



All the Forever Things

Jolene Perry

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“How many times have you saved me?” I ask Bree.

She grins. “Don’t you mean how many times have we saved each other?”

Nothing is forever. Gabe knows that more than most girls. After all, she lives in a funeral home (it’s the family business), and she gets that everything in the world dies eventually – people, rumors, fashion trends, the nickname “Graveyard Gabe.” But her best friend, Bree, has been a constant in her life; it’s always been the two of them together. Until Bree starts seeing a guy who stands for everything Gabe thought they were against. How could Bree change her mind and go for someone like Bryce Johnson?

Now Gabe doesn’t know who her friend is anymore. And the only person who seems to have time for her is Hartman, the new guy, who is somehow not weirded out by the funeral home stuff (well, a little). Still, Gabe doesn’t want to lose her mind over a guy the way Bree has, so she holds back.

But a very strange prom night (driving the family hearse instead of a limo) will change what Gabe knows about friendship, love, life, and everything that comes after – forever and otherwise.

All the Forever Things Details

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From Reader Review All the Forever Things for online ebook

Isobel Radakovic says

3.5 stars.

Morris says

“All the Forever Things” is a unique book that deals with deep issues in a sensitive and entertaining way.

I think every young adult or adult who is/was an outcast will be able to relate to “Graveyard Gabe,” even if your family does not own a funeral home. The story is bittersweet and touches on friendship, embracing who we are, first loves, forgiveness, and death. Somehow this is all put together in a way that hurts at times but is funny and entertaining at others.

I recommend “All the Forever Things” for upper middle graders through adults who are looking for a good young adult novel that is different from the norm.

This unbiased review is based upon a complimentary copy provided by the publisher.

Nina says

3.5 stars

I enjoyed the setting and the quirky characters as well as Gabe's slightly bizarre way of dealing with the dead people in her home (Vada from My Girl has nothing on Gabe ;).

However, I absolutely hated everything about her relationship with Bree, especially Bree herself -which made the whole crux of the story kind of difficult for me.

Michelle says

When I saw a new book by Jolene Perry I knew I had to read it, even more so after reading the synopsis. The idea of the protagonist living at a funeral home really drew me in, and i had to know how this affected her and her social life

Gabe lives in funeral home that is run and owned by her parents, and once that knowledge is out tends to scare possible friends away. Her one and only friend in school is Bree, whilst everyone else either avoids her, or makes fun of her dress sense and her home. One person who instigates a lot of the teasing is Bryce. When a new boy arrives in school he is very interested in Gabe and her home, and soon Hartman and Gabe are firm friends.

All the Forever Things was a book I read pretty quickly. The plot as a whole drew me in, but also seeing

the other small pieces made this an interesting read. Not only do we have Gabe living in a funeral home, her best friend starts to have feelings for the enemy and Gabe feels like she is losing Bree, who is quickly choosing boys over friends. the arrival of Hartman and his fascination with the funeral home adds another twist to the friendships, even more so with his reasons for wanting to be there. We see Gabe bullied, accepted, and shunned throughout the pages of the book from a variety of people, and it really made me think of how quick people are to judge or pass the blame to others if they don't like what they are seeing/hearing.

For me Gabe really stood out. She may not be accepted by all but she has her own sense of style and a very unique but stubborn personality. But she is also loyal to a fault, even if that means standing up for her friend and making some bad choices. Bree was someone who I had mixed feelings about, I thought she was easily swayed and followed along rather than making her own choices, especially if those choices weren't the 'norm'.

All the Forever Things was an emotional filled book. I laughed at the humour, I cried over the loss of others, but smiled at the moments of happiness. Its a book that you can enjoy and fall into easily, but also makes you think and question things.

Final Verdict

I really enjoyed reading **All the Forever Things**, I enjoyed seeing the characters grow throughout the pages, and also how things can be forgotten, even if it takes a tragedy to make this happen. This is a book that will stay with me for a while and is one I will read again.

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

Thanks to NetGalley for allowing me to read this ARC of ALL THE FOREVER THINGS in exchange for my honest review.

"Graveyard Gabe's" parents run a funeral parlor, hence the charming nickname. She doesn't mind being an outcast, as long as she has BFF Bree by her side. But when Bree breaks the cardinal "sisters before misters" rule by getting a popular boyfriend, Gabe is beyond hurt and angry. She's determined to prove that Bryce is a bad influence with the help of a new friend who is NOT her boyfriend.

Jolene Perry created a unique, interesting character in narrator Gabe and a authentic sounding, pleasant voice with sentences that flow smoothly. Unfortunately, I found Gabe to be incredibly self absorbed, jealous and selfish. I sympathized more with Bryce, the object of Gabe's chagrin. Readers are constantly told what a bad influence/guy he is, but never shown any behavior to back these claims.

I cringed at the open access Gabe and her had to the bodies in various stages of embalmment. I'm sure all kinds of code of ethics violations of the NFDA (National Funeral Directors Association) were written into the story, making me cringe at the thought of one of my loved ones having my cause of death as a joke between workers or someone dropping a cell phone in my casket while visiting me during a bout of insomnia. Surely Perry could have googled www.nfda.org to do some research.

Bottom line, I can't figure out why ALL FOREVER THINGS was written and a reason to recommend the book.

julianna ✌ says

This book was excruciatingly boring.

That might have had to do with the fact that... I read this over the course of three months. But the thing is, I didn't want to pick this up. It didn't pull me in, and there was little to no plot.

whispers to book this is your fault, not mine.

characters:

This was the one part that I could get behind. Bree and Gabe had fun personalities and I genuinely enjoyed reading from Gabe's voice and her point of view. However, as there was a break in Bree and Gabe's relationship, Gabe's personality went down.

things that Gabe did that make me not like her

She punched her best friend's boyfriend. Okay???

She refused to accept the fact that Bryce might be different than what she thinks. *coughs* there's this thing... it's called *people changing*.

- A couple of other things.

Bree was also unnecessarily rude to Gabe, and it annoyed me how she just abandoned her best friend because she didn't like her boyfriend.

plot:

Hahahahaha. What plot are you talking about?

This wasn't my type of book. It was one about changing and developing but... it was boring.

There was nothing that made me keep on wanting to read, nothing that made me want to turn the next page. I was completely fine putting my Kindle down and just leaving it there... for two months.

There's a small romantic plot, which was cute, but... it was also boring???

In the synopsis of this book, it mentions a night that changes their lives, but that happens at the END of the book, and the beginning was just the build-up to that, I suppose?

conclusion:

This wasn't my kind of book.

Thank you to the publisher for giving me a copy of this book, which did not impact my review in any way.

Stephanie says

Jolene Perry has yet to let me down with her writing and this is no different. However, I will go out on a limb

and say that this is one of my FAVORITE books by her that I've read so far. This book is full of humor, sadness and characters that you can relate to. It really makes you look at losing a loved one so differently. Gabe works and lives in a funeral home that her parents run so she sees death all the time. It doesn't hold the sadness that it does for most. She has sort of become immune to it which is understandable it isn't until she meets a young man named Hartman who just lost his father that she starts to see things differently. Yes death is inevitable but just because someone dies doesn't mean they are gone forever because they will forever be a part of you meaning they are a forever thing. It was such a great thought that made me truly think. I lost my best friend when I was sixteen and I loved the idea that she will be a forever thing.

Gabe--she is a teenage girl that has a love for all things vintage. She now dresses similar to Wednesday Adams because of a kid teasing her during Jr. high about it since she lived in a funeral home. She has one friend named Bree and they bond over their love for vintage clothing. Gabe is so awesome, she is literally one of my favorite main character in a book now. She was immune to the idea of death but it did effect her more than she believed. She avoided having too many people in her life because she really feared losing them. In the end though she learned that she couldn't hide from everyone.

Hartman-- he is the teenage boy that comes into Gabe's life unexpectedly and makes her realize that she can't hide from everyone to avoid losing people. He has just moved to same town after losing his father suddenly. He also has a flare of vintage and when Bree starts to pull away from Gabe he because her only friend. Of course friendship can always lead to more.

Bree--is Gabe's one and only best friend. They bond over their love for vintage clothing but soon she finds herself drawn to the high school jock Bryce, the boy who made Gabe's life miserable for a portion of her life. He was the one that started the nickname for Gabe. The deeper she gets in with Bryce the more she pulls away from Gabe. Her family life leads her to make some questionable decisions.

By the end of the book a tragedy has hit making them all look at things differently and bringing Gabe and Bree back together. It was a book that I couldn't put down and it was just amazing. If you haven't read a book by Jolene Perry before due yourself a favor and start now!

Leah says

The main character is selfish and immature. The most interesting thing about her was that her family runs a funeral home. I wish the author would have been a bit more original instead of making Gabriella a Wednesday Adams clone. The MC talks about how wonderful her relationship is with her BFF until her BFF does something she doesn't agree with (*gasp* dating a guy Gabriella doesn't like) and then she spends the rest of the book trying to prove how awful the guy is. The dialogue is overly simplistic, and the plot is nonexistent. I was so bored that I found myself skimming and wondering when it would be over.

Jennifer says

review to come

Grace {Rebel Mommy Book Blog} says

This review was originally posted on Rebel Mommy Book Blog

Abbie says

(I received a copy from Netgalley, In exchange for an honest review.)

I can't say I loved the characters in this, but they weren't awful.

This wasn't a bad read, but it wasn't one that gripped me unfortunately. It struggled to keep my interest, and I felt quite bored for most of it. It didn't drag too badly though thankfully.

Overall, Not awful, but nowhere near as good as the other books I've read from this author.

Sandy says

What can I say about this novel? I'm sitting on the fence on this one as I found it frustrating and sad. How can individuals be so selfish and why do individuals lay down and let themselves be so exposed?

I found it frustrating that sixteen-year-old Gabe had only one true friend. I understand that living at a funeral home and having parents that own the home put a damper on things but there has to be a way to find friends. When Bree isn't there for Gabe, she has nothing, a big fat ZERO and my heart broke for her. Then, when Bree started to turn into this evil person, I wanted to climb inside the novel and slap her because here was Gabe, acting like a little puppy: listening and following Bree like everything was fine and dandy when it wasn't. I was fiercely gripping onto the novel, ready to tear it into tiny shreds! Come on Gabe! Smell the flowers, Bree is not concerned about you, she is concerned Bree and what is right in Bree's world.

Oh, I was angry! Then, Bree introduced Hartman to Gabe. Hartman, the new boy at school. I thought Hartman was going to be Bree's replacement as she bowed out of Gabe's life. It got messy. This boy had baggage and Gabe wasn't impressed with him. I wanted her to dump him but then again what else or who else did Gabe have? No one!

It was an emotional read for me. Some novels provoke an intense response from me and this one definitely did. I won a copy of this novel from Albert Whitman Teen in their Albert Whitman & Company YA gift set, thank you! This review is my own personal opinion.

Bitchin' Reads says

12/19/2017: In retrospect, I'm pretty neutral about this book. It had its moments where I identified with Gabe, Bree, and the others, but then there were other moments where I realized I wasn't invested in this story. I normally don't read contemporary--it isn't my go-to genre. I read it once in a while, and there are books like Me Before You, Eliza and Her Monsters, The Hate U Give, The Upside of Unrequited, Love is

Both Particle and Wave, and many others that make part of my heart their home. Sadly, this book is not one of them. I agree with parts of my initial reaction: there were times that it was endearing and sweet. I wholeheartedly believe that it highlighted some truths of this world, and that it was often so realistic I wondered how much of the story was based on real life (just speculation)--the pacing of events, how certain events happened so suddenly, I couldn't help but feel that this was a real person's life unfolding.

But alas, it has not lingered in my mind as a story I think of often, if not at all, and it has faded quickly into the background of my mind.

Full review forthcoming.

I found this contemporary YA endearing, truth revealing, realistic, and often sweet. The tension that arises between best friends Gabe and Bree reminds me of a similar boy-induced tension between my best friend and me in high school. I will admit I was a little disconnected from the characters and the situation(s) at first, but that was much improved by the halfway point--that is where the story's stride hit perfect pacing and interconnectivity.

More to come at a later date. :)

Cassie Mae says

So good! Friendship books are my fave and Jolene just did so well with this one <3

Sarah says

(I received an advance copy of this book for free. Thanks to Albert Whitman & Company and NetGalley.)

"Wanna guess?" He grins.

I glance at the man's face, a little grayish now, but it will pink pretty quickly once the embalming fluid fills his veins.

The man is older, but not super old. About ten years older than my dad and pretty overweight. "Heart attack?"

This was a YA contemporary story about a girl who lived at a funeral home.

Gabriella came across as a quite normal sort of girl, even if she did like to play up the whole funeral-home thing by dressing like Wednesday Adams. She did seem to really love her best friend Bree though, and continued to try and look out for her, even when Bree didn't want her to. Bree on the other hand didn't seem to take Gabriella's feelings into account much at all, and only really seemed interested in her new boyfriend.

The storyline in this was about Gabriella living at the funeral home where her parents worked, and about her

best friend Bree who was dating a boy who Gabriella didn't like. We also got a bit of romance between Gabriella and a boy called Hartman, but mostly the story was about Gabriella's dislike of Bree's boyfriend, and the rift that caused in their relationship. What was weird though was the way that Gabriella and her friends had so much access to the dead bodies! Surely that isn't right?!

The ending to this was quite surprising, and certainly shook things up a bit! I can't say that I really cared all that much about the characters affected by the accident though.

6 out of 10
