



Secret Girlfriend

Bria Quinlan

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Since her mom died, Amy Whalen's been invisible—but not in the cool, superpower kind of way. Overlooked at school and ignored at home, Amy holds tight to her few constants: running, painting, and her long-held crush on soccer god, Chris Kent. But as senior year nears, Chris doesn't just notice her, he needs her.

Amy will agree to almost anything to be with him.

Everything is great—sort of—until Luke Parker shows up for soccer tryouts and sees through every one of Amy's defenses. When Luke decides he wants Chris's spot on the team and wouldn't sneeze at the captain's jersey either their rivalry spins out of control.

It doesn't help that Luke also wants the girl Chris kept hidden all summer: AMY.

YA ROMANCE BY GOLDEN HEART FINALIST, BRIA QUINLAN

Secret Girlfriend Details

Date : Published October 16th 2013 by RogueGiraffe Books (first published October 15th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Bria Quinlan

Format : Kindle Edition 274 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Sports and Games, Sports, Contemporary, High School

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From Reader Review Secret Girlfriend for online ebook

Jacob Proffitt says

I had to stop at 30%. I just couldn't take Amy's continuing self-deception. Her situation sucks bad enough that she doesn't need Jerky McUserface screwing her up even more. Chris is practically the love child of Narcissus and Ouroboros he's so self-involved. And Amy lets her delusions about Chris make her be mean to Luke. I honestly have no idea what Luke sees in her or why he'd stick around in the face of her overt and constant harping. It's to the point that there's something wrong with him for coming back again and again for so much abuse.

So you have Amy being abused by Sir Jerks-a-lot who in turn abuses Luke and I can already see the drama llama caravan forming up for a trip across the desert of High School angst. I'm sorry, but I need *some* alleviation from the pain to keep me in the book and this is just one gigantic slog with zero sign of relief.

And don't even get me started on the "father" who withdraws from the daughter who needs him when his wife dies. I am so very tired of this trope. That is not normal. That is weak and cowardly and abusive and if I never see this character again it will be too soon. I don't know a ton of families in the situation of having to raise young(ish) children after a spouse dies. But of those I do know of, not one has let that happen. The children are too important and emotionally abandoning them is a betrayal of them *and* of the relationship you had with your spouse. Would you really default on the most important job you shared as a couple? No matter how much pain you were suffering while it happened? That isn't a sign of a great love, it's a sign of a great selfishness.

Wow, I didn't know I had that rant building. Sorry. There was nothing keeping me in this book. I wish I hadn't started it. I wish I hadn't kept at it as long as I did. I hope I can put it behind me now that I've let the rant out.

Samantha says

I got this book from a giveaway at yacentralbooks.com, and I couldn't thank them enough!

This was the sort of refreshing chick lit book I had been waiting for for a while now. (It reminded me a bit of *She's All That* for those of you who have seen the movie.) However, *Secret Girlfriend* definitely had its own flavor. It's about a high school senior named Amy Whalen who has been totally in love with the same boy, Chris, for years and was finally noticed by him this past summer because they worked together. But there is a catch to their relationship: in order for him to accomplish his Plan on getting into his dream college, he needs to maintain his popularity. Meaning, little Miss "Invisible" Amy cannot go out with him in public. Instead, he needs to continue his relationship with the head cheerleader for everyone to see so that he can become Homecoming King. Initially, Amy is fine with this arrangement since, according to Chris, everyone involved in The Plan is aware of their roles. However, when Luke Parker, a new kid with his eye on Chris's position on the soccer field notices Amy, she begins questioning the legitimacy of The Plan.

What I loved about this book is that Amy is more than a girl caught up in the whirlwind of young love; she has her own strengths and weaknesses. As an amazing runner, she is obviously physically strong, but due to a tragedy in her past, she is vulnerable on the inside.

Also, (I have nowhere else to put it but) despite the sadder aspects of this novel, it was absolutely hilarious! I could not stop laughing at some of the parts of the book, much to the annoyance of the people around me.

Great job Ms. Quinlan! Once I picked it up, I could not put it down!

Katie W says

I really, really wish there would have been a prologue or a different beginning chapter to this story because I was a little confused about Amy and Chris. Amy has been crushing on soccer sensation Chris, since fifth grade and now she's his super secret girlfriend. Well how did that happen and why? He has another public girlfriend, but it's all part of The Plan. I wanted to know how that came to be and to try and understand the reasoning behind it--why does he need her so much?

Let's face it, Chris is a total sleezy jerk! Of course, he's talented and handsome, but he's using Amy for some reason and she's completely oblivious to it. When Luke moves in, he immediately sees what's going on and tries to help Amy, but she doesn't want to be helped. I have to say it--Luke is the best part of the story! He's Mr. Manners, kind, handsome, and a wonderful friend to Amy--he can "see" her. Amy is such an interesting mess of contradictions. At times, she's very independent, confident, and strong, but at other times, she's very weak, lacks self-esteem and seems to be very needy, almost to the point of pathetic. I think she just wants to be loved. I understand that a lot of teenagers are trying to figure out who they are and are trying to emerge into competent adults, but her extremes were very frustrating. Her mom passed away years ago, her dad is distant (pretty much non-existent), and she hardly has any friends, so she's got the reasons to be the way she is. In fact, I think the rough and tough Coach cared for her more than her own dad did. I wish I could've jumped through the pages to mother her or befriend her or something--I felt so sorry for her.

Although some things were irritating, I couldn't stop reading. My heartstrings were tugged on a little bit. I wanted to know what was going to happen; I cared about the characters; I wanted to see Amy come into her full potential; and I wanted things to resolve in a good way because who doesn't want and deserve a happy ending? A little part of me also wanted some revenge and pay-back. I thought the book was well-written and true to teenage feelings, angst, and growth. I wanted to spend a little more time in the ending, but all in all, I was satisfied.

Content: mild language (especially Coach); mild romance (some innuendo, implied teen sex, kissing).

I won a copy in a giveaway, which did not affect my opinion at all. All thoughts are my own.

Dai Alvarado says

Voy a ser benevolente porque me divertí leyéndolo xD

La historia estuvo bien. Al principio como que quería golpear a la protagonista pero ese sentimiento se fue disolviendo poco a poco. Me di cuenta que lo mejor era disfrutar de sus tonterías, al ser una historia corta y de carácter divertido supongo que era lo que se buscaba (que te divirtieras no que quisieras golpearla).

Los personajes principales son poco profundos pero divertidos. Amy es tonta, Chris es un idiota y Luke es dulce pero también tiene sus momentos de adolescente absurdo. Conocemos un poco más de Amy que de Chris o Luke.

Algunas de las cosas que pasaron se me hicieron absurdas pero supongo que sin eso no tendría sentido la historia. En fin, al menos me divertí de lo lindo con este trío de locos.

Aunque lo mejor, lo mejor fue la familia Parker en especial los gemelos <3

Angie says

Bria's books have always made me miss the innocence of youth. When reading her books I find myself back in high school, experiencing all those feelings of first love again. The story of Luke and Amy bring back all those feelings plus more! I wish I would have had a guy like Luke at my high school. He is the epitome of dreamy. He seemed to say all the right things, and man did he have a way with words! His instant attraction to Amy was great. I loved how he could read Amy so well, but he also tried to give her the time and space to see how her current relationship wasn't really a relationship. I sympathized with Amy as she faced one of the hard parts of growing up and figuring out her conflicting feelings for Jake and Chris. Chris, well I have no words. The majority of the story I just really couldn't stand him. It was like watching a train wreck. I wanted to scream at Amy when she couldn't see Chris for who he was because of her major crush on him. I will say that Chris did redeem himself slightly by the end of the story, so I do hope he will receive a story in this series. If you love remembering the way you experienced butterflies when that one boy you're interested in talks to you the first time, the first time you hold hands, your first date, experiencing that first big crush, then this is definitely a book you will enjoy. Good clean YA at its best.

Melissa says

This was a good YA book. Well written. I wasn't sure I was going to like it in the beginning but everything pulled out ok in the end. The main characters choices were pretty messed up and I was worried where all this was going and then in walks the hero of the story and he was amazing. I wanted him to walk out of this book and go find a girl that was nicer to him. I wish the story had gone a little deeper with these characters, dug into there brains more but it is written from her POV and you get a lighter book. It all wraps up really well in the end. This is a teen book with some kissing but over all very clean.

Hallie says

Despite the title, and the too-obviously perfect alternative to the poor jerk who keeps Amy as the secret girlfriend, oh, and the overdone invisibility thing, I found this very enjoyable. Not at all difficult to predict where it's going, but I wasn't in the mood to be bothered by that.

Elisha says

Wanted to like this book since it seemed like it would be a fun & lighthearted book about young love, but ended up frustrated. I'm glad Amy finally gets it right, but her weak personality was very annoying. I know she's growing up & learning to be strong, and gets it eventually. But she was so weak willed, that it seems hard to imagine a person in real life like this without having a social disorder.

Claire says

I could not put this book down. Secret Girlfriend is one of those books that you will stay up and read all night long because the story is so captivating and you just have to know how this one is going to end.

What I loved: Amy's transformation throughout the book. She learns a lot about herself and has quite the emotional journey. I thought I had a lot of this story figured out but the twists kept coming and kept me reading. I may have even been a sobbing fool at one point. Quinlan's take on relationships is so realistic and honest. She writes about tough stuff and makes it real. Everything about this book is real--the insecurities, the doubt, the love, it's all there. These characters FEEL. And you know what, as hard as it may be to read sometimes it's refreshing.

What left me wanting more: I could read novels about those Parker boys!

Final Verdict: This book will tug at your heartstrings in the best possible way.

Nina says

I really need to learn to stop judging a book by it's cover! This book tells the story of Amy Whalen, a teenage girl with a crush on the most popular guy in school, Chris Kent. Upon reading the book title and then it's summary I was a little hesitant . I wasn't sure I wanted to read something like this. I thought it'd lack depth and I wouldn't really like it. Well I was wrong. This book is a touching story about finding confidence and finding who you are.

When I first started reading the book I was still unsure if I was going to like it. It opens with Amy pining after Chris. They've decided (Chris) that they need to keep their relationship a secret to up keep Chris's public image. So Amy becomes his secret girlfriend and Cheryl, the head cheerleader, becomes his public one. Oh man I really wanted to wallop Chris upside the head for this! It was so sad to read how easily she'd do anything for Chris even when he was clearly just using her. Amy started off as sort of a weak character but as the story progresses we see her gain confidence and become more assertive. This is in part thanks to Luke, the new guy in town.

Luke was such a sweetheart! He sees Amy and how Chris treats her and won't stand for it. At times he was a little harsh but I felt that Bria wrote him perfectly. He was telling Amy all the things I the reader was thinking about her relationship with Chris. Seeing their relationship blossom was really cute and I was definitely rooting for Luke.

Aside from all the boy drama, we have the loneliness Amy feels from being ignored not only at school but

also by her father. After the death of her mother, Amy & her father practically become strangers . They never interact with one another, aside from post it notes. It was just so sad. I really wasn't expecting this plot line in the book and I loved reading it.

Overall I have to say I was pleasantly surprised by this book and would recommend it to fans of The Stillburrow Crush.

??? ?????? says

Oh man that was really cute .. I am in LOVE with each Parker boy and I wish if we can see more of them or have their own spin off :)) .. Luke is such an angel and I really loved the way he handled Amy specially at the beginning .. I didn't care for Chris that much and I don't like his personality but I think he will have a big role on the second book

overall this one was really cute and I liked how simple the plot was :))

Lenore Kosinski says

Yup, I enjoyed this. I get how people are upset with Amy being kind of a doormat, but there are real people out there that find themselves in these situations you know. I think she just wanted it so badly that she convinced herself of a great many things so she could have that one thing that made her feel good. I thought it was a great story of development for her -- she really did grow and change a lot throughout the book, and it was realistic. And having someone like Luke finally *see* her must have been kind of crazy and confusing.

Oh Luke. Seriously, so adorable. Actually, I think I'm in love with all the Parkers. What a fabulous family. And it wasn't like Luke was perfect either....he was still a teenage guy who could make some stupid decisions of his own.

I thought the back story of Amy was really well done too. And I loved how the father story played out, and how everything didn't just become perfect, but Amy accepted it b/c that's what was good for her.

Amy really ended up having a lot of people looking out for her, and I thought that was kind of great. I loved the Coach and all he did for her, and how much he saw of what was going on. GO COACH!

OK, yeah, don't know what I'm writing anymore. But like I started off this review -- I really enjoyed this book. It was deep, it was adorable, it was frustrating, and it was ultimately satisfying. Can't wait to read Rachel's story!!

Becca says

When I started off reading this I detested Chris. It even got to the point where I was annoyed by Amy. I kept thinking what on earth is wrong with this girl. But then I realized I had to take a step back, quit judging her so hard. She clearly doesn't realize what a selfish jerk Chris is to her. She literally has invisibility down to a science. So why would she care if she was the "other girl." She finally has attention from a guy she likes so

of course allowing him to use her wouldn't of even be a thought to her.

Well, then Bria wrote more about Amy and added Luke. Then developed the story and the characters, and oh my goodness I was hooked. I'm so glad she added Luke and his manners. Plus, he only had eyes for Amy which was sweet. This is not a new concept, but Bria added so many lovely touches that I loved this story. Plot twists were well done and considering it's a teen story I think she nailed it.

LeighAnn Kopans says

Poor Amy.

Though the book never came right out and said it, I got the distinct impression that Amy is one of those girls who, because of a combination of circumstances in middle and early high school, got shuttled into the non-popular, never-noticed-unless-they're-a-freak-in-some-way teens. Her mom passed away six years ago, she's shy and quiet, and she likes to run - none of the things that earn you a ticket to popularity in high school.

Which is why Chris never noticed her until they worked together one summer. Turns out she's different from all the other girls he'd ever been with, and really, really pretty. Amy had been crushing on him since her hormones kicked in, and he's instantly smitten. But Chris says that in order to get into Monroe State, he'll need to look impressive on paper, which means being elected onto Homecoming Court, which means dating the most popular girl in school.

Is it stupid that Amy agrees to be Chris's secret girlfriend? Absolutely. Would I have done the same thing? You betcha.

When Luke comes along and treats Amy like the amazing girl she is, she has a tough time - Luke's treating her like she's perfect, and he's the perfect boyfriend, but....CHRIS. Who she's loved forever and adores her and is a really good kisser. So what if his fake girlfriend Cheryl is a total bitch?

Even though I understand Amy's dilemma, I was happy that Quinlan made Luke into the character he was - not coddling, or all-adoring, but really calling Amy out on her choices and asking her to look at her life without blinders on. Even though that's really scary for Amy, it eventually turns out for the best.

And OMG, did I ever swoon at the knight-in-shining-armor act BOTH boys pull for Amy in their own way at the end of the book. Yes, Amy chooses one, but I want to squeeze both of them for being real stand-up guys in the end (let's just brush that little fist fight over Amy on the soccer field under the rug, hmmm?) Not only were they sweet, but for the most part, they were an amazing example of how teen boys SHOULD be treating their girlfriends.

SECRET GIRLFRIEND was the perfect romance for me - a wonderful balance of typical teen angst and a sad past, swoon-worthy boys, and tough choices that, in the end, made the heroine stronger. Not to mention, just enough humor and happiness to make the heartbreak totally worth it. Highly recommended for fans of Stephanie Perkins and Miranda Kinnealy.

Michelle says

3 She Was Blind Stars

Amy is invisible to everyone around her. Even her father doesn't see her. During a summer job Amy gets close to Chris the popular guy at school. They pretty much hang out everyday during the summer (Only at work). When it's almost time for school to start Chris comes up with a plan. He needs to stay popular so he can have a better chance at getting into college. So he starts "fake" dating the most popular cheerleader Cheryl. Amy will still be his "real" girlfriend but a secret.

During school Chris ignored Amy and only focused on Cheryl. He left Amy many times without a ride and broke many plans to spend time with her. She even was ok witnessing him making out with Cheryl.

The new guy Luke sees Amy right away. He starts talking to her and giving her rides to school. Amy is too blind to see that Chris is using her and is really dating Cheryl. Even after she catches Chris in many lies she still is blind. Amy has had a crush on Chris since she was younger and now that her dream came true she just can't stop wanting Chris.

Luke tries everything to make Amy see that Chris isn't the guy for her. When Amy finally realizes that Luke is right and she wants to be with him something happens that causes Luke to back off for good.

Will Luke and Amy finally get it together or will Amy stay a secret with her dream guy?

This was a sugary sweet book. I really loved Luke. Amy was immature for a senior and I couldn't believe she let Chris string her along like she did. If I could of reached into my kindle and smack her I would have. lol

My 3 stars are for Luke and his family! I loved them all!

If you want a very light and sweet read this ones for you. I doubt I will be continuing with the series. Too sweet for me. lol
