

"You don't have to lust after your best friend's boyfriend to worship this book (trust me on this)....Here's a heroine you'll root for and a book you won't want to put down. I loved it."  
—Lauren Weisberger, author of *The Devil Wears Prada*

# something borrowed



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## Something Borrowed Emily Giffin

*Something Borrowed* tells the story of Rachel, a young attorney living and working in Manhattan.

Rachel has always been the consummate good girl—until her thirtieth birthday, when her best friend, Darcy, throws her a party. That night, after too many drinks, Rachel ends up in bed with Darcy's fiancé. Although she wakes up determined to put the one-night fling behind her, Rachel is horrified to discover that she has genuine feelings for the one guy she should run from. As the September wedding date nears, Rachel knows she has to make a choice. In doing so, she discovers that the lines between right and wrong can be blurry, endings aren't always neat, and sometimes you have to risk all to win true happiness.

*Something Borrowed* is a phenomenal debut novel that will have you laughing, crying, and calling your best friend.

## Something Borrowed Details

Date : Published June 1st 2004 by St. Martin's Press (first published 2004)

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Author : Emily Giffin

Format : Hardcover 322 pages

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## From Reader Review Something Borrowed for online ebook

### **Miriam says**

Oh, so this is how it sounds inside the heads of people who can rationalize anything.

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### **Bonnie says**

I loved this book and have passed it on to other friends! Thanks to Kristi for turning me on to this author.

This is one of the best chick-lit books ever. The follow-up "Something Blue" was almost as good. The story focuses on two lifelong best friends, Rachel and Darcy. The first installment is told from Rachel's perspective; the second book is told from Darcy's perspective. Very clever.

Rachel is the single, plain, thirtysomething, always a responsible good girl attorney. Something I can totally relate to except for the lawyer part! LOL. Darcy is the exact opposite - she is the outgoing, popular, pretty girl who is engaged to Dex.

As the story unfolds, we learn that Rachel has known Dex since law school and has been in love with him for quite some time. And as luck would have it, Dex confesses his feelings for Rachel even though he is engaged to Darcy.

Normally one might frown on such an affair, but Rachel's character is one that most of us can relate to and I for one was sympathetic. Rachel does suffer some immense feelings of guilt, but also learns a lot about herself, her history, and her friendship with Darcy.

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### **Allison says**

You WANT to hate the main character - I mean, she's not only hooking up with an engaged man, but it's her best friend's fiance - but, Griffin did an amazing job of making Rachel someone you rooted for. So, congrats on that!

This was a great beach read. Quick and quirky.

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### **Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says**

You guys. I had EXTREMELY low expectations for this book and it totally blew me away. I've been avoiding this series for years because I thought it was just gonna be some lame ass, cheesy chick-lit, but MAN. I reeeeaaaally liked this. Getting the next book from my library tonight because I \*NEED\* it.

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### **Traci says**

I only acknowledge that I read this book so I can say how much I hated it. The two main characters are completely unlikable, one for being completely self-absorbed and selfish, and the other for being so spineless and whiny. So spineless, in fact, that the action of her sleeping with her friend's fiancé wasn't even a credible one. The further I got into it, the more I was disgusted with it. I also found it very difficult to believe that at 30, the two characters would continue to be friends. Usually by that age, you've phased out the people from your childhood that no longer work in your life. Especially when they are so far removed from your hometown. This lack of credibility was the biggest crack in an already weak foundation for the book.

My biggest problem was the overall message seemed to be that as long as your best friend is a bitch, it's okay to sleep with her fiancé. Come on now, no matter how you color it, it's never okay.

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### **Lola says**

Every time I read a new page from this book, my soul died a little more. Cheating is not okay. It should not be normalized.

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### **katie says**

It wasn't bad as chicklit goes, but I don't know how sympathetic I can be to characters who are betraying their fiancees and best friends. Plus, in order to make the cheating something "okay," a lot of energy is put into making Darcy really off-putting and Rachel really kind of pathetic. I liked Hilary and Ethan a lot (though in all other chick lit books Ethan would have been either gay or the guy Rachel actually ended up with), but the central relationships just left me cold.

Eh. Apparently I can't get behind cheating and being rewarded for it. Who knew I was so morally inflexible?

I'd like to read one of her other books, because I did enjoy the writing and her handle on some of the main things I look for in chick lit -- fast-track career, portrait of the city, circle of friends, consumerism, etc.

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### **Kim says**

This is my absolute favourite in chick lit. The characters are very well written and real. And you can't help but to feel for the main girl. She may be sleeping with her best friend's fiancé. But that doesn't mean that she's completely cruel and doesn't deserve the other girl's friendship. Or your own. The way the author retells the girl's background. How they interacted as they grew up. And how one always used the other as a measuring stick for everything she did back then and still does. You come to realize that this friendship is not

as good as it could be. They are both not true to themselves and that makes them lie to each other. And it gives the main girl a green light to follow her heart and go for the guy she should have gone for. Had she not found herself not worthy of him back in college when they met and he already liked her. But she figured her friend was more appropriate for him and matched them together.

I could relate to the girl and how she felt. She was now 30 and her friend was still 29. Lots of girls know how it is to feel like the underdog. Most of us have had bad girlfriends from hell. People change, friends change. We wish for everything to stay the same. But sometimes you can't fix things 20 years later when the real trouble started 20 years ago.

I really recommend this book to anyone who likes chick lit with real heart. Because this book has it.

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### **Megha says**

GR Giveaway.

Ok, I tried. I am not going to read this tripe any further.

From the first 50-ish pages that I did read, this book sounds somewhat like the show 'Sex and the City'. Rachel is part-Miranada - a not so good looking lawyer, and part-Charolette - miss goody two shoes who wants to find a husband and settle down. Darcy is part-Samantha, part-Carrie, she has good looks and has always managed to make the guy she liked fall for her and is now engaged to a guy she wants to marry. And just like the show, these two 30-yr. old women can't think or talk about anything beyond dating and men. Both the main characters are annoying. Darcy is a shallow self-serving bitch and Rachel lacks a backbone. They have been best-friends since childhood. But their friendship doesn't seem credible at all. Darcy is self-centered and insensitive and has been running all over Rachel forever. Rachel has an inferiority complex and is jealous of her so-called best friend's charmed life....to them a good life being defined by the number of boyfriends they have had. I don't see why the two are friends at all. And Rachel is trying to use this jealousy as a reason to justify sleeping with her best friend's fiancee...

Ugh!

I finally put the book down at a point where Rachel is talking about how she had begun to dislike her boyfriend in college because he was rooting for Duke's basketball team and not Indiana.

And the writing is really nothing worth mentioning.

The book also contains a page suggesting questions for discussion, it seems the publishers expect the readers to ponder over this subject matter after reading the book...yeah, right!!

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### **Annalisa says**

Despite all my protests and misgivings about a book on infidelity, I was surprised that had the urge to get back to the story and find out what happened. For that, I wanted to give the book 4 stars, but I just couldn't

because, well, it's a book about infidelity, and not just about infidelity, but the view point that there's nothing wrong with it since the couple isn't married yet.

The book starts with A LOT of backstory. It's eventually important to Rachel and Darcy's relationship, but it sure makes the beginning drag. What I wanted from that opening scene was not memories of Rachel and Darcy as kids. I wanted to be pulled into the scene and believe the sequence of events that ended with a girl in bed with her best friend's fiancee. I needed more to get me there. The lawyer-presenting-to-the-jury bit afterwards was amusing, but it didn't get me into her head to justify how it happened. I needed more to sympathize with Rachel.

Maybe what I needed to sympathize with her more was a reason Dex was worth risking a friendship over. All I got from Rachel were some vague stereotypes that he was handsome and smart. Even in the scenes he was in, I didn't get any personality from him. He was like a fuzzy character in a dream that never quite materializes into a real person. I had to take Rachel's word for it every time she said she loved him because I didn't get anything out of their relationship. When Ethan asked Rachel if she was only interested in Dex so she could win something over Darcy, I thought that must be it. I'm still not convinced that isn't true. In the end I had a hollow feeling, and it wasn't just at the things lost. It was that I still didn't know Dex and didn't know if he was worth it to either girl. It made the ending mean a whole lot less to me.

The whole book I kept trying to get inside Dex's head to figure out why he was cheating, why he wouldn't make a decision, why he stayed with Darcy, why he kept leading Rachel on, why he did anything, but I couldn't pin down Dex's motivation. While it bothered me to have such a pivotal character so undefined, it kind of worked to keep up the suspense. I had no idea if he liked Darcy or Rachel, if he was using Rachel or Darcy, if he was conflicted about this whole thing or a player, or if he was going to pull some twist in the whole drama. Darcy was supposed to be the volatile unknown, but I almost think Dex was more of one.

In the end, I don't think the story is as much about the love triangle as it is about friendship. The complexity of childhood-turned-adult friendship was very well done and I even though I wanted to strangle Darcy, I could see why Rachel had remained friends with her. Interesting that the character who moved in to late to reach best friend status (who was also so passive) was named Annalise. I don't know what that's like at all (read: sarcasm). I had trouble with the route and justifications and conclusions that the romance took, but looking at the story as a journey of two friends, I liked it a whole lot more.

ETA: I liked the movie. Dex was still a cardboard, but I could see better what Rachel saw in him and how he was conflicted. John Kransinski stole the show.

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### **Alison says**

Well, this was my first, and now probably last, foray into "chick-lit." I found the characters to be totally unbelieveable. A "consummate good-girl" would never have an affair with her best friend's fiancee, despite Darcy's shortcomings as a friend. Some feel Rachel's behavior was justified because of Darcy's litany of slights, pulled from as far back as 5th grade. However that Rachel remained Darcy's friend in spite of her bitchiness, just proves Rachel's own weakness of character. And it was totally contra to her so-called good-girl persona. Could she not find any real friends? Even after growing up and living apart from Darcy for several years during college? Far from being a modern heroine, I found Rachel weak, immoral, flat, and lifeless; totally not a person to root for.

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### Winna says

I read this book in two sittings. I know it is a little controversial: some people adore Rachel for 'stealing' her best friend Darcy's fiance. And some others think it is just immoral.

Here goes my opinion. Rachel, who is a passive thirty years old woman, has lived in Darcy's shadow all her life. Darcy stole her first love Ethan (who now becomes Rach's best friend), her Notre Dame acceptance, her pride and even Rachel's own mother's sympathy. Darcy is not that evil, actually, she is self centered. Sometimes I really like Darcy for being so perfect. Sometimes I hate her for being so annoying.

The truth is, all characters are flawed and personally, not likeable. However, they are all original and real, that's why I give 4 stars for this book. It is hard for an author to create a character that is not so adorable but real and nice to read. My favorite is Hillary and Ethan (I can picture Stanley Tucci acting as Ethan if this were made into a movie).

Then there is this perfect (but not so perfect then) Dex Thaler. Dex is the handsome, patient, smart guy who is all perfect for Rachel. Only he never decides whether he wants Rachel or Darcy until the very end.

Rachel herself is not a character I sympathize with. She is passive, she does not know what she wants, and she cannot stand up for herself. It is actually quite annoying to know that everything that happens to her is not all Darcy's selfish fault. It is her fault too, for not defending herself.

However, I like the book! I like how the author creates twists and makes the story believable and in the end I'm happy for everyone :) bravo. Good Christmas read!

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### Love Fool says

LOVE this book. Read it twice because I loved it so much. I am against cheating (who isn't), especially with your best friend's man butttttt this made me cheer for the main character who was having an affair with her best friend's man. How could you not love Rachel? I was able to relate to her when I thought I was going to hate her. This made me tear up and laugh and wish I was friends with Rachel (even with her flaw). I recommend reading this on a rainy night (with a glass of wine or the whole bottle). You won't be able to stop reading it and then won't be able to stop talking about it (like me). Then I will be able to welcome you to the Emily Giffin fan club (this book made me want to read her others).

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### Anne says

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I don't understand the rave reviews. How is this a good story? Was Rachael supposed to be the one I was rooting for in this scenario? 'Cause I didn't like her. **She was BORING.** Rachael was a whiner who played it safe, then blamed her friend for all of the things that she didn't have. Yes, Darcy was a self-centered friend. So what?! If you don't like the way she treats you...*stop returning her calls!*

And Dex? Ugh. He was a cheater. C-H-E-A-T-E-R! There is no other way to put it. I can understand how *if*

they had always felt something for each other, that they could have fallen into one others' arms in the heat of the moment. That's forgivable. Carrying on an affair for *months* before Darcy and Dex's wedding? Really? Why didn't Dex just call off the wedding as soon as he knew it wasn't just a drunken one night stand? How could he continue to live with Darcy, and see her *best friend* on the side?! What an enormous asshole! Ok. In fairness, it turned out that Darcy was also cheating on him with a guy that Rachael had had a few dates with, but that doesn't make what Dex and Rachael did right. I couldn't muster up any sympathy for either of them. I honestly thought Rachael would have been better off without him, but at the same time I kind of thought that they *deserved* each other. Maybe I wasn't supposed to like them? Maybe the point of the story was that nobody is perfect? That life and love is messy? \*shrugs\* Ok. Awesome. Maybe I just don't get chick-lit?

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### **Sarah says**

So here's my take on Something Borrowed, and "Chic-lit" in general - it's satisfying in the way watching an episode of The Hills is satisfying. You know EXACTLY what's going to happen from the first lines of the first chapter (which i guess can be nice since it makes you feel smart and gives a general sense of superiority); the characters are predictable, with a "heroine" that's just likable enough to continue reading but who you generally dislike/never fully sympathize with; it's pretty much something to read when you don't want to have to think. At all. The definition of beach reading. I think this book is great to read on vacation, but other than that I thought it was crap. I mean seriously, is there REALLY a debate over whether or not Rachel did the right thing??? The author sets up the story in a way so that it's impossible to sympathize or side with Darcy, who is such an uber-bitch that it nullifies any debate whatsoever over whether or not Rachel and Dex were in the right. One of those, "she's getting what she deserves" situations. Instead of turning this potentially-highly dramatic situation into a truly interesting discussion over morals, values, and a debate over what's right and wrong, the decision is already made for us by bland, predictable, one-sided characters and situations. I guess when it comes down to it I'd rather watch garbage tv than read a garbage book.

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