



Always in My Heart

Rachael Brownell

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One amazing, heart-stopping, earth-shattering kiss was all it took for Reagan to fall for Luke.

What she thought was a school-girl crush on her best friend's older brother, turned into something so much more in an instant.

Then he left and broke her heart in the process. For years she tried to move on, but no one compared to Luke.

No kiss, no man, even came close.

The heart wants what it wants, and Reagan's heart is willing to wait for Luke. For as long as it takes.

Always in My Heart Details

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Author : Rachael Brownell

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From Reader Review Always in My Heart for online ebook

Sheela says

A well written sweet romance about first loves and forever loves, be prepared for heartbreak and lots of tears with characters you'll really fall for.

Melissa Mendoza says

Received a copy in exchange for an honest review

“We will have that one day, Reagan. I hope you realize that I’m not giving up on you. I’m not giving up on us. I’m not sure how long it’ll take but when we are finally together, it will make all the years apart worth every painful moment. Until then....”

5 beautiful stars!! Such a beautiful story and it was so well told! Rachael is an amazing author and this book proves it!

What if one kiss could change everything?

It did, for Reagan Brooks. Her fascination with Luke Evans went from a school-girl crush to heart-wrenching love in an instant. Then he left town, leaving a starry-eyed Reagan in his wake. No one will ever be good enough. No kiss will ever compare to his. Reagan’s standards are high. When someone doesn’t meet them, she moves on.

“Next in line, please.”

Moving through life with unrealistic expectations can be damaging. Letting those expectations go... It’s in that moment we find out who we are and what we really want.

I really don’t want to give away anything. I will say that the characters are so far beyond well developed and the story is so emotionally powerful! The characters really draw you into the book and you are pulling for them as you read! I read this book in one sitting, I was so hooked!! Great book!!

Received a copy in exchange for an honest review. Read and reviewed by Melissa for Alpha Book Club

Kimothy says

Wow i was not expecting that from this book. Obviously the synopsis drew me in, but man i could not put it down. Talk about unrequited love from your youth. We all know first kisses,first loves and those early unrequited loves leave a mark on our souls but how much do they influence our decisions on future relationships and our actions. For Reagan nothing can compare and it is the yard stick to constantly strive towards, but i loved the unexpected aspect in the book how when you do not expect something in life it catches you unaware and can knock you and your thoughts for six in that really good way. This book made

me think about those early crushes in life and do they shape, i fell deeply in love with Reagan and her story and i liked how the author made the duration of the book span a good distance of her life. Off to check out more about this author now :)

Ink Angels Book Blog says

Ink Angels Book Blog & Reviews received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Next was my first look at Author Rachael Brownell and I loved her work. Brownell had a way in her writing that had me lost in my emotions and I had no idea what to feel. Throughout the book I had a worrying sense and I was anxious to finish the story, yet still wanted to delay finishing it because it was just that good.

I could not get over my adoration of Reagan's love for Luke. It was amazing what Reagan endured, all for love. At times, I was confused and at others I wanted to jump into the book to communicate my thoughts with the characters. Seems pretty crazy, but no other book has ever made me feel that intense, so a big plus to Rachel Brownell for pulling new emotions out of me.

This story in particular and the relationship between Reagan and Luke reminds me of a quote I read a while back "Waiting is a sign of true love and patience. Anyone can say "I LOVE YOU" but not everyone can wait and prove it's true." The entire story was captivating. I loved the characters and the way the story played out.

S.F. Benson says

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Oh. My. God. This book hurt to read. Seriously. It was so friggin' good. The emotional roller coaster it took me on was tremendous. My heart ached after the first few pages. And, just when I thought I found a joyful moment it was ripped away. Some how I managed to read this story in ONE night.

Rachael Brownell delivered a unique story of love and life in "Next". I felt every emotion Reagan, the main character, experienced. I came awfully close to picking up the Kleenex box more than once. Whew!

The characters in this tale...they floored me. I wanted to kick Luke for being a typical man. And, then he shared his feelings. Oh, man. If every guy shared feelings the way he did, well...let's just say there would be women out there who wouldn't be able to stand let alone walk (yours truly included). I didn't know whether to admire Reagan's fortitude or give the girl a ticket to the loony farm. Seriously, a ten year wait? Sorry, I'm not telling you what that's about. You have to read the book. And, please read this book! I don't want to be the only one whose heart stopped at each chapter. I have to mention Felicity. This is the roommate every girl wants. She is so unbelievably strong. If my life went the way hers did, I'd be a basket case. I loved Elliot. Ms. Brownell if you're reading this, I did not like what you did with that character! I nearly lost it. Good thing no one was home when I read this book.

"Next" is not your typical romance story. It will grab you, pull your heart strings, test your emotions and give you an ending you'll be happy with. Hats off to Rachael Brownell for such a great read! It's my understanding that we get to read more about Felicity!! Yay!!

Carra says

So, when this story first starts out, nothing about it really grabbed me. I was considering it just an average read...and then I got about halfway in and the author ripped my heart out. And it wasn't even over one of the two main characters.

The main characters actually were a bit frustrating for me, as neither were really going after what they wanted, and it felt like it was taking forever for anything to ever happen with them. For me, all of that was tossed out the window that moment halfway into the story when a huge emotional event occurs that centers on one of the secondary characters. From that point on, everything starts to pick up--although I still was feeling some frustration with Reagan and Luke from time to time.

Next is a pretty quick read, and in the end gives you a fulfilling conclusion to what turns out to be a highly emotional story. The lesson to learn from this book? Go after what you want--don't wait for it to come to you or you might just miss out on something special.

Kerry Richardson says

I was actually very disappointed with this book. I struggled with it and found it quite slow in the fact that nothing actually happened, although the story jumped through time in large chunks. At a little over half way there was a big emotional event that was more about secondary characters than the main ones of Luke and Reagan and I began to think that it was finally going to pick up the pace. Alas not!! I was expecting a good reason as to what was keeping Luke and Reagan apart for all those years but when it was time for the BIG REVEAL it was such an anticlimax. I just couldn't believe it, I read this book for hours and there was no legitimate reason for this pair to be apart. It was a total let down and a waste of my time, it only gets 2? from me and those come because of the emotional event.

Crystal Gray says

I don't know why it took me so long to finally pick up this book. Maybe it was because I had a feeling it would rip out my heart? Who knows. I have had it on my kindle for almost 2 years prior to reading it. WOW, guys for real, READ this!

Donna Porter says

Did you ever go through life holding on to a dream of that perfect guy or kiss? Reagan Brooks knows that feeling well. Elliot Evans has been her best friend since they were young. His older brother Luke, however stole her heart. Entering school as a senior Luke has given Reagan a kiss that stole her heart and he told her they would be together someday. He enlisted in the Marines and the kiss occurs before he leaves for boot camp, but Elliot doesn't know about their feelings for each other. Reagan starts writing to Luke and she does get a few letters. In the next few years she goes to college, always writing Luke, and she doesn't get any

letters back. She doesn't understand she thinks he must be out of the country. When she graduates from college and knows his four years should be up, his brother tells her he enlisted for another four years. Reagan is torn and her heart is broken. She occasionally still writes letters but not often and she starts to look for Luke in every man or kiss she gets. This story is so heart wrenching, I couldn't stop crying. The letters and the things that happen in Reagan's life will keep you reading. When tragedy strikes it brings Luke home so now what? You have to read this one. There are only a few swear words but not much. I truly loved this story

Melissa Burcham says

I was given an ARC book for an honest review free of persuasion from the author or anyone else affiliated with this book.

CONTAINS SOME SPOILERS

Wow, what a story! I loved this book from beginning to end. This was a good military romance. I was hooked from the first page and couldn't put the book down.

One kiss. That is all it took for Reagan. Her next door neighbors were three boys. She was best friends with Elliot. James was like a brother she never had. And then there was Luke. Reagan has always loved Luke from afar. That all changed with just one kiss. From that point on Luke was the only boy/man that she wanted. Luke was a senior and Reagan was a junior in high school. After that one kiss, Reagan finds out that in two weeks, Luke is leaving for the Marines. He tells her not to wait for him. At first they exchange a couple of letters, but then the letters stop. As Reagan starts college, she stops getting letters from Luke. Why? She still loves him. She still waits for him. But is it enough? Does Luke share the same feelings?

We take a trip of growing up with Reagan. We follow her life all the way into adulthood. What challenges does she face?

I really enjoyed this book. I hope to read more in the future by Rachael. Thank you Rachael for a very good read.

Books Laid Bare says

Settle down, relax and let Rachael Brownell, immerse you in a world of exquisite characters who are lucky to be embellished with some stupendous storytelling.

This is the beautiful story of how long and how hard your heart will wait for the one person that it is not prepared to give up on.

Reagan lost her heart to Luke and there isn't a thing she could have done to stop it.

One Kiss... that was all it took and her fate was sealed and her heart wouldn't have had it any other way.

But what can you do when he person you don't want to live without leaves – Do you move on? Or in Reagan's situation you attempt to find that feeling all over again, you try your hardest to find a man that will make you feel what you have been missing, will make your toes curl and make your lips tingle, the man that will steal your heart- but it is never going to happen when the unattainable is all they are up against.

Luke had motivation for leaving when he did but that didn't mean the motivation as selfish, quite the

opposite but that is of little consequence when they are both struggling to live without their reason to breathe. He always loved her but he never wanted to hold her back - honestly my heart was in my mouth for most of this book.

They were so right for each other but they were struggling in situations that were so wrong for no other reason than they didn't know what to do to put them back where they needed to be.

But when tragedy struck, Luke made my heart sing because finally seeing that life is too short and far too precious to spend any longer apart, he made it clear that they had waited long enough and he was done hanging around.

I was overjoyed at this point, I could hear the angels singing in my head, Hallelujah.

I love a happy ending but this felt special. This felt as if they had served their time and they were getting their reward- each other.

As the perfect escape, books don't come much better, a superb second bite at your first love story.

Loved it!

Michelle says

This book was hard for me to read. I have a lot of things going around in my head about this book. The fact that the main characters don't get together or talk for most of the book.... Didn't sit well with me. And the fact we don't have any answers for a good chunk of the book was very frustrating.

28% in and all I have are questions.

Nothing has gone on really besides that one kiss in the beginning of the book. And a few letters. After that.... Nothing else.

Just Reagan writing letter to Luke for 3 1/2 yrs. with not even a response back from Luke. NOTHING.

But.... Luke calls his family and talks to them.

Elliot (his brother) won't even tell Reagan anything about Luke. Which I think is messed up. But I think Reagan is even crazier for still waiting around.

Years...& I mean years (I don't want to give anything away) before they cross paths again. It's just really unfortunate why they came to see each other again.

But still... I was not feeling why he stopped talking to her. It was really lame excuse. I mean I couldn't even believe it.

Overall... This book was just not for me. We do not hear from Luke for most of the book. Which to me is inexcusable. Then his reasoning....

Then we have Reagan putting her life on hold for years. I know she went out on dates... But ultimately she holding back. So... She basically put her life on hold.

I just wasn't feeling that.

ARC provided for an honest review.

Jennifer Pierson says

Holy Help Me Batman! The author wrecked me with this book. I LOVED it!

Reagan Brook's first kiss with Luke Evans changed her crush into heart wrenching love. He leaves town to

become a Marine shortly after, leaving her with super high expectations. Reagan goes 10 years without seeing Luke, and although she tries to move on, no man ever compares to him so she walks away. Will she ever be able to truly move on?

WOW, what a beautiful story. I loved every gut wrenching moment, even though wanted to scream obscenities at the author more than once. Character development was simply amazing, and very well done. The story line flowed effortlessly, and was fantastic. Rachael Brownell was brilliant in writing an off the charts, emotionally powerful story. I was so invested that I cheered out loud for the successes, and cried big ugly tears over the tragedies that felt so real, had to remind myself that it was a book when I finished. **HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY RECOMMEND**, and can't wait to read more of this super talented author!

My Bookbag by Karen says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

I really like this book very much. This story by Brownell has an extremely interesting concept that is well developed. It makes for an engaging read, and I find it to be a real page-turner.

Brownell's characters are vibrant and compelling. Drawn to Reagan, I feel compelled to remain immersed in her life as she navigates the decade between her first year in college through her early career. In the telling of Reagan's story, Brownell reaches the part of me that understands how heart wrenching it can be to pine for someone.

Demonstrating true skill as a storyteller, Brownell brings to life the episodes and experiences of her characters. I celebrate the successes and I cry many tears over a tragedy that feels all too real.

NEXT is a book that I highly recommend. It is well written and a must-read.

Release Date: September 1, 2015

Pre-Order Link: [amazon](#)

Tessa says

This is my first book by Rachael Brownell. What a great story about waiting on love to return but trying to move on with life. We have a phrase in Spanish that translates to say you "pass the time" until the right one comes along. This is that story. Reagan passes the time by dating and comparing her dates to Luke - even dates someone who looks like him! She tries to move on from him but when you find your forever love your heart won't let you.

Luke tried to do right by not being selfish and have her wait and hold out for him. His reasons were completely selfless but his letters show his love for Reagan never ceased.

Tragedy strikes and leaves you heartbroken for Reagan but when Luke decides they've waited long enough

for each other you can't help feel your heart heal just like Reagan's.

Beautiful, inspiring story of young love that never fades. I highly recommend this book for a great evening read to take you away from your crazy life for a few hours.
