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In This Moment



Synopsis

EVERY MOMENT POSSESSES ITS OWN KIND OF MAGICAimee Spencer learned the hard way that for some moments, there are no take-backs, no rewinds, no do-overs. A year ago her world imploded and Aimee has been running ever since. She doesn't want to feel. She doesn't want to remember. To bury the ghosts that haunt her, she is living a life that has become unrecognizable. Cole Everly is a golden boy with a cocky smile and an attitude to match. He's grown accustomed to girls throwing themselves at his feet, but when Aimee trips and literally lands in his lap one afternoon, she's not at all what he expects. Difficult, damaged, closed-off. If Cole needed to make a list of qualities to avoid in a girl, Aimee would probably match up with every single one of them. He knows that he should stay away but he's drawn to her in a way that he can't exactly explain. In this honest and absorbing story, Aimee and Cole struggle to sort out the thin spaces between loss and love. Ultimately, they will need to learn how to navigate through the pieces of the past if they want to hold on to the future and each other. **This book is intended for mature audiences**

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Customer Reviews

I couldn't help but compare this to *The Sea of Tranquility: A Novel* by Katja Millay when I was reading it. They both have these beautiful pastel covers, they both have a heroine who is struggling with her identity after a tragedy and the heroine uses some self-destructive behavior and running to deal with emotions. Finally they both have a really great guy who is suffering through his own issues that love them and help them recover. Aimee's best friend Jillian died in a car accident after a party they both went to. "They were so close that it was an ongoing joke with my family that Aimee and Jillian were the opposite of Siamese twins - one head controlling two bodies." Aimee spent her senior year in Portland with her grandparents because she wanted a fresh start, "a place where Jillian hadn't breathed the air". She returns to Florida to go to college with her sister and meets Cole the very first day. Not ready to date, Cole, a guy with a reputation as a man-whore pursues her knowing he has to settle for friendship and totally confused by his feelings for her. "You're not the only one who fell that day" - Cole. I read and like Autumn Doughton's *On the Edge of Glass*, but I loved *In This Moment*. It was a real story that took its time to reveal all the gritty details of death, friendship, love and devotion. Doughton writes "bare bones" love scenes in that she builds the heat and desire in the reader, then tells you when it's over. She also uses alternating POV's so you feel the desire Cole has for Aimee and learn to trust that he doesn't want to hurt her with his bad boy ways. The reader also is inside Aimee's head and see her confusion, guilt and desires. "I never used to think about things like death and life and all the hundreds of thousands of seconds that get stuck in between. Back then I didn't know the way that a person can crawl so far inside of you that your organs voluntarily shift to the side to make room for the shape of them." Another story this reminded me was *After Math (Off the Subject #1)* by Denise Grover Swank, so if you liked that or *The Sea of Tranquility*, you will love this story too. Would I buy it? Yes. Would I read it again? Yes. Would I recommend it to friends? Yes.

"All we get are moments, Cole. One at a time, like heartbeats. Once all of them is gone, that's it. No do-overs. No repeats. Every moment possesses its own kind of magic and what we do with it counts. It counts." I love a goodnight sleep and it would take a very good novel to keep me up reading at night when all I wanted to do is go to dreamland. In *This Moment* Among all of my Autumn Doughton reads, I must say, *In This Moment* will stand as my favorite. I enjoyed reading it in one sitting, trying not to laugh out loud to wake up my neighbors, and trying harder not to cry my heart out. Aimee Spencer knew firsthand how what loss is, how hard it is, and how life can change in one wrong turn. She lost someone very close to her, and life had never been the same again. She used to swim, belonged to the popular crowd, date - do whatever a normal teenager would do. But now,

all she does is run. Numbness was a welcome reprieve. To forget her past, and every painful memory that has been haunting her, she changed to someone unrecognizable. Lifeless, focused, emotionless. Until she literally fell into the lap of Cole Everly. "Handsome isn't the right word. It sounds too bland and average and this guy is anything but average." 15% of the book and I fell in love with the dashing and cocky Cole Everly. Yes, I have been a fallen victim to a brain fog induced by Cole's quasi-magical green eyes. (Aimee's words) I like my men with wit and humor - and Cole is the perfect epitome of HIM. (He's totally my new book boyfriend!) He's quite arrogant, but it's cute (not the annoying type), determined, persuasive and cool. When he met Aimee, he knew she was different. She wasn't the type of girl he would normally go for: broken, difficult, closed-off. She was someone he should stay away from, but the building attraction, the pull of gravity is hard to resist - something he could hardly explain himself. Because if he follow his own logic - he'd run away FAST. "Aimee's words are careful, decided. "I don't date." I brush a few loose hairs away from her face and bend to her ear. She really does smell amazing. Absolutely amazing. "I don't date either, so I won't tell if you don't." I whisper. "It's not only Aimee who has a past to deal with. Cole has his own shares of misfortunes. That's why he didn't allow himself to fall in love. Love makes you lose your mind, focus, and life. It breaks not just your heart, but everything in between. So, he shags them, and leaves them. No cuddling, no staying over, no strings - no complication. Until Aimee came along, everything that he had been avoiding came right after him." Okay. Scrabble, donuts, flowers, corndogs, pre-pubescent British wizards and indie music. Am I missing anything important?" She's still blushing and it's like the heat in her face is trapping all the words inside of her. "What is it?" I ask, an involuntary grin tugging on my mouth. I love it when she blushes like this. Amy sighs, looks up toward the chandelier, "You, Cole. I like you." For the first time, it didn't felt wrong. He wanted to see her smile, to make her happy - he does things he doesn't normally do for girls. Oh, he can be sweet when he wanted to. But when his past came into the picture, he was lost once again. He closed himself to Aimee, ran away and is about to make the stupidest thing he's done. It cost him one important thing he has in his life right now - Aimee. Their parents weren't perfect (which is pretty much an understatement), but they have the support of their siblings and friends. I totally loved Jodi, she was the exact opposite of Aimee, and exactly what she needed. Just like Cole, she was determined to be Aimee's friend - whether she likes it or not. Aimee didn't really have a choice. From the cover, the blurb, the characters - everything about In This Moment is fantastic. It was hard to see Aimee moving on because every day is a task for her. Putting a mask on is harder than putting make up, but when the most eligible bachelor in the campus starts giving her attention, her world changed. Oh, she tried to lock herself - but Cole is determined to find the key, and get to

her. I totally love the story, the progression and most especially the character development. The transition that Aimee and Cole had were gradual, you can see and feel the growth of their characters. I swooned at times, laugh for most, and cried a little. When I reached the end of the page, it was pretty hard to say goodbye to Cole. In this moment is a story about loss, love, second chances and forgiveness.

I didn't want to like this book. Something about an upper class man setting his sites on a freshman always rubs me the wrong way but I quickly changed my mind because of a number of reasons. 1- their introduction to each other was hilarious. 2- Aimee is not the typical freshman but a girl that is struggling to make it through each day with positivity amidst a whole lot of guilt. 3- Cole is a stunning jock with a heart and really wants to change his ways and do right by Aimee (their first date was fun to read). 4- neither are perfect but they have surrounded themselves with good friends and siblings to keep them centered and sane. This is a book that will make you laugh and cry and the intimate scenes were written with great care. This was, truly, a joy to read.

I would give this 5 stars, but it had a lot of grammatical errors that bugged me. I looked past that and kept on reading. At first you think Cole is the typical a-hole player type. And he was before he met her. Turns out he just hadn't met the right girl yet. This wasn't your typical girl meets boy book. I like the darkness that is in her past and the mess he has with his mom. I was in tears towards the end - happy tears. Excellent book!

I've read my first book of this author only a few months ago, and I have to confess I'm getting slightly addicted to her stories. The only one I have left to read is "I'll be Here" but I'm pretty sure that I'll be devouring that one as much as I did with all the others so far. Such a beautiful, captivating and gorgeously written story! The prologue got my attention and I just couldn't stop reading. These characters are so wonderful, the storyline perfect. The prose! Beau-ti-ful! This is the kind of story that makes you feel all the emotions, all the struggles of the characters. A story you never, ever want to stop reading!

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