



The Secret Lives of Emma: Beginnings

Natasha Walker

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Incredibly hot and sensual, this new erotic series starring an older and experienced female lead taps into our deepest romantic fantasies.

Thirty-something Emma Benson is a free spirit. For her a good life means a life of sensuality. So it's a surprise to everyone when she marries David, a successful businessman, and settles down in the suburbs. One year on, and she's trying so hard to be loyal to her man. Not easy to do when you're passionate and uninhibited.

But then, while sunbathing in her garden, her neighbour's eighteen-year-old son appears. And Emma has found her new project. She will be his perfect teacher.

The Secret Lives of Emma: Beginnings Details

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Author : Natasha Walker

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From Reader Review The Secret Lives of Emma: Beginnings for online ebook

Miriam Mathew says

\$11.66 for a book which is less than two-hundred pages? Who the *hell* would pay that amount of money?

Oh, wait, that's right.

Me. *facepalm*

But I honestly couldn't help myself. The blurb sounded really appealing and I couldn't find it anywhere in my local library so I just *had* to buy it.

Worst decision EVER.

The Secret Lives Of Emma: Beginnings is one of the most poorly written books I've ever read. It wasn't rampant with spelling or grammatical errors; I just felt that the author just wrote words that were associated with erotic romances and fucking, coupled them into sentences and then turned those sentences into a full novel (well, not exactly a full novel seeing how short it is; I've read novellas that are longer in width) and said, *Voila! It is done.* And all in the space of less than a day. It didn't feel like a lot of effort was spent on actually writing it; on fleshing the details out. There wasn't even a storyline!

Here be spoilers. (So stop reading this review if you want to read this book in the future)

The plot was basically:

- Girl Woman sees boy climbing over her fence.

- Women sees how hot he's gotten and starts daydreaming about him and his "youthful body". Below is a following passage from Emma's thoughts in the books when Jason is first introduced.

She liked the way his body was developing. He was a very attractive boy who would probably fill out too much as he grew older but for now he was lean and toned. She habitually teased him about his looks but it wasn't all play, she genuinely admired his adolescent beauty.

It was just....creepy. This is where the main heroine, Emma, started to feel like Celeste from Tampa. This is why older women dating younger guys get it rough and have lots of haters. And then she totally mind-raped him later.

Her imagination was building upon the chaste scene she'd just shared with Jason, improving the

dialogue, developing the themes and changing the outcome to suit her own immodest expectations. The fact that any involvement was impossible only made the subject more attractive to the fantasists.

But if someone did that to me...I'd be like:

Well, not really. But red alarms would certainly go off. And I'd maybe include a restraining order...maybe hire a couple of bodyguards anyway? But I digress. On with the "story".

-Woman (who's thirty) seduces boy (who's eighteen-years-old) who, by the way, is also the son of her neighbours

-Drama ensues. The boy finds another fuck-buddy. Woman is sad but moves on.

That's it. And the rest of book was made up of filler sex scenes, and not the hot, sensual type of sex scenes which make your naughty bits tingle but the ones which make you want to skim and skip past to the next part. Which I did. But the sex scenes that I read...I know they were meant to feel titillating but they weren't. It just made me feel dirty.

The characters (which usually redeem a book for me) were completely one-dimensional. There wasn't any hidden facets of their personality. It was actually blatantly stereotypical.

My Jason, Emma and David Not including Paul because ~~*sighs and shakes head*~~ there are just so many reasons

Emma's the woman prowling for young men to get it on with. **Jason**'s the naive guy who's unfortunate to get sucked in into her fantasies. **David** is the.... Well, he's basically the unsuspecting husband.

And this brings up another point for me. The last book I read was about cheating but I could actually understand why the couple did it. *I felt* for them. I was rooting for them in the long-term. But in *The Secret Lives Of Emma: Beginnings*, I couldn't understand Emma's reasoning at all. I'm fully disregarding her other argument where Emma's like:

I am not kidding, she is exactly like the aforementioned *Stranger*. She's always like, "*I am a woman with a great sexual appetite and my husband is not enough for me. Therefore I should find other men to screw.*" Faulty logic, much?

And then I found out that this is actually a trilogy and there are **Two. More. Books**. The first book was just filler so I can't think of anything that the second and third might be about unless it's about Emma cheating some more or David finding about it or something like that. Basically...just more sex.

It's safe to say that I won't be finding out anytime soon.

I star...for the book cover because it actually is very pretty

Simone says

I picked this up after reading a great review about it by the author Kylie Ladd on the Booktopia blog and was so glad I did. Emma Benson, 32, has been married for a year to David, a wealthy businessman who she loves, but is becoming increasingly frustrated by the constraints of marriage. Fortunately, a distraction arrives in the form of her eighteen-year-old next-door neighbour Jason, who, until now, has been a model student and a good and obedient son. He is also sexually inexperienced, but that soon changes as Emma sets out to give him an education he will never forget.

I absolutely loved this book - it somehow manages to be both incredibly hot and also literary in flavour, with some great insights into the characters' psychology. I loved reading about Emma's views on marriage (and her struggle between her love for her husband and her need to express her sexual identity) and Jason's growing sexual awareness. The need for secrecy added to the suspense - Emma and her husband are friends with Jason's parents who live next door and there is a constant danger of being discovered, a danger which Emma fully exploits for its erotic potential.

Overall, this seduction-of-an-innocent story is surprisingly realistic and contains plenty of totally hot, very graphic sex scenes that will leave you wanting more. I consumed this book in less than three hours and was left wishing I could read straight on to the next one (*The Secret Lives of Emma: Distractions*) which is supposed to come out later this year. Not everything is fully resolved by the end, but that didn't bother me as it leaves something to look forward to in the next one. A breath of fresh air in a genre that is overloaded with poorly written stories.

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Jennifer says

Let's just say that I read this in probably 3 hours =)

The sex scenes are pretty full on and definitely steamy, but very sensual as well. The author was definitely humorous in her writing so the tone of the book is quite playful and light.

Another of those erotica novels that you'll love or hate.

Bert Zee says

WHOA NELLY!! I need a cold shower after that.

I love a good erotica novel and The Secret Lives of Emma is indeed very good and very very naughty. You know those b-grade movies that are "so bad they're good"? Well this book is exactly that, it's in no way well written or original but it's extremely camp and entertaining, not to mention scorching hot! I hate when books call themselves erotica and it's only the occasional sex scene, this book is about 90% sex and 10% everything else, which in my opinion is what erotica should be. It's sold and marketed as the Australian Fifty Shades of Grey but it's more Tampa by Alissa Nutting than Fifty Shades, the absolute epitome of a guilty pleasure (except I don't feel guilty for reading it haha).

I'm looking forward to seeing what the rest of the trilogy has in store... A fun and sexy read!

Lynette says

Enjoyed this book..

Rachael Johns says

Before I start, I must admit, I haven't read Fifty Shades of Grey or any of the supposed spin-offs and had absolutely no inclination to do so. I read 100 pages of Grey because I thought I should – it sold bucket loads and as an author it would have been good research to work out why – but I honestly couldn't go any further. Erotic romance has just never been my thing. So, I'd never had any inclination to pick up The Secret Lives

of Emma series either. There were just too many other books on my TBR pile. I like a hot sex scene as much as the next person in a romance, but I'm more there for the romance than the sex.

And then a couple of weeks ago, I read an article online about the true identity of Natasha Walker, author of The Secret Lives of Emma and suddenly I was interested. You see, I'd recently met John Purcell, the author behind Natasha, at the Australian Romance Readers Convention and I was gobsmacked!!! Seriously, I would NEVER have picked this. I was really curious to see how John wrote from the point-of-view of a very sensual female and ordered the book (from Booktopia) immediately.

The Secret Lives of Emma begins with Emma Benson (32), a bored housewife, studying while sunbaking in her backyard. It is immediately apparent that she is an erotically-charged woman and has a past her husband is unfamiliar with. She's longing for more excitement in her life, but in particular her sex life. She's happy with her husband, David, who is apparently very good in bed, but she needs more. To quote the book, "She was a sexual glutton, but, like any good diet, her diet required variety." While Emma loves David (or so she says, we don't actually see much of this relationship), her views on marriage do not match those of the general public and thus some people might find her a distasteful character. Personally, I liked Emma (although it took me a while to work this out) and I enjoyed the book. I'm sure there are plenty of people in 'real life' like Emma but I enjoyed the book as a fantasy. I found Emma's daring and that of her young lover exciting and shocking all at once.

There are really only two characters in Beginnings – Emma and her 18 year old neighbour, Jason, whom she decides will be her project. She will teach Jason to be a good lover and reap her own pleasure in the process. Jason is an interesting character – he is the perfect son and student but Emma lures him into her torrid world and she becomes his focus above all else. There's mention of Emma's husband, her other lover Paul and a teenage girl who is after Jason, but they take up very little page space. The story is all about Emma and her illicit affair with her neighbour's son.

Maybe it is the illicitness of the situation that helps the chemistry leap off the page from chapter one. Although at first I wasn't sure I liked the idea of an affair between world-wise Emma and innocent Jason, I found myself turning the pages as their encounters heated up, desperate for them to consummate their affair. Jason develops more as a character than Emma – changing from a naive and guileless, albeit hot, school boy, into a man aware of his needs and the power they can have on him and others. If I had any complaint about the novel, it would be that there wasn't a deep emotional connection between the two lovers, but that didn't stop me being invested in them and their story.

I can't compare The Secret Lives of Emma to other books of this genre, but I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed it and will be ordering buying books two and three ASAP! It's an easy but clever read and I'm desperate to know what happens next in the life of naughty Emma.

Roxanne Kryshmar says

A good beginning, though could have had more content. Looking forward to reading the second one in the trilogy.

Tracy says

This was a hard read, I felt it was a novel written just to jump on the female erotica bandwagon currently captivating audiences globally.

Read the full review at OurBookClub.

Bev says

I loved this book. A feisty heroine! The sex scenes are quite full on - but done very well and very sensual too. I really enjoyed the humour in the book too. It doesn't take itself too seriously, so keeps a very playful tone.

Rachel says

Glad I only paid 50cents for this. But wish I had spent the time reading one of my hundreds of other books.

It was a nothing book for me...emma seemed just f%@*ed-up to me. I can't believe it is a bestselling book.

Jay says

LOVE LOVE LOVE THIS BOOK!!

drew me in from the start & didn't want to put it down. love Emma's self confidence & ease at being herself, just a shame she can't share that part of herself with her husband.

OMG!! shocking, but hot & sexy scenes with the young & innocent next door neighbor.

can't wait to read more!

Leanne says

Felt Emma was bordering on a distasteful relationship. Not interested in follow-up novels.

Dina says

As a woman in her late 30's I found this book to be quite disturbing and morally wrong! Boy was way too young to be sexually active with a 32 yr old woman

Struggled to read it... Waiting for a storyline but to much avail there wasn't one, just a whole lot of cheesy

sex!

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

08.03.12

I was ready to pick this up, but when I looked at the price on Amazon, I said, "no freaking way!" \$13.99?? You've got to be crapping me! An author I've never heard of and the book is estimated to only have 156 pages. Yea, I don't think so. I'll definitely wait. Sheesh!
