



Little Things

Madison Street

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Everything in Duke Grayson's life was all he could ever ask for: A loving family, loyal friends, a beautiful girlfriend, and a scholarship to his top choice college. It's his senior year of high school, and all he needs is to focus on his grades, lacrosse, and keeping his girlfriend happy. That is until Raya walks into his life.

From the moment they meet, Duke is drawn to her, not only for her natural beauty and her stunning crystal blue eyes, but because he's aware there's more to this girl than just his alluring pull to her. He senses secrecy and fear.

Throughout the year, their bond grows stronger, and his feelings for her become undeniable. Just when he is about to express his love, tragedy strikes and Raya disappears.

For six years, Duke is tortured by his struggles, as he's unable to find her and blames himself for failing to protect her. Until the day, she's found, and he's given a second chance. Will Duke become her beacon of hope and make her see that it's the little things that make life worthwhile? Can Raya overcome her fears and fight against the terrors that haunt her? Or will her dark and torturous past be too much for her to battle against?

*Warning: This book contains some disturbing situations, strong language and sexual content. Suited for 18 years and over.

Little Things Details

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Author : Madison Street

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From Reader Review Little Things for online ebook

April Warren says

i had the pleasure of beta reading this book. let me say, this book was amazing. it had everything you could want in a book. It had suspense, action, even some romance. madison did a fine job of making you fall in love with duke. Lots of detail and lots of action make this an A+ in my book. anticipating reading book number 2.

Madison Street says

Well, of course I would give this is a high rating since I wrote it. I started writing this story last December, because these characters wouldn't stop screaming. But most of all, I wanted to write a story that reflected on real-life situations. Yes, I'm a huge fan of the "cookie cutter" romance but I was getting tired of it. So, there I was, writing my own story. The inspiration behind the plot comes from experiences of abused women that I've met and a few situations in the story are literally taken out of my own experiences.

I wanted to also create a strong female, one who doesn't take shit from nobody. And then there's Duke; the boy next door. He has stolen my heart. With the never ending plot twists and the crazy suspense, I'm truly happy with this book, and am very proud of myself. Some days, I didn't think I had it in me, to keep on writing, but I prevailed.

To all of those who read my story, even if you don't like it, I just want to thank you for taking the time to read it. Just having someone read it, is a gift in itself.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you!!!

<3 Madison

Kizzy says

I have so many mixed feelings about this book. I could have been a 5 star read for me if things were different. too many things going on and the first half of the book I was like what? especially the stuff with duke and melanie. she was a little bit too nice after what happened at prom. i really didnt see the love between them or duke and raya.. the second half of the book pissed me off because of what was happening with raya. all these years go by and I still didnt feel connected to any of them. I dont know..this had so much more potential and I know its the author's first book so I will check out her next one. just my honest opinion.

PAULA says

LITTLE THINGS (SECOND CHANCES 1) by MADISON STREET

My first Madison Street book and I had the chance to get a complimentary copy of this sad, raw & gut-

wrenching story of kidnapping, abuse, torture and love. I know it's weird to put all those words in one sentence coz it sounds terrifying to have love where there is torture and abuse but this story have all those things. And no, it's not a dark romance kind of story. It's more real life kind of story.

I really don't know how to describe Raya's life in a way that will make you see beyond the sad and hurtful things she went through because I feel like she is one of those people who had to endure a lot of terrible things again and again and again. And that for me is so unfair.. The story, her story will make you cringe and will give you bad goosebumps. Reading this book is like watching a documentary about human trafficking and domestic violence. I have read books with the same real-life kind of story but this is as raw as it gets. Every detail will make you want to kill someone. I think Madison Street didn't even try to mellow things down when she wrote the things that Raya went through because it's so detailed and so terrible. She went all out and she wrote it as she feels like it. I admire her for that because writing such things is definitely not an easy thing to do.

Halfway through the story, I wanna question the author why she decided to write a story like this or make a character that is so unfortunate. I mean, there are more unfortunate and sad events in Raya's character than the good she experienced. I feel it's so unfair but at the same time I thought maybe there is really someone like her. And yes, there are people like Raya. We see em on the news and papers and on the net and their story is more terrifying than what Madsion created.

The other characters in the story gave hope and love in Raya's life. She needed it and they gave it fully, without hesitation and the fact that in the end things turned out to be good is the best way to end the story. 50% of reading the book, I thought the ending should be a happy one. Everyone in the book especially Raya deserves a happy ending and thankfully it did. I mean, cmon! After everything that happened? And I like that even with all the terrible, sad and unfortunate events in Raya's life she was able to move forward and learn to let go and be the person she is supposed to be.

Totally raw, honest and unapologetic with all the gruesome details of abuse and torture. Madison Street created a real-life story that will either make you want to stop reading or be brave enough to read til the very end. I am glad I chose to experience it til the last word. It was not an easy read but in the end, it was worth it.

♥♥♥♥ 1/2

** Also posted on my TUMBLR account & AMAZON

Michelle says

The book started out kind of slow for me. However, it does pick up and then you can't put it down.

The characters start out in HS and Raya, Melanie, and Duke all seem more mature than teenagers should. Melanie was way too understanding about things that normal teenage girls would get upset about and overreact. Duke seemed way to nice and caring. But it made me fall in love with him even more. The HS part seemed almost to long for me but I get it was needed to help tell the story.

After about almost 40% through the book takes off. Now, some situations are dark and disturbing to read. Street draws you in and makes you feel the emotions. You can't help but feel hurt, pain, and anger right along with the characters. And you will find yourself rooting for one in particular.

Overall I enjoyed this book and I'd recommend it. Plus I can't wait to read Little Moments. I also wouldn't mind reading a spin off of about Taylor. ;)

I received a copy of this book for an honest review.

LA Spiez says

"Remember the day we met? In forensics class? That was the day that I became yours. I tried to deny it for so long but I just couldn't get you out of my head. You have completely captivated me. You're the girl-the one of a kind-who you only find once in a lifetime. You are it for me Raya, and have been for the past seven years. You have my heart. It will be yours, forever and always." ~ Duke Grayson

I can't lie, the first thing I noticed about the book Little Things is the obvious reference to the song of the same name by One Direction. Before you laugh, listen to the song, it's very sweet. I thought of the lyrics as I read Madison Street's book Little Things, because little things were the reason Duke Grayson fell in love with Raya Winters.

I will also share with you I am completely in love with Duke Grayson. I always know it's an amazing book boyfriend, when even after the story ends I can't get the boy out of my head. Duke hasn't left my brain at all.

Duke is definitely an "all American boy". A senior in high school, lacrosse captain, popular, dating the most gorgeous girl in school, he has it all. At least he thought he had it all and then Raya shows up. It's not an automatic love at first sight, Duke dumps his girl kind of thing. It's gradual. Duke finds himself drawn to Raya.

Raya Winters is a beautiful girl who has no idea she's beautiful. Her home life is extremely troubled. Her mom remarried total creep, who keeps Raya and her mom on a very tight leash. There's very little happiness in Raya's life, until she meets Duke.

They're drawn to each other from the day Raya walks into Forensic class and sits at a table with Duke. Duke spends time with Raya trying to get her to open up to him. She's very guarded, but he tries. Sometimes he thinks he's breaking through the walls Raya puts up, but then she builds them up higher than before. Obviously Raya's got a secret.

It doesn't take long for these two to figure out they have feelings for each other. And even though they realized it separately, they never put it out there. The night they realize there's some strong feelings between them and they want to be together, a terrible event happens at Raya's house. It's something so awful that as much as Raya is aware of the growing feelings she has for Duke, she runs away. She believes she'll only be a burden to him and wants to give him a chance to be happy.

You guessed it, Raya's running doesn't make Duke happy. It destroys him. He can't believe she left and doesn't give up his search for her. Unfortunately, running away has brought unspeakable horrors to Raya. Yes, I shed a lot of tears throughout this dreadful time in Raya's life.

Duke who is broken without Raya, makes it his mission in life to find her. He is relentless in his quest to find the girl he loves. He becomes an investigator, uses everyone and anyone that can help him find her.

I absolutely loved this book. I was utterly in love with Duke Grayson from the second I saw his reaction to Raya. Even though he had a girlfriend, he never led either of the girls on. He knew Melanie was his girlfriend and he tried to keep Raya in the friend zone. When his feelings got to be too much he knew what he had to do.

This is an unforgettable story for more reasons than the love between Duke and Raya. It's a story about perseverance, struggle and survival.

So, at the end of the year when I'm writing my top book boyfriends of 2014, you can bet that Duke Grayson is definitely a contender!

I really, really loved this book. I cried sad tears, I cried happy tears and I swooned over Duke. It's definitely not the usual plot and that make me enjoy it even more.

Oh and there is a plot twist that you probably won't see coming. I have to give Little Things a five lip smack review. It's a book that will stick with me even after I've read many others.

*****ARC read in exchange for honest review*****

Beverly says

"Complimentary copy provided by author/publisher for an honest review."

This is Madison Street first book and I am honored she gave me the chance to read it. She has potential and I hope she continues writing. The sky is the limit.

I must say I had mixed feelings with this story.

The beginning was too slow for me, but I know it was necessary to wrote about it so the fans could understand how the relationship between Raya and Duke grew, but I must say I almost DFN @ 46%. Almost. I kept reading instead.

I love Romance. Suspense. Erotica. Dark Erotica and I adore books that make me cry for hours. But . . .

"Little Things" was not predictable and that's a good thing, but there was a lot of drama going on and I found it really hard to connect with the characters.

(view spoiler)

It's not a bad reading. I liked it, but didn't love it.

I did love some references about other writers and celebrities!

Just 3.5 *?*?*? stars.

Anne OK says

Once again within a two week period I'm reading a book whose lead character is named Raya! Never read one with the name before these two so a bit of a surprise. This one is much darker and much grittier than the first one. Starting out about as normal as most NA stories, it doesn't take long before the boom is lowered and the bottom drops out and anything and everything bad that could happen definitely did.

I found it hard to relate to the relationship between Raya and Duke. It felt cheated of the much needed substantive development in the early stages. I believe readers find this especially true as the story develops and matures without there being much foundation to substantiate the power of the love that presents itself.

From the beginning, it was Kapow – she's in love with him at first sight. But first he must quickly dump his current high school sweetheart because he, too, has found "the one" at age 17. And get this: the girlfriend is best friends with Raya, and now it's Duke and Raya forever and always. Will they all remain friends? It seems so with such an amicable breakup. I found it all a bit too unrealistically orchestrated but I moved on.

And with that move, we now find Raya enduring hideous and unbelievable horrors. She has left Duke behind for some unknown reason. Suddenly the tone of the story has turned very dark and I was jerked from a rather slow and relative unimaginative storyline into emotions that shocked and repulsed me at the horrendous situation Raya now finds herself in. The poor girl has already suffered through a less than decent and normal home life but now faces cruel and unusual treatment when she's kidnapped and held prisoner. Seemingly, she has done nothing to deserve this type of treatment.

From here on, the story takes a dive into the lowest elements of humanity. There are scenes that are very disturbing with physical and mental abuse front and center. The suspense and drama is done well and I found myself really hooked and reading faster and faster just to find out why and how and who is behind this extremely inhumane treatment.

All in all, this was a captivating read. It certainly was not a perfect one – there seemed to be missing elements to the story and a rather weak foundation as well. The book covers a period of seven years and in the end, everything seemed a bit too hurriedly wrapped with more than a few dangling ends.

There is a 2nd book in the Second Chances series scheduled for release in November 2014 with hopefully some needed additional cleanup work.

S.J. Batsford says

Wow... This book is amazing! I love it when I can't predict the story line and ending to a book.

Well, I definitely got that, just when I thought I knew where it was going I was hit by a plot twist. I loved Madison Street's type of writing and I would recommend her books to anyone.

Five fantastic stars!

C.S. says

First, take my review with a grain of salt.

I admit, I'm a very tough reader to please. It's probably the way I process things, among other factors, but overall, I liked the book once I got past the beginning.

Now for my thoughts:

Since I received a free copy in exchange for a review, it was unedited, so I'm not taking that into account in my rating at all.

I read the first 39% (where it finally "takes off" so to speak) and thought a bit of that could've been removed. I know it was to show the growing relationship, but there were also unnecessary things in there, like him having sex with his gf Melanie, dream or no dream. I just didn't think it was something that needed to be shown.

Second, these kids are in HS in the beginning and yeah, Melanie was just way too sweet. I know there are genuinely good people, but she just seemed to take it like a champ, and well, teenage girls are moody, among other things, so it just didn't ring true. She's also really nice and even through the rest of the book, and so I give kudos to Madison for keeping her consistently sugary sweet. ;0

As for Raya...she was a tough cookie, and while during some of the book she's in an untenable position...I thought the way she fought was over the top and got her into more trouble than it was worth -- and anyone who reads this book will instantly know what I'm talking about because it involves her friend. She was very upset, but she knew better, and did it anyway. I thought that was an idiotic choice for a girl who seemed really freaking smart most of the book.

Duke. Ah. Where to begin. He's a sweetie, and he really adores Raya, and I love what he does for a career, and how he goes after what he wants. He's pretty freaking cool, all around.

And, I also think Madison should put a warning due to some of the stuff shown in the book, as they could be triggers. Even though I had a feeling what was coming, it was still jarring to read for someone who has experienced similar trauma.

Melissa says

I received an advanced readers copy of Little Things (Second Chances, #1) by author Madison Street via G the Book Diva Blog in exchange for review. You really have to stay on your toes with this read, as there are many elements and a lot going on all at once. Us readers are introduced to a much younger generation, I find

myself easily sucked in to this genre, still have not figured out why, but who cares! I really enjoyed Little Things, you had deep characters and then a disappearance that had a nice underlying mystery effect. The blurb was written rather well, I liked the questions it left us readers, and I desired to read even more. Curiosity got the better of me, and I thought the flow was a tad bumpy with intro, however as I delved further, it picked up immensely. Editing is great, though I did not go all grammar Nazi, and the ending was even more questionable than the beginning. I'm hooked. I am wondering how the author will build the story with book 2, and I am looking forward to more. I would recommend for a good solid young adult read. 4 Delish Stars for entertainment through the pages and building mystery that piqued my interest.

Cassia Brightmore says

****4 Stars from Deliciously Wicked Books****

Well...where to even start with this review. For anyone that saw my Facebook status after I finished this advance copy of Madison Street's new release, you won't be surprised that my first words are going to be...fuckity fuck! What the hell did she just do to me?! This debut novel from Madison was completely unexpected - it started out as a romantic tale between two characters whose attraction to each other was forbidden. The first half of the book was spent watching Raya and Duke struggle against their chemistry, deny their feelings towards each other, and try to make a go at it being just friends.

Out of nowhere, this book takes on a plot twist so huge, so astronomical that it left me pretty much speechless. Madison Street, damn girl - you are a champion ring fighter of an author. Your sneaky right hook bulletted right out of this book and knocked me flat on my ass, unable to comprehend what the fuck just happened. But we'll come back to this...let's talk a bit about the story first.

When Raya was introduced, I connected with her character right away. Her bravery and kind heart were virtues I liked, but I LOVED that she had some spirit to her as well. She wasn't a pushover, she had the ability to give as good as she got. Its these character traits and strengths that she has to call on later in the book, when all hell breaks loose.

Raya has a very rough home life, she lives with her mother and very abusive step-father. She dreams of the day that she can save herself and her mother from the life they have been living - of the day that she can escape. Its this hope she clings to to get through the toughest of situations. In her senior year, she starts at a new high school - I know, the worst time to have to move schools right? However, she handles it so well and manages to make a few amazing connections. Enter Duke...

Duke is your typical popular high school boy...what I liked about him most, was his genuine caring personality. He is definitely a rare find, and I found myself wishing I had known boys like him when I was in high school! Now, don't get me wrong - he's still a high school male..his daydreams about his current girlfriend and their sexy time had me panting a little bit, it was a delicious little peek into his naughtier side. Now, you're probably thinking - girlfriend? Duke has a girlfriend? Yes, he does. And let me tell you - she is fantastic and you will fucking love her. Melanie, she's a legit sweetheart, I seriously found myself wondering where the hell these two were when I was in high school. Melanie being so amazing, and Duke being such a great guy - it made them the perfect couple. It also created a complication when Raya arrived at their school...

Raya and Duke...when they first meet, the connection is so strong between them. It was like insta-attraction

and jumped right out at me from my Kindle app. Despite Raya's best efforts to stay detached from any close relationships out of fear of anyone finding out her home situation, she does develop strong feelings for Duke and a close friendship with Melanie. Watching them deny the fact that they were slowly falling in love with each other, left me with conflicted emotions. On one hand, I was cheering SO loud for Raya and Duke, on the other - I loved Melanie's character and her and Duke were a perfect pairing. This was a love triangle at its finest, made more complicated by their true friendship. For Raya, having never let her guard down enough to have any close friends - she cherished that above any romantic feelings for Duke.

More than once, I found myself dreading the inevitable breakup that I knew would be Melanie and Duke's fate. When it came, it was written so beautifully - you couldn't even be mad at Duke. I thought this was really well done, and it pleased me that Melanie and Duke stayed involved in each other's lives throughout the rest of the story.

Now, you're probably not pleased with me for giving that little tidbit away since it sounds like the end of the book right? Melanie and Duke's breakup paving the way for Raya and Duke to find that HEA? WRONG. I thought the same thing! However, what happens next....believe me it will knock your socks right the fuck off. Hell, don't even bother wearing socks when you read this book. They'll only be wasted when the plot twist blows them away to smithereens.

I'm not going to give anything away about the last half of the book...I'm not even going to say much about it except for these few words -- Tragedy. Dark. Devious. Pain. Misery. And last....Derrick. Oh, not sure who Derrick is? Well, don't look at me - Madison Street is going to tell you all about him when you buy this book.

xo Cassia
deliciouslywickedbooks.com

Carrie White says

Thank you for allowing me to review this fantastic debut Miss Madison "Little Things" is intense, heart breaking, courageous, romantic & gritty. I was totally enthralled with the prologue, only for it to take a one eighty. Totally blew my socks off:) All is well, having the best night of your teenage life only to have it taken away in a blink of an eye? Life totally sucks at times, out of our control. Can't turn back time thinking "what if"?? How do you watch someone you care for so deeply, go thru something so horrific?? Is their hope? Or is it the end? Can true love withstand anything?? This is definitely a must read,

Lynn Smith says

I received this arc in return for my honest review. The book starts off with Raya moving into a new house and starting her a new school in her senior year. Her first day she meets Duke and there is instant attraction. Duke already has a girlfriend Melanie. Raya becomes

friends with them and their group. Raya lives with her mother and step father and things aren't that great at home. Her step father is abusive physically and mentally. At this point in the book I was enjoying the characters and figured it was going to be a sweet romance novel with the normal drama of high school. After prom things go bad at Raya's home and not long after she runs away.

From here on out the book gets dark. So many things happen to Raya (I don't want to give anything away) Through it all Duke never stops looking for her. I couldn't put the book down at this point and had to finish reading it. It was a rollercoaster of emotion. I cried through some , cheered at parts. All the pain and brokenness that Raya went through breaks you heart. Then there is Duke, what a awesome sweet loving man. He never stops loving her.

Danita B. says

I want to start by saying that you can't let the ages of these characters lead you to believe that this is a young adult book. It is far from it. I'll admit that it started off slow for me, and I had trouble getting into it as a result. But after getting through the first several chapters, it was clear that the author was trying to show the development of the relationships between the characters, which was a relief because there was no insta-love, no cheating, no jealous exes to deal with that so many books in this genre have.

The main characters, Raya, Duke, and Melanie, are really enjoyable. They have an incredible friendship, in which they all trust each other, they truly care about each other, they are protective of each other, and want happiness for each other. These qualities are key throughout the progression of the book.

This book took an unexpected twist that I didn't see coming at all, and I was hooked from that point on. Again, this is not a young adult book. The subject matter in certain scenes is graphic, and it is hard to read at times, but it is written in such a way that you have to keep reading to see how the character that this is happening to overcomes the situation that they are in.

That being said, there is no cliffhanger, and some of the characters do get their HEA. This was incredible debut by Madison Street, and I look forward to reading more in this series.

*****I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review*****
