



All That Matters

Michelle Congdon

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*****Recommended for ages 18+ due to mature situations, sensitive issues, alcohol and drug use, and language*****

She is a teen sensation and also the infamous daughter of a renowned rock star and a Hollywood starlet.

Eighteen-year-old Harper Hudson is spoiled, wild and troubled. Still dealing with the loss of her twin sister and surviving a horrifying event that she has kept secret, Harper relies on constant partying, alcohol and drugs to help her forget.

He is her cousin and a straight 'A' student trying to juggle football and a medical degree.

Adopted as a baby, there isn't anything twenty-one year old Jackson Hayward wouldn't do for the people who raised him. But the last thing on his mind is to follow in his father's footsteps and become a doctor. And Jackson has a secret of his own. He isn't the perfect son his family are led to believe.

A forbidden romance they never saw coming.

Sent away to live with her Aunty and Uncle in Australia, as punishment for her latest stunt, the last thing Harper wants is to be babysat by her over-achieving, do-gooder cousin, Jackson. He is moody and overbearing, but there's something about him that Harper can't seem to ignore.

Jackson didn't mean to fall for the rebellious wild child. But seeing small glimpses of her true personality shine through made it impossible not too. He knows the secret she keeps is the reason behind her destructive behavior and he is willing to risk whatever it takes to try to help her. But can something so broken ever be truly fixed? And can someone with painful secrets of his own save her without getting caught up along the way?

All That Matters Details

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From Reader Review All That Matters for online ebook

Gemma Weir says

Check out more of my reviews on my blog www.gemmareadstoomuchforittomenormal...

All That Matters is book #2 in the Broken Series, I was lucky enough to receive an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review so here goes...

Having just finished the first book in the series I was shocked by how much darker and more emotive this second book was.

My main criticism of the first book was that it didn't allow the reader much chance to really engage with the characters and All That Matters solves that problem beautifully.

Michelle Congdon has managed to write two beautifully complicated tortured souls. As a couple they shouldn't work, they have far too many personal issues to be able to have a functional relationship.

But somehow I found myself rooting for them, I wanted them to heal each other, they say opposites attract but for this love story Harper & Jacksons broken pieces are drawn to each other like magnets.

Simply put I loved this book I was drawn to the complex emotions that were running under the surface of this story.

On first glance these characters were stereotypical rich brat and adopted grateful overachiever. Only when you stop and look at the characters more closely does the author lead you see the cracks and flaws under their personas.

This book dragged me under which is why I'm writing this review at 1.26am, I needed to write down the effect this book had on me.

I read this in one go and I feel drained, this is not a light and airy book but if you persevere it worth the sadness and turmoil you as a reader will feel

The scene with Harper and the swimming pool was for me the real turning point in the story, the desperation and desolation she feels was just incredibly poignant.

This isn't a happy story, it isn't an easy breezy read, but I kind of loved it 4 stars from me!!!!

Lindsay says

3.5

I'm honestly not sure what to say about this book. There were some good things and some things that could have been better.

This is definitely a book about demons people face. It does have a romance and while it's between cousins, they're not biological cousins and they weren't raised together. But both Harper and Jackson had their own demons.

The book starts out with Harper's life totally out of control. While I was reading, I actually thought of Lindsay Lohan with Harper's antics. But it was obvious that Harper's actions were her way of dealing with something that had happened in the past (or not dealing as the case may be). Fast forward to her exile to Australia and her aunt & uncle's home and you meet our hero, Jackson. He was also dealing with issues.

I thought that Harper and Jackson's issues were portrayed in a realistic way. And their relationship didn't bother me. The issue I had was after it was revealed to Harper's parents the seriousness of her issues and the cause behind them, everything happened too fast and all in the background. And the same goes for Jackson. For a book that had great dual POVs, at the end, it was strictly Harper and Jackson just informed her of his progress with his issues.

And I think that was my biggest issue. The end was a definite end, but it was too neat and pretty. There was no real indication of what would happen in their lives, just they were happy at that moment and it ended. Also, I would have liked to see a little more of a progression of Harper & Jackson's improvement. And I would have loved to see the transformation of Harper's family. Because her mom and oldest brother and sister were awful. I hated them. And at the end, they had personality transplants and I never saw the change. I was starting to think they were pod people.

But even with the issues, this was a good read. I was hooked and couldn't put it down. I'd definitely read more from the author in the future.

Kelley says

I was provided a copy of this book for an honest review.

This book takes a bold leap into topics that are not easy to discuss. If you're sensitive to issues such as young adult (under 18) rape, self harm, and drug abuse, this might not be the story for you.

I applaud the author for taking on these topics. One is generally not without the other (meaning, those who are dealing with sexual abuse, often slide into abuse of drugs and self harm). There was no sugar coating it in this story. I believe it was handled authentically and written well.

I did struggle a little (on a scale of 1-10, 10 being 'completely gross', I'd say I was at a 4) with the 'kissing cousins' angle. Not blood related obviously, but it felt a little odd to me. The author however, did write from the lens of "this is so wrong but we can't help it," which I appreciated. It wasn't a deal breaker for me, though, just a little hard to wrap my head around.

With that said, I was able to breeze through this in an afternoon and didn't want to put it down! The story flowed well and kept me hooked.

Breanna Eichhorn says

We first meet Harper while she is arrested by Nicolas Donahue. A group of her friends rich or famous teenagers threw a beach party on South Beach. She was busy enjoying herself with her twenty year old co-star Cam Pierce. Harper convinces Nicolas to just take her home and not to the station like he is supposed to. She gets into the house and her older brother Hawke is there telling her about the photos, when her mother came up and took them out of his hands. Her family has had enough of her antics and is sending her to Australia to go live with her Aunt Julia and her Uncle Hugo. She doesn't want to go. When she gets there she sees all of her cousins Madison, Blake and Jackson. Jackson thinks that Harper is just a spoiled rich kid. Harper has a Secret and it haunts her to this day. This is the Second book in the Broken Series. This does deal with sensitive issues.

Harper is 18 years old and is an actress and a singer. She is the Daughter of English Rock God Jimmy Joss and American Hollywood Starlet Vivien Gardner. She has a twin sister Quinn who drowned 4 years ago Addicted to pills, in and out of rehab. Cam Pierce is Harper's co star on Storm and Alec rule the world. Nicolas Donahue is a cop that has saved Harper's life not once but twice. Hawke is Harper's older brother, 24, plays in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins. Sierra is Harper's sister, she is 27 and is in Musical Theatre mean to Harper. Ryder is Harper's oldest brother at 29, he is married and has a 3 year old son Chase. He can act, direct, write and produce. Jackson is Harper's cousin, doesn't want a serious relationship, is an alcoholic, plays football. Jon is Jackson friend and football teammate. Madison is 8 years old, Harper's cousin, Jackson's and Blake's Sister. Blake is 15, Harper's cousin. Julia is Harper's aunt and she couldn't have kids of her own so she adopted them, Nurse. She is afraid of Vivien. Hugo is Harper's uncle and a doctor. Dina is Jackson's friends with benefits, really mean to Harper. Vivien is Harper's mother and who she calls the Evil Queen. Jimmy is Harper's father and calls her firebird. The characters are really likeable, I liked that both Jackson and Harper have there own demons to fight. I really liked that Harper had a really good relationship with Hawke.

I truly loved this book, I felt bad for Harper ever since her sister drowned she has been going down hill. It's a fast paced story that I couldn't put down, I couldn't wait to see what was going to happen. I liked the story line and how all the characters interacted together. I loved the authors style of writing and I most definitely will be reading more of her books in the future. I highly recommend this book. I look forward to reading book three. Michelle Congdon is an amazing author.

Jenna says

I received an arc in exchange for an honest review

For me this was a **3.5 star** read. The story is based around Harper who was raised in the spotlight and feels estranged from her famous parents and siblings. After a particularly bad scandal she is shipped off to Australia to stay with her aunt and uncle as well as their adopted kids. Jackson was adopted when he was young and hasn't seen Harper in years, there is an immediate attraction between the two despite the fact they don't get along. Jackson has his own share of demons that at times I felt were overshadowed by Harpers.

I felt awful for Harper throughout the whole book, her past is alluded to at the beginning of the novel and I kinda suspected what had happened to her and her twin sister. Jackson was a great hero and I loved his love for Harper and vice versa. The 'taboo' in this book didn't phase me at all, there is no biological relation between the two, they weren't raised together, and they haven't seen one another since they were kids.

All in all, this was a very good novel. And I will definitely be reading more from this author (already read Slide which I enjoyed as well).

Amie Morgado- We Stole Your Book Boyfriend says

I enjoyed this book , it was heartbreaking , heartwarming , healing and sexy all wrapped into one !!

Harper is a clearly messed up girl. Living the life as her whole family does , rich , famous and powerful but damaged beyond belief. Struggling with the loss of her twin , the hate of her parents and the troubled relationships with her siblings , all but her brother Hawke. Harper spends her time partying and causing trouble , she has been saved by 1 police officer more than once. She does not have much value on her own life or the lives of any around her. Her parents are sick of the tabloids and bad publicity. After this last mess up they decide to send her away to live with her Aunt and Uncle in Australia.

Jackson is the golden boy , adopted as a baby , following in his adoptive father's footsteps. Great in school and a football star. Not to mention he is super hot , good with the chicks and very much desired by many. He is not happy to hear that Harper is coming to disrupt their house. He remembers her from childhood and from when they lost her twin sister Quinn , but they do not really have a connection as cousins. Jackson has his own demons , some more horrible than others. When he and Harper find their connection she may be able to help him just as he can help her. But will it be enough ??

I admit I was a little thrown off by them having a relationship , but ok they are not related and they did not grow up anywhere near each other so not a typical cousin relationship. I enjoyed their journey , I loved reading about their connection and the way Jackson opened up to Harper and she to him. The pain they were both hiding and suffering from is unreal , easy to relate to , and just such a great storyline to follow. I was surprised , on the edge of my seat , nervous , happy , in love , so many emotions ran through me during this quick read. I recommend this book to all. The ending was great and I would definitely LOVE more about their new journey together !!

Kylee says

Lots of tension...loved it! Harper, growing up as a child in the spotlight appears to not have any boundaries or rules for that matter. She tends to go for what she wants. But mostly it's just a cover to hide the past. I loved her interaction with Nicolas, was kind of hoping to see more there ;)

Jackson is the adopted son of Harper's Aunt & Uncle in Australia. He pushes and pushes to succeed, but he has a secret too. Jackson and Harper find each other to help overcome the past...but there is a boundary that neither want to cross, they are related...but not by blood.

I loved seeing this story develop. Was some of it borderline...sure, but not in an "ewww" sense. You just have to look at it from a different angle. The book is written really well. The reader is kept intrigued and hanging to find out what happens next all the while trying to figure out the hidden secrets that haunt the characters. First book read by Michelle, and I really enjoyed it!!

Amazeballs Book Addicts says

All That Matters is a great read. I was hooked right from the beginning. It's book two in the Broken series. It can be read as a standalone. Harper on the outside seems to be a spoiled rich kid who gets away with a lot but under the surface there is a lot more going on. In the beginning of the story Harper has talked her way out of being arrested only to find herself in trouble with her parent. Her parents' solution is to send her to relatives in Australia.

Jackson is Harper's cousin. He was adopted and they are not blood related cousins. Jackson on the outside seems totally put together but he has his issues that he keeps hidden from people. Both Harper and Jackson have issues and deal with them differently. Jackson and Harper have a romantic relationship. Even though they are cousins we are reminded throughout the story that they are not blood related.

Being cousins is only one of the issues they have, they also both have their own demons to deal with. Jackson has a journal that he has not shared with anyone. It's Harper's sister Quinn's journal and it holds some secrets that threaten to destroy what Jackson and Harper have.

There is no cliffhanger. All That Matter is an awesome read and you will not be disappointed.

Andrea says

I loved, loved, loved this book, especially as I was lucky enough to have beta read it. Brilliant characters, fantastic plot and extremely well written :-) xxx

Jenn Green says

*****5-All that Glitters, isn't Golden-Stars*****

~this review may contain minor spoilers~

I was grateful to have him in my life, but he wasn't going to end the pain of my past; nothing was. I was sick and tired of living in a life filled with the hurt, sick of people attacking me because they didn't understand what I was going through, and sick of people asking their stupid questions.

~Harper Hudson was born into the spotlight with her already famous parents, when she became a teen sensation herself; now at eighteen years old, she lives her life under constant media surveillance. She is spoiled, wild, and kind of a bitch-buried under a haze of drugs, alcohol, and way too much partying. But what people don't understand is the reason why she acts the way she does; still suffering from the loss of her twin sister four years ago, she also harbors a deep dark secret-one she has revealed to no one, and one that changed her life. She just charges through life without a thought to what trouble her actions may be causing others when her latest stunt has her parents shipping her off to Australia to stay with her Auntie and Uncle for a few months. The last thing she wants is to be babysat by her do-gooder older cousin, but what choice does she have?

~Jackson Hayward is a straight A med student struggling to balance a chaotic schedule of school and his

football team; by all appearances, he is the perfect son and brother. Adopted when he was just a baby, he would do anything for his parents-the people who changed his life and made him the man he is today. But no one knows that Jackson is hiding some demons of his own, secrets that could destroy his family. The last thing he needs is his spoiled starlet cousin crashing into his world and turning chaos into madness...

When their worlds collide, neither are prepared for the draw they feel for one another. Time spent together shows Jackson a side to Harper he never knew existed, exposing the damaged and vulnerable girl hiding beneath the surface. For the first time, Harper feels as though she can actually trust someone with her secrets when she realizes that Jackson is not the perfect person he portrays. As the chemistry builds in their seemingly forbidden attraction to one another, Jackson starts to fear that maybe he may not be enough to heal Harper after all, forcing him to make a decision; expose her secrets and get her the help she needs, or keep what they share hidden from the outside world and their families? Harper may take the choice away from him if he waits too long.

I stood there for a long time in the cool autumn night, staring at the doorway. I wasn't sure what I was waiting for, or why I was doing it; all I knew was from that moment on, Harper Hudson had become all that mattered to me, and I was fucking terrified of what the future now held.

I fell head over heels in love with this book and most of it's characters. Harper definitely had her bitch moments, but the pain she was hiding and the way her family treated her simply because they didn't understand her, broke my heart; no one should be made to deal with what she was. Yes, it broke her-yes, her coping mechanisms were harmful and dangerous-and yes, it damn near destroyed her-but those who truly cared about her and loved her never gave up. Jackson was a truly amazing guy and exactly what she needed in her life, even if she didn't understand that, even if HE didn't understand it. One of the things I LOVED was the way the author built up the chemistry-so much so, that when everything finally came to a head, it was explosive. She didn't rush things, and with this story that was a good thing-she let everything play out just as it should have, perfectly. I would have liked to see an epilogue, just because I'm curious to see where everyone ended up, but the ending was still pretty amazing. I cannot wait to see what Ms. Congdon brings us next, as the newest resident on my '**One-Click Addiction list**', I have no doubt that it will rock my world.

He knew all my secrets, and he still wanted me. He saw the damaged girl hiding behind the facade and he never cringed, pulled away from disgust, or took advantage. But that's what made the situation with him even harder; I was falling for him. What if I'm not as strong as he wanted me to be?

Check out my FULL Blog Post @ Bookworm Betties

Happy Reading xo Jenn

Bookworm Betties says

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Check out my FULL Blog Post @ Bookworm Betties

Happy Reading xo Jenn

Candiefloss says

I was gifted a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review

All that matters.

Harper is a young celebrity struggling with the death of her twin and a horrible secret she's never told anyone. The burdens of her past are weighing her down causing her to act out. Because of her behaviour, her parents -also famous - send her to Sydney Australia to stay with family.

There we meet Jackson, Harper's adopted cousin. He too is fighting demons and despite the rocky start to their relationship the two find a certain comfort in each other.

I didn't find the relationship between the cousins gross.. In fact I kinda liked the slightly taboo feel...and we were reminded on numerous occasions that they weren't in fact blood related so it didn't feel wrong. I really felt for Harper, it was her against the world, but beneath everything she was actually a really cool girl. A girl who was miserable.

The story had me hooked from the start. The writing was fluid and easy to read. Plot wise I thought it was great, even though it dealt with quite a heavy range of topics: drug abuse, alcoholism and attempted suicides, it didn't have an overly dark feeling to it.

The characters were relatable and likeable. The emotions and feelings portrayed were honest and that made for an enjoyable read.

What I did find however was that the story was wrapped up rather fast. There was quite a build up to an expected melt down, and when I looked at how long was left in the story I thought surely not, there must be a sequel... But it was wrapped up within that space... It just felt a little rushed considering the time it took to get to that point. There was no real closure to Jackson's problems, it was a case of ... 'And then this happened, so now...' The end. Don't get me wrong it was wrapped up tidily enough.. I just wasn't expecting it to be over like that.

Overall it was an enjoyable read. It was definitely a book I picked up whenever I had a few spare moments and will most likely read again at some stage in the future.

3.9 stars

Claire says

I received this book from the author in return for my honest review.

Contains plot info/spoilers, so please don't read if you are thinking of reading the book.

I will start by addressing the big 'taboo' of the two main characters being related, as Harper and Jackson weren't blood relations and had not grown up together, I did not really find this an issue and thought they were well suited.

The issues I did find heart rending were the sexual abuse, the suicide of Quinn, and the emotional neglect suffered by Harper during her life. It was clear from the start that Harper was in emotional turmoil and who could blame her after the tragic events she had encountered, I thought the author did a great job of addressing these issues in an educated and researched manner.

It was nice that Jackson wasn't the clean cut A* boy that is often featured in new adult books, his alcoholism was written well and highlights how many young adults could become dependent on alcohol.

This book had me hooked from the start, and the plot line flowed easily. Despite enjoying the book I found the end to be a little rushed, Harper's 3 month stay in rehab was addressed in a couple of paragraphs and Jackson's recovery with alcoholism was barely mentioned. I would have liked a little more detail on both sets of parents' reactions to Harper and Jackson's relationship as well as their thoughts on the addictions and mental health issues. As someone else mentioned Harper's parents, mum especially, had complete personality changes at the end of the book, which I struggled to understand as they had had no contact with Harper whilst she was in rehab, there was also no apology from them either which I think would have been nice for Harper, and also a conviction from the scum who raped her and her sister would have been great.

All in all I give this book 4 stars and would read more of the author's work in the future.

Naye says

I received an ARC for an honest review...

Harper is a teen in the entertainment business (music and acting).. Her mom is an actress and her dad a musician.. She is acting out and struggling with her past demons (that no one knows about).. She is also still struggling with the death of her twin sister and out of all her family the only one who remotely understands some of what she is going through is her brother Hawke. After a big scandal that is about to hit about Harper her family ships her out to Australia to stay with some of her family out there.

Jackson is Harper's cousin that stays in Australia, he plays on the football team and goes to Uni. He also has demons and secrets that are messing with his day to day life and there is one huge secret that he is keeping from Harper that can destroy her.. Harper and Jackson really didn't get along when she first arrived, but the more they hung around each other and got to know each other a little more they were able to tolerate each other haha...

The thing with this book is I really did enjoy the "taboo" feel of it.. like yes they were cousins, but not by blood.. (Jackson was adopted) I really like the feel of it being realistic, yet it still had some humor. I wish a few things would have went more in detail but overall the book was a great read and I will be reading it again.

Cassia Brightmore says

Beta read - really liked it. More to follow ;)

