia Montgomery's boyfriend, Bradley, dumps her in the parking lot of her high school prom, she has to think fast. After all, she'd been telling her friends about him for months now. This was supposed to be the night she proved he existed. So when she sees a cute guy waiting to pick up his sister, she enlists his help. The task is simple: be her fill-in boyfriend—two hours, zero commitment, a few white lies. After that, she can win back the real Bradley.

The problem is that days after prom, it's not the real Bradley she's thinking about, but the stand-in. The one whose name she doesn't even know. But tracking him down doesn't mean they're done faking a relationship. Gia owes him a favor and his sister intends to see that he collects: his ex-girlfriend's graduation party — three hours, zero commitment, a few white lies.

Just when Gia begins to wonder if she could turn her fake boyfriend into a real one, Bradley comes waltzing back into her life, exposing her lie, and threatening to destroy her friendships and her new-found relationship.

The Fill-In Boyfriend Details

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From Reader Review The Fill-In Boyfriend for online ebook

Simona Bartolotta says

"I'm devoid of tragedy and therefore have no wisdom or insights to offer."

•As you know, I usually don't do contemporaries. If I do choose to pick up one, it's because I'm at least 80% certain I will enjoy it (the percentage is indicative) which can mean that 1) I know the author from previous experience and he/she fully won my trust, or 2) a sufficient number of trustworthy people read the book and reviewed it positively. In this case, definitely, the thing is that **I am hopelessly smitten** with Kasie West's writing.

•**I devoured this book in one sitting.** And I'll tell you more: even though I was pretty sure *The Fill-In Boyfriend* would be an enjoyable read, I started it prepared to do a lot of eye-rolling, which, to my great surprise, I had not to. The book presents the reader with a number of **not-so-original situations**, true, and **the main plot was not so original to begin with**, even truer; but at the end of the day -and I learned this through experience- when **the writing is so crisp and the characters so compelling**, these are but very minor flaws, so much so that **I wouldn't even call them "flaws"**. They are just premises of a certain type that become flaws only when they are not aptly supported and complemented, which is most surely not our case.

•First of all, I was utterly **awed** by **Gia's character development**. At the beginning of our story, she is the most shallow and superficial girl you could imagine, but at the end of it, as you've already guessed, she so changed you wouldn't recognize her. **It's sort of a rags to riches story from a moral perspective**, plus the perk represented by the **total lack of any moralizing tone**. Again, very **fresh, crisp, lively**.

•**Hayden** is the love of my life. And he probably holds the record for the quickest crush I ever developed. His first scenes, when we still have no idea who he is, are priceless: so funny and so intriguing I immediately knew I was going to devour the book and to fall in love with that boy. He finds himself in a **absurd situation**, and **he decides to roll with it with such ease and charisma**, it was impossible for me to resist. For the first time in my life, I would have forgiven the heroine for falling in love with the hero in a matter of minutes -which she does not, for the record: **the romance is a delicious slow burn**.

•**Gia's relationship with her family is very unusual:** it wasn't tragic, nor *strongly* remarkable in any other way, and the reader may think it was overly dramatized, and it probably was, but, maybe precisely because of its elusive oddity, **it caught my interest**. Truth be told, I'm not completely sure of my feelings towards it, but certainly one of these is **sadness**. As I said, I'm not really into contemporaries, but I think not many books feature a family like Gia's. For sure, it was new to me.

•**The ending** is of the **open** kind, definitely. I usually like open endings, and this is no exception, all the more so as I think it was particularly fit for this story. Basically, (view spoiler) I was more than a little surprised to discover that the ending was **far from perfectly happy**; I didn't expect that at all, but **I extremely appreciated it. That's how real life goes**: not everything is forgiven, people change, and the lack of timing is part of the reason why some friendships are lost. And it's hard, it is, but sometimes you just need to let go. **This ending nails it perfectly**.

► Right before starting *The Fill-In Boyfriend* I thought afterwards I would write a short comment but not a full review. While I was reading it **I was too engrossed in the story** to think about that. When I reached the

ending, I knew I couldn't pass up on the opportunity to fangirl a little and let you know how **worthy**, in my opinion, this book is.

Wholeheartedly recommended.

Emily May says

“You only care about your friends seeing me.”

“That's not true.” Okay, so it was kinda true. But only because of Jules. She'd infiltrated our group a year ago and ever so slowly tried to turn my best friends against me.

Get your tissues ready, **this is the saddest story you've heard all year.**

Meet Gia Montgomery - a beautiful, popular, wealthy 17-year-old girl with loving parents and early acceptance to UCLA. But Gia, you know, she's got it bad. I mean, her hot college boyfriend not only broke up with her on prom night but, by doing so, he also sabotaged her plan to get even with her evil arch nemesis - Jules - and prove she DID actually have a boyfriend.

Oh lord - and on top of that? She doesn't win Prom Queen.

But wait, Gia is so super smart that she concocts a plan right there in the parking lot! Her boyfriend might have broken up with her (because she's a shallow, self-centred bitch), but looky over there - there's another male specimen just waiting around in his car; obviously waiting to be plucked up by her, ordered into a tux and dragged along into prom to pretend to be the boyfriend who broke up with her.

This guy - Fake Bradley - because of some great mystery of the universe, agrees to go with this girl he's only just met and pretend to be her college boyfriend. Then break up with her AFTER proving he exists. Fake Bradley does everything she asks, plays along, breaks up with her and goes home. And Gia - she's happy right?

Wrong!

Because now, suddenly, Gia can't stop thinking about Fake Bradley. And FB's little sister won't give Gia his number because - gasp! - she thinks Gia will just use him. For some reason, she's got this impression that Gia is a bitch who cares for no one but herself and her little group of popular bitches:

“Hi. I'm sorry. I don't know your name.”

He shrugged. “I've only been in four of your classes over the last three years. Why would you?”

My cheeks reddened. Had he really? I looked at him again, closer. He honestly didn't look at all familiar to me, except from prom the other night.

And on top of it all, Gia has to deal with her parents! Her kind, loving, considerate parents who - *sob* - didn't support her relationship with an older man.

Poor Gia. Poor me for suffering through this - one of the dumbest books I've ever read. I expected better from this author.

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Aimee ♥ | Aimee, Always says

05/21/2015

The more I think about this book, the less I seem to like it. I'm completely bummed about that since *The Fill-in Boyfriend* was one of my most anticipated releases of 2015. You can't see me, but I'm pouting right now.

The first issue I had with the book came in just within the first couple of pages. I know that we're thrust into the book knowing that Fake Bradley will agree to the terms of being Gia's fake boyfriend, but the way it was executed in the actual book made no sense. **It was completely random and unconvincing.**

And then, ta-da! **The heroine is suddenly obsessed with seeing this boy again.** Of course she is. She thinks about him 24/7, even going as far as to stalk his little sister. She even *admits* that what she's doing is *stalking*, and she's okay with it.

Stalking aside, Gia's character was just generally petty and shallow. I could not connect to her at all. **I know the feeling of a certain friend wanting to get you out of the picture.** Really, I do. But please, **handle your problems in a mature manner.** I'm fifteen, and I talk things out with my friends if I feel like they're doing something wrong. I don't keep it a secret and lie to them.

There are other fish in the sea. It's a big ocean. Sometimes we need to catch and release a few before we find the keeper. Just keep swimming.

Other than that *one* piece of brilliant advice, **Gia's parents are also mostly just... there. They don't have a strong, supportive presence.** In fact, they were just like cardboard cut outs. They had no personality and were basically useless to the entire story, which is a shame since Kasie's other books have amazing family dynamics.

Speaking of cardboard cut-outs, we also have Gia's friends. They did have more prominent roles in the story compared to Gia's parents, but their personalities were incredibly stereotypical. **No one really stood out to me.**

Let's talk about Fake Bradley and the romance. With a heavy heart, I'm saying that *The Fill-in Boyfriend* did not give me any feels. At all. There was a lot of drama between these two by the last half of the book, and despite being a fan of angst, I just flinched instead. **No flutters. No gigglesnorts. No swoons.**

The only reason I'm not giving this book one star is because **I appreciated how Gia's problems with her**

friends were realistic. Like I said, I've experienced them myself. I just wished that they'd been handled better, and more maturely. **And also because I really liked Bec**, Fake Bradley's sister, who was the hard-on-the-outside, soft-on-the-inside kind of girl.

Overall, this book had potential to be one of those extremely relatable and realistic books, but it unfortunately fell flat on both of those aspects.

10/26/2013

Kasie West can't write a bad book, folks. Look at all the feels she gave us:

The Distance Between Us made us:

Pivot Point made us think:

Split Second gave us:

On the Fence basically made us:

Just give me this book, okay!?

Lola says

Writing a negative review for this book would be so easy.

I have all of them cringe-worthy quotes prepared. I could share them with you, and you would be like, “*What has the world come to?!*”

But the truth is I liked this book. Despite its many, many flaws, I found myself turning page after page without effort, my mind fully invested in the story.

Reading this book was like watching a retelling of *Mean Girls*, in which Gia is the lost-to-the-Plastics character played by Lindsay Lohan. She's gorgeous. She has a Captain America-like boyfriend. All is well. It's prom day, so what could possibly go wrong?

How about... **her boyfriend breaks up with her in the parking lot.** Like, five minutes before joining the fiesta. How lame is that? Gia is stressed the hell out of her mind, b/c it was primordial she proved to her friends she actually *had* a boyfriend.

Don't read this book if you're looking for a deep and teary-eye-worthy story. No. This is a rom-com book for your entertainment only. Don't read this if you expect Gia to be super mature and illuminating. That's like hoping the Bunny from *The Bunny House* stops wearing bikinis as everyday outfits. (Bunny just can't help it: (view spoiler)) It's okay Bunny, I understand. Sure.

She may be self-centered, but she's not heartless. She may be immature, but she's not stupid. She's like a comedian, saying things and doing stuff to amuse us readers and get a smile out of us.

I liked the humor. It's definitely what did it for me. Gia and fill-in Bradley pretending to go out is hella diverting. I mean, we all know how things go with contemporary romance novels; it's not like the ending will come as a surprise to any of you but, to use a cheesy line, it's not the destination that counts but the journey. *inserts smirk*

"Is it a name that can also double as a word?"

"Explain."

"You know, like Hunter or Forest or Stone—"

"Or Tree?"

"Ha-ha. No, I was going to say Grant. As in, grant me the patience to deal with this boy while I am trapped in a car with him."

The drama is of the kindergarten level type: typical Queen Bee rivalry. For Jules, it's all about being the leader and winning all of the imaginary votes from her friends. "Long live Jules!" Gia doesn't care about that. She doesn't even understand why Jules feels threatened by her. It's not like she ever aspired to become an Alpha.

I didn't mind all that. Sure, the drama could have been directed somewhere else but, like I said before, this is a rom-com type of book. The author knew we would compare Gia's friends to insipid Barbie girls, so my guess is that she created those characters out of make up, chocolate and party hats **to parody the life of self-centered teens.**

I don't mind some mindless contemporary readings from time to time. Sure, I crave knowledge and poignant themes, but humor is something as equally important to me. If you feel like having a good time, try *The Fill-in Boyfriend!*

BD | Blog | Youtube | Twitter | Instagram | Google+ | Bloglovin'

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

3.5 but rounding it up because of the holiday spirit.^^

Kasie West is one of my go-to authors when I'm looking for cutesy YA romantic novels with lots of clichés (they're actually her main ingredients, just look at the cover and title of this book).^^ But she has this special way of making them bearable so that the overused premise particularly in this book- **popular girl fakes relationship with a not so popular guy (to save face) but eventually falls for the guy for reals-** becomes likable, charming even.

Behind the tropes are significant social messages that educate readers, in this case, about people's over-

reliance on the social media and other people's validation of one's self-worth making the story more meaningful than expected. The reader gets to witness the elaborate self-realizations of a petty, shallow girl (who used to be clueless of the effects of her actions on other people) and her transformation into a better person.

My picture of Gia (the main character):

TBH, I find Ms. West novels consistently flawed. Aside from clichés, the endings are usually rushed and like in this book, I found a hard time connecting with the characters that are quite unrealistic. Gia in the beginning fell a little bit short of personality and attitude fitting her "social standing". She's Student Council president, practically the "Queen Bee" but I feel like she didn't have enough spunk and convincing powers.^^

But, the author has a natural gift in spinning off what would have been a bad element into something good, even inspiring. The last quarter of the story allowed for Gia's growth in character making up for what lacked in the beginning. What I like most about the author's writing is how she can manage to make a romantic story both intriguing and swoon worthy while maintaining a completely wholesome approach.

For more awesome reviews, you can check out Henzy's and Chelsea's and get a chance to greet the latter, (Chelsea who is celebrating her birthday on the 31st), a happy birthday! **HAPPY EARLY BIRTHDAY, BEAUTIFUL CHELSEA! Wishing you all the best, happiness and awesome reads! <3 <3 <3**

Steph Sinclair says

Seriously, Kasie. ANYTHING you write, I will read.

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

So there's this popular girl. Her name is, like, Gia. She's 17 but has this totally hot junior boyfriend at UCLA whom nobody has seen (**statutory rape is so, like, 2000s**, which, incidentally, is practically the year in which Gia was born). She got Hot Bradley to take her to prom, only, like, at the last minute (literally IN THE PARKING LOT, Y'ALL) he dumps her.

Why? Because she's a shallow bitch and only cared that Hot Bradley was, like, totally hot, and her friends are gonna be, like, SO IMPRESSED. Especially that bitch, Jules, who's like, trying to totally steal away ALL HER FRIENDS. Because Gia is the Alpha of their group and we can't have that. No, really. She's the Alpha, and that status is endangered.

Nice friends you got there."

"They're mostly nice. Jules is just constantly trying to oust me."

“Why?”

“I have no idea. I think she thinks I’m the alpha of our pack and that there is only room for one without resorting to cannibalism.”

But she’s not such a bad queen bee, really, Gia and her friends only:

1. Completely disregard anyone beneath her social spectrum

“Hi. I’m sorry. I don’t know your name.”

He shrugged. “I’ve only been in four of your classes over the last three years. Why would you?”

My cheeks reddened. Had he really? I looked at him again, closer. He honestly didn’t look at all familiar to me, except from prom the other night.

2. Slightly teases her close friends who aren’t up to her standards. She never bullies. That’s, like, so low-class.

“Who needs money and good grades when you have community college?” Claire said.

“Exactly what I’ve been saying for the last four years,” Laney said. I could hear the embarrassment in her voice and I felt bad that school had been a struggle for her.

Such condescension! Such benevolence! Such pity! She is the equivalent of Lady Catherine in *Pride and Prejudice*!

So, after suffering from THE MOST HORRIBLE FATE POSSIBLE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD (on prom night), Gia is shit out of luck. But luckily for her, there’s a totally hot guy just sitting in his car, ripe for the plucking. And pluck she does. She sweet-talks Fake Bradley into being, well, Fake Bradley, and taking her to prom instead.

He takes her to prom. Her friends are understandably impressed, because really, which high school girl is going to think about statutory rape when the guy is, like, SO HOT. Except the girl who’s trying to steal her friends, cause she’s all, like, smirking and scowling that her plans to TAKE ALL THE FRIENDS have gone to pieces.

For now. *sinister smile*

I wrapped my arms around Claire and glanced at Jules. Surprisingly, she wasn’t looking at me. Her stare was focused on the door that fill-in Bradley had just exited through. There was that familiar calculating look on her face, and I wondered what was going through her mind. I was sure of one thing—it wasn’t good.

So prom night goes swimmingly, and she even gets to conveniently break up with Fake Bradley at the end of it, which is great, except now, for some reason, Gia is really, really fascinated by Fake Bradley. If only she could find out Fake Bradley’s real name. And then Real Bradley resurfaces, and maybe he wants to make up again?

Oh, gosh, what’s a girl to do? Clearly, Gia has some **#realproblems**. And her archnemesis Jules is **trying to expose everything via Facebook, and Twitter, and Instagram**.

She pulled out her phone. “Oh, and while I’m online, I wanted to leave mean messages on Bradley’s Facebook page for what he did to you. What’s his last name again?”

Here it was—her play. I was surprised she had waited this long. “He isn’t on Facebook. Who goes on Facebook anymore anyway?” He actually was on Facebook, but there was no way I was telling her that.

“So Instagram? Twitter? You showed me them before but I don’t remember his handle,” she pushed.

Obviously she forgot Tinder, and maybe Grindr. Possibly Pinterest and Yo, too. Gotta cover all the bases, y’know.

But let's not get facetious. Gia's got some serious problems.

I mean, she has to:

1. Find Fake Bradley
2. Get Fake Bradley's sister (who goes to the same school with her, whom she didn't know went to the same school, much less class with her, see note above about Gia not giving a shit about anyone outside of her hallowed social circle) to give her Fake Brad's real name
3. Decide what to do about Real Bradley

“How is Bradley anyway?” He gave me a sideways glance.

“I don’t know. I haven’t talked to him since that night.” I’d been telling too many lies lately, so I felt the need to add, “He texted me. I tried to call him back and he didn’t answer. Then he called me back but I missed it. Then I left a message for him. I haven’t decided if I’m going to call him again.”

4. Try to prevent Jules from knocking her off the #1 queen bee (sorry, Alpha) in her circle of friends
5. Decide what to do what Real Bradley and Fake Bradley meet each other

Her family only *looks* perfect. Her dad is understanding, caring. Her mother is beautiful, intelligent. Her brother is a little distant. She's got some serious problems.

“What about you? Are you close with your family?”

“Yes,” I said right away, but then I paused, Drew’s words about how my parents hadn’t really been there for me after I broke up with Bradley coming into my mind. I shook my head to get rid of the thought and then nodded. “Yes.”

There is so much suffering. So much hardship. I can think of a thousand examples from the book in which her family is distant, cruel, uncaring. Oh, wait, I can't. They're pretty much white-bread perfect.

Clearly, you can see this book contains as much depth as is contained within Kim Kardashian's ample cleavage.

Actually, now that I think about it, that's pretty deep, yo.

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

Actual rating : 3.5 stars

I have a question for you : how am I supposed to rate a book whose flaws are so obvious I just *know* many of my friends will be bothered **but** which let me with **such a huge smile glued on my face?** If several characters irked me something fierce but which made me so happy I just ... didn't *care* for the most part?

JUST FUCKING TELL ME. In the meantime, welcome to my messed-up brain, guys. I apologize in advance this review is more filled with ramblings than anything else. Just know that I tried. Pinky swear.

I'm not gonna lie, I read this book in one sitting and the only thing I can say is it is **highly addictive** as usual with Kasie West. Indeed it seems that her books share this ability to compel me in this teenage world and even if it's generally not the kind of humor which makes me laugh out loud, it remains that **I'm swimming in a general giddiness just so refreshing** that I can't help but want to read each and every one of the books she'll write in the future.

As for the **plot, it lacks originality for sure**, and I found *The Distance between Us* more daring in many ways. *What do we have here?* The clueless popular girl who's living for peers validation and doesn't care that much about others - but cares deeply about what they *think* in the meantime - and who suddenly realizes that she's quite a bitch without meaning to. After being dumped at the Prom parking lot by Bradley, her college boyfriend (asshole), she decides to lie and to ask a random guy to be her... *Fill-in boyfriend*, because she's too afraid of what her friends will think about her being single (not to mention that several of them didn't believe that she had a boyfriend in the first place, so... You see the whole picture). Of course, of course, **lies always backfire on you... And Gia will learn it the hard way**. While I'm a sucker for fake relationships, and absolutely adored their interactions (I'll come back to that), I can't deny that Kasie West doesn't offer us something original here, but that's quite the opposite actually. It didn't prevent me from enjoying the book, but you need to start it knowing this, otherwise you would be disappointed.

Moreover, this book deals with several teenage - and adult - issues as the **consequences of our lies and the difficulties to trust someone, not to mention the importance of friendship** and well - the **thin line between wanting to genuinely please our friends and hiding our true feelings** because we're afraid of not being *validated* by them. While I appreciated to read about these subjects and to follow Gia's evolution, in my opinion these issues aren't fully handled and the book keeps its smacks of superficiality unfortunately.

First of all, let me say that **I liked Gia for the most part**. Yes she's awful in the beginning (but damn, how I laughed when she met her Fill-in boyfriend!) and does sound really shallow : as I said earlier, she seems interested in what others think and this only, and I'm sure some readers will hate her. I didn't. Never. *Why?* First because I love reading about flawed characters when they aren't annoying (she's not) and then because **the development of her character was really good and well-handled** in my opinion.

As for **Fill-in Bradley**, whose real name is a secret therefore I won't write it here, it's pretty simple actually : **I adore him**. Indeed not only **he's cute and all kinds of adorable, but he's not perfect either** and every one of his personality traits made me like him more. First he's kind of a nerd - but not the computer kind. Don't get me wrong, I love videogames and my BF either, but we can be a nerd or shy or well, cute and adorable in his case without being glued to a screen, and I was glad to see Kasie West acknowledging this fact, because authors often put their character in big boxes and the geek guy is always some hacker or something. It's getting old in my opinion. Just sayin'. Moreover, Fill-in Bradley has **trusts issues** (and for reasons) and for me it added to his believability as he doesn't change his way of thinking for Gia right away.

Her **romance was gradual, pretty light actually, smile-inducing and believable**. I ship them hard. Oh, and, definitely, no meet-cute here, but a controlling and kind of awful girl begging some clueless guy. Of course that was awesome, what do you think?

"He was still looking at me like I was crazy. I felt crazy. "You want me to pretend to be Captain America?" He pointed toward the street. I was confused at first but then realized that's what he was calling Bradley, whose build was on the beefy side. "They've never met him, so they have no idea what he looks like. beside you're..." I gestured toward him without finishing the sentence. I tried to think of a different superhero to compare him to but nothing came to mind. I wasn't well versed in superheroes. Were there some who were on the thinner side? Spiderman? That didn't seem like a compliment."

To sum up, **their relationship is full of cute and funny moments** that I can't quote here but you know, you can just read the book and find.

Concerning the **families**, can I just say that while I hated Gia's I completely swooned over Fill-in Bradley's? What can I say? **Bec**, his sister, is that awesome metal girl whose way to deal with angriness pleased me very much (yes, it involves throwing things and screaming. Good girl) and the growth of her friendship with Gia was one of my favorite parts of the story.

"Sit. Start your rant whenever you're ready. I will be here to egg you on."

And what can I say about **his mother** except that she was supportive and deliciously eccentric? Oh, yes : she was hilarious.

"I'm Olivia. I'm sorry for stealing this boy away but I need his gorgeous face. (...)"
"She says that every time she pulls us in here and then she creates things like that." He pointed to a painting of a half-insect, half zebra face splitting open to reveal a blooming flower. **"My face did not inspire that".**
"It really did," his mum said."

Now, let's talk about **my biggest peeves : Gia's friends**. Talk about a bunch of jackasses, for real. I'm not even talking about Jules who was the stereotypical bitch but FOR. REAL. **Who treats his friends that way?** **WHO?** Indeed I never, ever, got what their deal was and if I can understand that it can be annoying to learn that our friend lied to us, seriously, they were overreacting throughout the whole book and the ending didn't

satisfy me in this particular issue because to me, too many problems remain unresolved. As you can guess, they were way too immature and stereotypical for my taste, and if I had to point something that I'm sure will bother many readers, it would be this. You've been warned.

Anyway - I just can't dismiss that big moron smily face I wear since I finished it. I can't, and I can't wait to put my hands on Kasie West's next book because let's be frank one second here : **I fall in love with every one of her male leads. they're awesome like that.**

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

Wowzas. This was bad. It seems Kasie West and I just have a love hate relationship (more hate than love thus far though I did really enjoy *By Your Side*). I didn't really like anything about this, but my biggest problem was that the synopsis reveals a "plot twist" (using that term loosely) that happens in the last 100 or so pages. What is up with that nonsense??? Overall just not for me. Should've skipped it.

Melissa (Ever So Mela) says

4.5

YOU NEED TO BUY THIS!

END OF REVIEW.

Not good enough?

FINE

YOU NEED TO BUY THIS NOW!

END OF REVIEW

That was totally better, right?

Still not good enough?

FINE, fine! Shut your trap hole, I'll give you more ^.^

Now, in all seriousness-not that I wasn't being serious before- this was all I hoped for and more. I remember adding this book to my TBR when it was just that drab old GR gray cover. All it had was a tittle and Kasie's name on it. Then when the blurb came out, all I saw was **fake relationship** trope.

HOOK, LINE and SINKER...

Last night I hadn't even planned on reading it, though. It was late and by late I mean 11 pm (I need 7 hours of sleep-sue me-if I actually plan on functioning). I just wanted to check out the first couple of pages...but then that turned into the first couple of chapters...and before I knew it, it was 4 am and I had just finished **and was left wanting more.**

Look, this isn't original. It's plagued by cliches and trust me, you've all read this somewhere else before but **that did not deter the constant *idiotic smile that refused to leave my face last night*.** This was all kinds of cute and fluff with rainbows and stars. There were even unicorns. Unicorns, people, UNICORNS! Her writing style is addictive and charming. It's lighthearted and all kinds of fun. It was a complete dream to sink into. And like the previous book I read from her, it doesn't just tackle romance, it takes on family relationships, friends, finding yourself and learning to grow and know when to let go.

Now there are points that will *undoubtedly* annoy you. We have the mean girl Jules and the BFF Claire. Then we have Bec, the girl no one really sees behind her armor of sarcasm.

Cliche, right?

The thing is, I don't think there's ever been a book that hit so close to home for me. You might find this very hard to believe-I mean, you better-but I wasn't the nicest person back in high school. Heck, Gia was a saint compared to me. I remember being best friends with "Claire" and the constant non-stop bickering with "Jules". I remember the lies, the manipulation, the games and boy do I remember the nastiness. But these were my friends, right? These were the people I saw day in and day out for years. And then I remember meeting "Bec". I distinctly remember hating her on sight. Worry not, the feeling was mutual.

But I guess the big changes that happen in our lives start out by subtle sparks. We went from hating each other to tolerating one another to acceptance to friendship. The closer we grew together, the further apart I grew from "Claire and Jules". The more time I spent trying to be a better person and actually caring about those around me, the less time I spent wasting away with frivolous conversations and fake friends.

So while that ending might have been/will be inconclusive to some, it was just life for me. And you know what?

I'm fricking glad.

We all went our separate ways but till this day I'm still best friends with "Bec". 10 years and counting.

Now, how cliche was my life?

PS: I'm going to marry Fill-In Bradly one day :) I just have to meet him first. Baby steps, people. Baby steps.

Seconds after finishing: Why did you have to END??!?!?!!? Crap it's 4 am, I should probably go to sleep :(

Chelsey the crazy cat lady says

I loved every bit about this book. Well maybe not the bitch Jules. Would recommend to others.

Chelsea ❤️Peril Please❤️ says

"I could try to guess your preferences."

"My preferences in a kiss?"

I nodded, our faces still very close together.

"My preference is simple-you."

I can't say these aren't clichéd. I can't say they haven't been done before. I can't say there are bad boys and perilistic moments. And I certainly can't say they are perfect. But what **I can say**? They may have clichéd moments, but they are written impeccably well. They may have been done before, but never as adorably. There may not be bad boys, but there are guys who would do anything to make you happy. Guys who, for all intents and purposes, aren't only out for themselves. They are the heroes we deserve in real life, the boys we should strive to be with-**And they always keep a permanent smile on my face.** And instead of perilous parts, there are heart-wrenching and angsty moments-moments that break your heart and make you want to reach in the book and shake the main characters. And perfection....isn't that speculative?

[Fill-In Bradley] pointed at the olives I had picked off my pizza. "What's going on there?"

"I'm not an olive fan."

"There were other options without olives."

"I like the flavor the olives leave on the pizza. I just don't like the texture of the olive itself."

I swear to God, that's me (for most vegetable things)-I love this reference^^^^^^!

Oh man. I just....I am so tired. I have had a bad couple weeks (yes there have been happy moments, like Cedar Point) and the only thing that I really have been looking forward to are these happy little books that make your heart beat faster than should be humanly possible and the [good] boys I have been falling for in my binge-read-for-happiness. So, when I *finally* decided to read this one and give it a try, it was just what I needed.

My dad folded his hands on the table. "Chin up. There are other fish in the sea. It's a big ocean.

Sometimes we need to catch and release a few before we find the keeper. Just keep swimming."

"I don't think that last one applies here."

"I was on a water roll. I just went with it."

This story centers around Gia. She has a boyfriend named Bradley and her [horribly annoying] friends don't really believe her. He is a UCLA college student and they have never met him. But, at Prom, she is determined to show him off to her friends-it's finally going to happen...they have to believe her now, right? Yeah, things rarely go according to plan, do they?

He glanced over my shoulder, toward where my friends were still sitting. "Nice friends you got there."
"They're mostly nice. Jules is just constantly trying to oust me."

"Why?"

"I have no idea. I think she thinks I'm the alpha of our pack and that there is only room for one without resorting to cannibalism."

"I'm going to take your weird wolf analogy and assume you mean that she wants to be the leader of your group."

Bradley dumps her in the school parking lot, leaving her dateless and, well, looking like a liar. So, when she sees an adorable boy sitting in the parking lot (reading, mind you), she asks him to fill his place so it won't look like she was lying-Yes, I see the irony here-and she can prove her horrid frienemy wrong.

He was still looking at me like I was crazy. I felt crazy. "You want me to pretend to be Captain America?" He pointed toward the street.

I was confused at first but then realized that's what he was calling Bradley, whose build was on the beefy side. "They've never met him so they have no idea what he looks like. Besides you're..." I gestured toward him without finishing the sentence. I tried to think of a different superhero to compare him to but nothing came to mind. I wasn't well versed in superheroes. Were there some who were on the thinner side? Spiderman? That didn't seem like a compliment.

Again, LOVE superhero movies, so I was giggling like a moron lol^^

Let's just say things don't go perfectly. But for those few blissful moments of triumph, she gets to see Fill-In Bradley for the good person he is. I mean, what guy would run home and put on a suit and actually come back for a random stranger? A nice one, I tell you. As they dance and talk a little, his lingering stares and smoldering looks start to get into her head. Long after the charade is over, she sits at home wondering what his name really is, why he took her to the dance, what he's doing...and then she realizes he might have gotten into her head more than she even realized.

"This is Gia, by the way, Mom."

"Oh, I'm sorry, where are my manners?" She extended her hand to me. "I'm Olivia. I'm sorry for stealing this boy away but I need his gorgeous face. I mean, tell me that face doesn't inspire creativity."

Both [Fill-In Bradley] and Bec rolled their eyes.

"She says that every time she pulls us in here and then she creates things like that." He pointed to a painting of a half-insect, half-zebra face splitting open to reveal a blooming flower. "My face did not inspire that."

I absolutely adored Fill-In Bradley. He was adorable with his messy, hardly manageable (brown) hair and piercing blue eyes. And he was always worried about Gia-her feelings, her friends, how things were going for her. I know it sounds cliché (okay, we covered this, yes?) but he would pretty much do anything for her...even though they had just met. And it was just so....okay, shut up shut up....adorable. I just...sigh...I just loved him.

"I will save you from yourself, then. You cannot get the Rocky Road. Anything else...except vanilla because that's so boring. Who would even think of getting that? I don't even know why they stock it."
I smiled.

"It's actually the most popular ice cream flavor," Blake said while adding a scoop of strawberry to a cup.

"Well, I feel validated now. I should've gotten vanilla." >.<

I'm not saying this is the most creative book ever, I'm just saying that it was a good book that had lots of fun, sweet, and happy moments. I am not in the business of passing up absolutely gorgeous book covers with irresistible writing and a wonderful plot...I'm just not. So I will likely continue to devour these types of books (by this and other Chelsea-approved happy-go-lucky authors) and not feel a damn bit guilty about it. **If you need to smile**, if you want a break from the shittiness that is life sometimes, then I suggest you pick this story up. The Distance Between Us is still my favorite Kasie West book (XANDER!) but this one is my second (FILL IN BRADLEY!) favorite. So...yeah...just read them, 'kay?

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Omg guys. These books are like damn fairy-tales....every time.

I do, in fact, want my HEA.

Review to come.

Jaime Arkin says

AND I FINISHED WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE!!! he's totally MINE !!!

Ashwood (?? ??). says

“You like analogies, don’t you?”

“Yes, I do. Words are powerful.”

Hilarious, witty, emotional, sweet, and endearing are the words I’d use to describe this story.

The story plot was something light but well executed, it had me hooked from page one to ‘The End.’

I really loved some characters and really detested other characters in this story.

Love list:

Hayden, really you couldn’t have found a sweeter, more loyal, or gorgeous and utterly precious guy if you tried. His relationship with his parents and his was heartwarming.

Gia, she started out as the detached, popular girl, who had the “perfect family,” that held all of her emotions bottled up inside. She ended up seeing that her life had to have a few changes and I was so proud of her as her character progressed through the story.

Bec, she was spunky, sarcastic and an amazing friend and sister! I loved her from the get go, haha.

Olivia, artsy, caring, motherly and all around AMAZING character.

The not so favorite characters:

Eve, Spencer, Jules, Bradley, Drew, Gia’s parents (until about the last few chapters) and Nate.

But all the characters worked together to make this a fantastic read! I really love this author so far.

One of my quotes:

“Well, if you’re a mess then I’m a natural disaster.”

“The cutest natural disaster I’ve ever seen.”

Jennifer says

Cute! As expected! Was a bit disappointed with the ending as much wasn't really resolved. Urg her friends were so annoying! Jules was on my last nerve. What a B!

Inject book into veins now!