



The Art of Life

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Jeremy is a devastatingly attractive 21 year old guy with a secret, who just has to walk into a room and flash his winning smile to melt a girl's heart. Isabelle, "Izzy", is a barely noticeable artist, whose home life is less than to be desired. She feels completely alone in the world, that is until the fateful day when Jeremy saves her from school tormentors and changes both their lives forever. Isabelle cannot believe her good fortune when Jeremy forms a friendship with her because nothing goes her way. After all, she is blatantly tormented by her peers, ignored by her school crush, has never been kissed, and her mother is an alcoholic. How could she ever have a relationship, even a friendship, with anyone, let alone someone so good looking and altruistic? Though, it's not all good looks, good deeds and fast cars for Jeremy, whose past still haunts him. Can a horrific event that forces Isabelle out of her home and into Jeremy's spare bedroom teach these two how to live and love?

The Art of Life Details

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From Reader Review The Art of Life for online ebook

GTR33GURL says

I just loved this book from start to finish it was sweet romantic funny sexy sad heartbreaking and beautiful loved the length of the book so worth the money Jeremy ahhh wonderful sexy hero yet another book boyfriend to add my list lol Isabelle was the sweetest broken girl I just loved her and could see why the gang took her under there wings I hated the mom for what she did but was teary eyed by her courage to seek the help she needed and make amends with her daughter only thing missing for me was An Epilogue I just love me an epilogue or a sequel lol come on Sarah do a sequel lol fan 4 life!!!

AndreaE says

Para mi este ha sido la mejor novela de amor que he leído este año.
Es hermoso, y aunque sean 620 paginas y puede parecer cansado nada que ver se te pasa rapidísimo queriendo saber que más sigue, los personajes son todos geniales ... solo me queda decir quiero un Jeremy para llevar por favor!!!!

Muy recomendado.

deb22luvsbooks says

This books storyline had alot of potential...but the book was a hot mess!

I hate go give unfavorable reviews, because I am sure that a whole mess of work goes into writing a book...but this one needed some serious help. For example:

The fact that the entire book did not use a darned contraction....nobody talks like that and I had to re-arrange the wording while reading to just make it make sense to me. Nobody says "I do not like to go shopping"...they say " I don't like to go shopping".....and it went that way through the entire book.

The overuse of the word "Retort".....first, If I noticed it, I am sure you will too...plus, to me a retort is a snarky reply, not like using the word "said".

There was alot of useless filler in this book in my opinion...alot of shopping trips that really did not give us any useful information.

Then, most of all, much of the story was pretty unrealistic in a bad way. There was alot of potential for some real angst, that never really materialized and it just fell flat for me.

Needless to say, the book needed some serious editing.

I stuck with it because I hate to give up on a book, but I kinda wish I had.

Khadija says

I don't usually write reviews but I just had to address all the issues with this book.

Where to start? First of all, the writing was slightly horrifying. The characters in the book were in their late

teens and early twenties and all spoke as if they were in their sixties. Nobody under the age of sixty calls anybody "toots", and would it have killed the author to use some contractions? Who in this day and age continuously uses "I am" instead of "I'm" or "you are" instead of "you're". There were so many others, it was ridiculous. That was just some of the few issues with the English.

Then came the issues with the storyline. First of all her supposed issues with her "self esteem and shyness". If you have these issues you don't go telling everybody that you meet that you have them and then act like Isabelle does throughout the whole book, like what kind of shy person climbs on a random guys bike and takes off with him? That is not how a person with those issues acts. For a person that doesn't want people to know about her life, she tells an awful lot of people about her life and the way in which she does it so easily and often is so unrealistic. The way she just told people that her mum was an alcoholic and expected people to think the worst was beyond stupid because her life could have been so much worse given how bad alcoholism can get and how dangerous it is. I'm not condoning the mental abuse but there was barely any if at all there was some. She complained about having to cook and clean up after her mother when it could have been so much worse. The same can be said about the "bullying". Again it could have been so much worse and her reactions were so unrealistic.

The writing style was ridiculously old fashioned but the storyline was seriously childlike. I personally am a sucker for a romance but the characters in this book were so unrealistic and the storyline written so badly I couldn't enjoy it at all. Why the book was so long when the ending was obvious is beyond me.

1/5 stars without a doubt!!

Brandy Brandenburg says

So hmm. I want to give this book more then three starts I really do but I just can't. Don't get me wrong I liked the book actually I really enjoyed it but it was beyond juvenile. I mean I totally support waiting for marriage to have sex but come on at 18 years old there is absolutely no reason to act like a 12 year old when you here the word sex. And that is exactly how Izzy acted. Sure she can be innocent and naive about it but not be childish. For Pete's sake she's in a sorta relationship with a 21 year old guy not that he wasn't totally respectful because he was but really if he had his shirt off she freaked out. She freaked out over every little thing which is why I wanted to throw my iPad down and punch it! Jeremy was great respectful, kind and awesome. Yeah he had a huge secret nowadays what book boyfriend doesn't bunt it wasn't so awful it ruined things. I wish there was more once again I need closure. I waited the entire book for them to finally be together and then bam it was over. I need to know authors what happens next. Marriage, babies, school? WHAT!! Oh and the grammar and editing was also why I didn't go above three. There were a few times I had to re-read because I just didn't get it. Was it a huge deal not really but it did make me rate lower then I might have had I been able to just sweep through it.

Meme says

me encanto demasiado, pero el final me dejo con ganas de mas.
si muestra todo la fase de enamoramiento y todo, pero necesitaba mas!
y si estoy conciente que el libro tenia 500 paginas !

Rossana Peña Rivera says

OMG estaba esperando un libro así desde hace unas semanas. Fue extremadamente divertido leerlo, solo pensaba en leer el libro cuando no lo estaba leyendo. Y creo que quiero levantarme un día cualquiera y encontrarme un J en la tarde para nunca mas dejarlo ir. Su historia fue perfecta . Aunque su declaración de amor fue la cosa mas ridícula que leí en mucho tiempo. Todos los personajes me gustaron, Personalmente estoy en el team Josh, de todos los personajes incluso de Eric, es Josh que quisiera saber que pasa después. Espero que se den la oportunidad de leerlo porque no se arrepentirán.

Amandapanda potter says

I didn't like the main character

This books was a little good, but it was so annoying and frustrating. The main character is so stupid, it made me want to bang my head against a wall.

Marse says

Lo más hermoso que he leído en este último tiempo. Amo a Jeremy, lo amo, es perfecto pero DEMASIADO PERFECTO.

Diversa historia, media cliché, super romántica, chistosa y suuuuuuuuper larga jajajaja pero vale la pena cada página. Jeremy vale la pena.

Dulce Cruz says

Yo definitivamente amo este libro. Es desde antes que lo terminara uno de mis libros favoritos.

Isabelle es una chica de 18 que su vida no es un cuento de hadas precisamente. Al llegar a casa todos los días, se enfrenta con su increíble madre alcohólica, he Isabelle hace todo por ella.

Isabelle tiene un autoestima super bajo, y sabemos que la mayoría de los libros con protagonistas no se concideran bonitas, pero Isabelle enserio tiene un serio problema consigo misma.

Después de un horrible día en la escuela, en una cafeteria conoce a cierto chico que la salva de unas tipas que la estan molestando. Jeremy, de 21 años con un pasado que no quiere recordar y que nunca se lo ha dicho a nadie. Él empieza a ayudar a reconstruir la autoestima de Isabelle. Con el tiempo se hacen amigos, pero el pasado misterioso de Jeremy le hace tener curiosidad a Isabelle.

Después de una terrible escena por la que pasa Isabelle en su casa, ella se va de su casa. Y sin saber por donde ir, ella cae en los brazos de Jeremy, y el le ofrece su casa.

Su relación como amigos obviamente mejora, y ellos aprenden a vivir juntos. Ella al vivir con Jeremy crece en muchos sentidos, los mas importantes son que ella ya es mas abierta, más social, y su autoestima ya esta arriba.

Como decia me encanto el libro, pero el epilogo pienso y siento que fue muy apresurado. Me encanto la boda y eso, pero queria algo mas... no quede lo suficiente satisfecha con el final, pero me gusto.

Cada personaje en el libro lo ame, Josh(yo imagine a Josh Hutcherson), Kent, Cassandra, Eric, Jack, y a Jeremy (lo amo!).

Definitivamente uno de mis libros favoritos.

Agustina. says

2'5, creería.

Tengo más desilusión por el hecho de que pensé que me iba a gustar mucho más esta historia que por el hecho de la HISTORIA en sí. Porque no es MALA MALA, peeeero tiene sus errorcitos.

Entre ellos: **La narrativa de la historia**, para mí la escritora al principio me parecía fresca y liviana, algo normal y fácil de leer, pero luego cuando ya me adecuó a su escritura se convirtió en cualquier cosa menos en una pluma desarrollada y BUENA, si venimos al caso. En un momento, sentí que estaba leyendo una novela de Facebook. Además, en un punto hace MUY DE REPENTE un cambio de persona narrativa, que me desencajó totalmente. Aparte de que en un capítulo podía relatarte TOOOOODO un día de la PARA-NADA-INTERESANTE-VIDA de la protagonista, y al siguiente relatarte su vida en un torbellino en el que pasaron MESES.

Siguiente cosa---> **CANTIDAD DE PÁGINAS**, ¿en qué estaba pensando esta mujer cuando escribió más de 600 páginas para un libro que totalmente NO lo necesitaba? Es decir, entiendo que el romance que se desarrolla entre ellos está bastante bien construido por el hecho de que se recorre un largo tiempo, en el que CLARAMENTE está claro que no es un insta-love de esos. Pero aun así, me parecieron totalmente innecesarias ciertas escenas, que no aportaban nada, era como leer relleno tras relleno. Al mismo tiempo creo que la buena construcción de personajes se debió a esto: que tuvo muchas páginas para explayarse, pero en el fondo sé que una muy buena escritora sabría transmitirte todos esos sentimientos, construir las relaciones y los personajes con muchas menos páginas.

CADA VEZ QUE JEREMY SE LE TIRABA PARA NADA SUTILMENTE A ISABELLE Y ELLA DECÍA: OH, THAT'S SO SWEET!, como REALMENTE ella tenía una enfermedad con esa puta frase que me hacía rodar los ojos más de lo estrictamente recomendado.

LA CANTIDAD DE MISTERIO INNECESARIO SOBRE EL PASADO DE JEREMY ¡oh! y acá podemos agregar **LA SUPUESTA TIMIDEZ DE IZZY, DE "YO NO LE CUENTO A NADIE DE MI PASADO"** Fue absurdo, las dos cosas. Lo de Jeremy me pareció bastaaante predecible, ya me reía con el constante tabú que existía al rededor del tema. Y lo de Isabelle ya ni puedo hablarlo pero era muy exasperante; que te describan al personaje como algo y termine siendo todo lo contrario.

Y, por último, ~~pero no menos importante~~, **EL TEMITA DE LA VIRGINIDAD** Yo sé, que esto es muy personal y subjetivo, que cada uno basándose en sus creencias e ideales sacaría una conclusión, pero yo como defensora de lo mío no pude evitar molestarme cada vez que se daba mención al tema del sexo como si fuera algo totalmente extraño y religioso. Como se degradaba a las mujeres que se acostaban con tipos por diversión, PORQUE QUERÍAN, pero a aquellas que se ""guardaban"" (OJO, con esta palabrita mágica) para el GRAN amor de su vida, o para (por supuessssto) después del matrimonio eran más dignas, más

importantes, más MUJERES.

Todo esto lo transmite, tanto entre líneas como no, varias escenas de este libro. Y me molesta. Mucho. Nadie es más mujer que nadie por no tener relaciones sexuales. Y MUCHO MENOS, una mujer es menos mujer por disfrutar de su sexualidad libremente. Es que, ¿seguimos en el siglo XV y no me enteré? La virginidad es una construcción social para intimidar a todas las mujeres con el tema del sexo, una construcción que la iglesia alimenta (y me atrevo a decir que creó) y que, lastimosamente, hasta el día de hoy la mayoría de las sociedades perpetúan. NO se los permitamos naturalizar más. Y empecemos por no aceptarlo en la literatura.

Aun así, **no se asusten tanto tampoco**, no es que lo odiara. Es, simplemente, lo que dice la descripción de 2 estrellas en goodreads: it was ok. JUST OK.

Laura Clark says

I love my books - Seriously if I have a spare second my nose will be in a book. So I like to think I know a thing or two about good books.

THIS IS BY FAR THE BEST BOOK EVER!

Please note I do not say this lightly.

The Art of life, follows Isabelle a nerdy high school girl who has a pretty rubbish home life and not a lot going for her in general.

One coffee and her life changes course with the arrival of the BEST book boyfriend EVER! Jeremy Stoll. If I could crawl into this book I would.

I don't want to ruin the magic that Sarah Carter has create in this book, so I am keeping mum on this one. But if you have ever felt low, sad or alone you need this book in your life now.

I have lost count the amount of times I have read it and every time I pick it up, I still get caught up by it.

Sweet, touching, heartfelt, funny and hopeful! The Art of life is all you really need!

Love you Ms Carter, please, please, please write some more about Izzy and the gang. I cant get enough and I don't think I ever will. This is a story I will take well into my old age.

xoxo

Grace says

Love, love Jeremy! He's so damn sweet, caring, thoughtful, sexy and gorgeous! Love him and his heart! I also feel for his pain and Isabelle's. I really think that to have this in Jeremy's POV will be truly awesome.

Christi Greer says

WOW....why aren't there more stars?? This book is probably THE best stand alone book I've read this year. I sit here and try to write something profound or thought provoking but I can't even summon up the right words. I'm speechless.

First of all -- I can't believe I picked up this book for less than a dollar. It was over 600 pages which to me translates into 'hundreds and hundreds of hours' and again, I just can't believe how incredibly cheap it was. Mrs.Carter...this book is worth so much more!!

Second of all, with it being 600 pages there would be a time or two where you would think that things would seem redundant or over worked...but somehow it's not. The image she paints in your mind is beautiful and clear.

Three....this book is super clean. I read a lot of stuff...I mean A LOT and the one thing that I wish YA/Romance writers would get is that you don't need a lot of "added stuff" (if you know what I mean) to get your point across. Yeah its okay to read about it here and there but it's not the entire story...and that's what I liked about this one. It was important to Mrs. Carter that the reader understood that the heroine couldn't handle anything other than hand holding and kissing. Forcing this character to fit into the "romance" mold that we love to read so much would just be wrong. Izzy, the heroine, needed to take it slow, learn to trust then learn to love.

Four....with it being 600 pages you would think 'what could she possibly have to say?' Well a lot, I think. This story is about a young insecure girl who has never felt love or affection from any individual especially coming from a single parent home. Then you add a guy who's an orphan and kind of has a sketchy background yet he seemed to know way more about love and affection than she did. Taught her more. Showed her more.

Fifth....I love how this book didn't have a cliffhanger. I thoroughly enjoyed how the writer took her time to write us a story that she knew needed to be taken slow. AND I L-O-V-E LOVE how she didn't split the book up into two parts and made us wait seven billion months to find out what happens between Jeremy and Izzy...and trust me, with it being so long she SO could have done that. So, Sarah Carter...thanks for not doing that :)

Finally, as a writer myself I used to get so worried about the 'filler content' that fits between each major event. I would worry for hours on what to say and how to transition from one point to another and was anxious that what I was talking about made the book too long. Now, I understand that if it's done right....it can work. Now I see that if you transition slowly it can really be a benefit to the story. I am SO SO SO glad I read this book as I do believe it will make me a better writer.

So to the four people out there who will actually read this :) read this book....share it with your friends....it will change the way you look at life.

Sarah Carter, I can't wait to read your other stuff. Hope your working on it right now...as we speak!

Zoe and the Edge says

This review is really messy. My main point is that the author is pretty freakin' hilarious but she really cannot write.

This book is way too long. Ridiculously long. My opinion of it kept going up and down. At first I thought it would be a DNF, and then a third of the way through, I thought it would be a 5 star, and then I started getting annoyed with the characters, so I thought maybe a 4, and then it got worse so a 3. Some of the reactions are really off and the way they talk is so stilted and unrealistic. The bad guy is irksome and the money part of the story almost worst. Oh the awkies.

The characters really develop and it ends up being really fabulous by the time you get a third into the book. I like that they are so unusual and maybe a bit controversial but it *totally* works (until it doesn't, like I said, it's looong). I enjoyed seeing the shy little mouse grow in confidence.

This has such a bizarre storyline. But it's kind of fun in a juvenile na-na-na-boo-boo way. I'm really bad at reading bullying stories. Mainly, because I've never been bullied and I just can't imagine responding the way these characters respond.

It's been a while since I came across the dreaded no-contractions syndrome.

"No, I am kidding. I am 21."

Jeremy appears out of the blue like some kind of fairy godmother. The only thing that saves him is that he knows he's being a weirdo and that the relationship is completely platonic.

Isabelle's mother is a codependent and grumpy alcoholic.

Jeremy - "You really are worried about me seeing you at home, aren't you?"

"Nobody should see my home life," I respond. "I don't want to see my home life."

On the plus side, they're not poor and Isabelle has plenty of cash to splash.

Jeremy is very closed in and fields all personal questions but he makes up for it with his outgoing personality.

"We will get you there, even if I have to sell some of my organs."

His jokes are a hit and miss but some of them are pretty good.

Isabelle - "It will be nice to have your advice if I do start dating. I have never been on one before."

"Well, I will give you a play by play then," Jeremy laughs. "And I will call you half way through and ask how it is going. If it is going badly, you can pretend your house burned down and leave."

"I made you something." I put my backpack down and unzip it.

"Oh, oh, oh, is it made out of macaroni noodles?" Jeremy giddily jokes.

"Now you aren't going to get it," I laugh, "make fun of my macaroni noodles."

The pair get up to all sorts of shenanigans.

*The check out girl obviously cannot take her eyes off of him....He saunters over to the cashier. "Hello."
"Hi," she replies, in a girly, giggly sort of way. I roll my eyes. "Did you find everything alright?"
"You know, we got a little hung up in the contraceptives aisle, but I think we figured it out." I haul off and kick Jeremy in the shin. He bends over and screams, "Ow!"
I cross my arms and smile. "No need for a contraceptive when you can't stand up straight."
Turning his gaze on me, he says, "Well honey, now you aren't going to need them for a while."
"Boohoo,"...
"So, you found everything alright then?" The cashier asks, staring at us.
I nod my head. "Yes, I am sorry for him. I only let him out of the house once a month, if you can't see why."
Doubling over with laughter, Jeremy turns around. I walk over and pat him on the back. "He is single if you are interested."
"Oh, honey," Jeremy interjects. "Are you dumping me?"
"Yes," I reply dramatically. "I am moving on to bigger and better things."
Giving the cashier his alluring smile, Jeremy asks, "What's your name?"
The cashier looks at him like he is crazy..."You're total is 85.68."
"Now, you have to pay for your stuff. I will no longer be your sugar daddy," Jeremy says, crossing his arms.
"Fine," I sigh. "I don't know what I will do now. Oh wait, it's called a debit card."*

They like to pretend they're a couple and after a while I couldn't stop giggling because Jeremy is so flirtatious and Isabelle is so mild and shy.

They're both really open about their love life. I liked how they were interested in other people and not just each other.

Isabelle is crushing on a classmate.

*"I don't let anyone see where I live. Sorry," I quietly mutter.
With a quizzical look, he says, "Alright. Do you live in a box or something?"
"Yes," I reply. "Two boxes actually, held together with that tape that fixes everything."
"Awesome, I hope you at least have a great view."*

I thought Eric would fall flat, but he's pretty cool too. I'd give him 5 stars.

*Looking at me, he says, "Give me your cell. I will put it in."
"Umm, yeah," I retort. "I don't have a cell phone."
"Wow, okay, get out a piece of paper then. I hope you have that."*

And Isabelle's honesty that was so grating in the beginning starts to work in her favour.

"I am sorry Eric, but I have to go. I understand if you don't want to deal with my melodramatic butt, but some things are hard for me to talk about."

Jeremy

It made me curious as to how Isabelle and Jeremy would ever cross that line into romantic territory especially with Jeremy sort of being cast in the "older guy" and mentor role.

"I will probably need to sleep in. I am going out with the boys Friday night, lots of debauchery and craziness."

*"Debauchery, you know what that means right?" I ask.
Giving me a perplexed look, he responds, "No, not really."*

"It's like saying you are going to have sex with a whole bunch of people or have an orgy, and I hope that isn't what you have planned."

Jeremy suddenly bursts out laughing. "I have totally been using that word wrong."

I love the way they became friends and then tried to fight the attraction and chemistry that they established through *getting to know each other*. Wow, what an unusual concept. Thank heck, no insta-love.

Part 2

(view spoiler)

Jeremy kind of turns into a major asshole for the second half of the book.

Chauvinistic, manipulative, it was a struggle to get to the end.

I hated that Isabelle let it all slide because he makes her feel gooey.

Jeremy *knows* how messed up Isabelle's head is and it just seems so selfish of him to take advantage of that.

If Isabelle says anything that remotely annoys him he takes it out on her with "physical affection". I really felt trapped in that kind of relationship.

Then it starts going round and round in circles. Isabelle tries to get a life outside of Jeremy and they're both miserable and then he tries to get a life outside of Isabelle and then they're both miserable. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

And of course, when they finally get around to it, they have to do it in the weirdest way possible. I don't know if I love or hate these two.

"There is something in this bathroom that I love very much."...Jeremy looks me right in the eyes, and says, "I am....in love....with something in this bathroom."

Sexual Content: No graphic sex scenes but a lot of steamy flirting
