



## El cisne de papel

*Leylah Attar*

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Skye Sedgewick es la hija de un magnate hotelero. Su vida cambia cuando un desconocido la secuestra a punta de pistola.

Tras pasar unos días en el barco donde la mantienen cautiva, Skye empieza a sentirse atraída por Damian, su secuestrador, un hombre que le resulta vagamente familiar...

—*"Fascinante y llena de suspense. Una novela espectacular."*

Claire Contreras, autora de Kaleidoscope Hearts

—*"El cisne de papel me ha conquistado con su prosa delicada y sensual y su apasionante trama."*

Gail McHugh, autora de Pulsión y Tensión

—*"Escalofriante, emocionante, devastadora, divertida, apasionada y dulce."*

Maryse's Book Blog

## El cisne de papel Details

Date : Published January 24th 2018 by Principal de los Libros (first published August 4th 2015)

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Author : Leylah Attar

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Dark, Contemporary, New Adult, Contemporary Romance, Suspense

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# From Reader Review El cisne de papel for online ebook

## Christy says

4 stars!

*The Paper Swan* is a book I decided to listen to without reading the blurb. Based on the cover and title, I didn't know that I was in store for this kind of read. Right off the bat I was a little shocked in the direction it took. By the end of this story, I really loved it. It gave me some 5 star feels. But it did take me a while to start warming up to it. I felt disconnected at first, hence the 4 star rating. The writing is spectacular (I've never read a book by this author, but wow) and I loved the intensity and beauty in this story.

"There are no good guys or bad guys. Everyone has a reason."

I'll not spoil what happens in this story by rehashing everything, so this review will be a little on the short side. I loved the raw and gritty way the story started out, and how it turned into something so stunningly beautiful. The characters were complex and flawed. The story had vengeance, violence, love, forgiveness and beauty.

When we love, we carry it on the inside, and we can turn on its light even in our darkest moments. The deeper we love, the brighter it shines.

If you're looking for a darker standalone romance, that is hard to read at times, but has a gorgeous ending, this is one I'd recommend. I enjoyed how everything came together. Also, I listen to the audio and Zachary Webber is one of the narrators. He does an amazing job!

"There is no space too dark or too vast or too irredeemable that can't be filled with love."

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## Brandi says

3.5 Stars

The story starts with Skye, a spoiled, rich girl who finds herself kidnapped. She is terrified, and is positive

this strange man plans to kill her - in fact that is his original plan.

But. This is more than just a kidnapping leading to love. It's a story full of vengeance, love, misunderstanding, and a past that connects it all.

I did enjoy the writing, the style and flow worked for me - where I found myself struggling was the story. It just lacked originality and was too predictable for my taste. So while I really wanted to love it...it was just okay.

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**Natasha is a Book Junkie says**

**FULL 6-STAR REVIEW NOW POSTED:**

*“We are a question that hasn’t been answered yet, a hiding place that hasn’t been found yet, a battle that hasn’t been fought yet.”*

Holy cow! What a *spectacular* book this was! Gripping and unexpected, this story literally took my breath away, and I not only found myself reading until dawn, but also incapable of moving on and picking up another book for days to come. Within an exhilarating scenario that is as unique as it is astounding, I never expected to find so many surprises, so many twists and turns at every corner, and I felt like I was on a joyride of a lifetime. But fear not because I will not spoil any of it for you, as each small discovery, each staggering revelation, each ‘sucker punch’ in the story has made this one of the most riveting, compelling, and truly unforgettable reads of my life. Not to mention, one of the most divinely written ones too.

*“This was a murder-turned-into-abduction. This was a screwed-up moment of weakness. This was a personal, targeted attack against my father.”*

There is no slow introduction into the storyline, no gradual easing into it for the reader—the story takes off ‘mid race’, as we find the heroine with a gun pointed at her head, abducted and facing death at the hands of a man she doesn’t know. Skye Sedgewick has lived a privileged life since birth, her only living parent showering her with love and attention, and never making her want for anything. And yet, at the mercy of her captor, powerless and facing imminent death, her mind draws comfort from recalling a time when she was just a child, when the sound of her nanny’s lullaby could erase all hurts, when her childhood best friend’s intrepid heart made her feel safe and protected, and when all it took to put a smile on her face was a pink-frosted cake and a paper giraffe. But even those happy memories do little to dissolve the utter gloom of her reality—held hostage on a boat by a man who shows her no compassion or empathy, whose mind games and bouts of cruelty slowly strip her of all hope and dignity, while they sail towards an unknown destination and

an uncertain fate for Skye.

*“I felt like all the bits that held me together were slowly coming unglued, falling off, piece by piece. I was disappearing, disintegrating like the rocks that get eaten by the sea.”*

But as their journey continues, an unexpected attachment forms between captor and captive, and the more Skye’s childhood memories keep returning and offsetting her harsh reality, the more of the truth behind her abduction is revealed. Until the past and the present suddenly collide and our heroine and her captor, Damian, find themselves torn between what has been and all that their hearts tell them should be.

*“There are no good guys or bad guys. Everyone has a reason.”*

And that is when this story takes off on an unforeseen adventure of soul-searching, friendship, redemption and survival, an adventure where love is the ultimate prize and the past is the bitterest foe. As Skye and Damian succumb to their feelings, recognising a love that was written in the stars for them, they soon realise that that very love is the only thing holding vengeance back by a thread, a thread that can snap at any moment, and take it all away from them in one sweep.

*“... there is no space too dark or too vast or too irredeemable that can’t be filled with love.”*

There is so much more I could tell you about this story as I find myself here bursting to talk about it, but I have to remain vague so that you can discover and truly appreciate every facet of this beautiful tale the same way as I did—slowly and without warning. I will tell you, though, that no amount of imagination could have prepared me for any jaw-dropping moment of this passionate, thrilling, at times even gritty story of two people who have come full circle in life, only to find themselves torn between all they have gained and all they have lost.

*“You can either choose love or you can choose hate, because where one lives, the other will die.”*

I feel no amount of praise will ever do a book of this calibre justice. With its exquisite prose, almost poetic at times, the phenomenally framed characters, vulnerable and strong at the same time, the passionate, turbulent love story that pulls on every one of our heartstrings like a fine concerto, the richness of a storyline that is never predictable and consistently enthralling, this is a book I wish I could make everyone read. Because books like these are few and far between, and are nothing less than life-changing.

*“It’s not over, you know, it never has been ... you will always be my forever.”*

**[6 STARS]**

See this review on my blog! | Follow me on Facebook! | Follow me on Twitter!

Amazon US: <http://amzn.to/1U1xglr>

Amazon UK: <http://amzn.to/1SJevko>

Amazon CA: <http://amzn.to/1KsL3x7>

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**Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says**

**5+ Perfect Everything Stars!**

*"How much do you think your life is worth, Skye Sedgewick?"*

The Paper Swan was every single thing I love about dark gritty books! I purposefully waited 24 hours to write my review to spare everyone a verbal diarrhea of fangirling. You're welcome. Even more so, I'm treading lightly here as this book should be experienced as blindly as possible without too many plot spoilers.

I'd first experienced Leylah Attar's writing when I read *53 Letters for My Lover*. I knew she had talent for slightly, but not over the top, poetic prose, but her venturing into the dark side of Contemporary Romance was one smart move on her part! Way to go!

What do we get with *The Paper Swan*? We get a plotline that carries the reader from sweet childhood moments thru adulthood filled with anything but sweet. We get beautiful innocence and we get ugly vengeance. The heroine, Skye, is the ~~kinda-spoiled-but-loveable~~ wealthy daughter of Warren Sedgewick, prominent businessman with dirty ties to the Mexican cartel. She befriends her nanny's son, Esteban and they essentially spend all their early years together- one rich, one poor, both fast friends much like siblings, making *paper swans*, collecting sea shells along the Mexican coastline and singing Spanish lullabies with Esteban's mother, MaMaLu.

*I wished I could see myself through his eyes.*

*Then again, he never looked at me with his eyes.*

*He looked at me with his soul.*

And then Skye and Esteban separated, they grew up, and everything went to Hell in a hand basket for Skye. Enter the dark side of ***The Paper Swan***. A side filled with vengeance, abduction...captivity. An anti-hero named Damian...

**The Paper Swan** promises a hero filled with rage yet deep down a tiny warm light still shines beneath all the hate. What I LOVED most was Ms Attar didn't do what so many authors do with tropes like this and have the cold-hearted anti-hero do an immediate 180' change of heart in the presence of love- to turn a hateful hero into this swoony sweet Casanova. The plot has an angsty slow build AND a slow thaw. So often books are centered around revenge but with the snap of the fingers, all plans are off and the H/h ride off into the sunset. Not believable.

The Mexican cartel is focused heavily in this book and it's clear the author did a fair amount of research with both their illegal dealings and also the life inside Mexican prisons. There's cartel lingo and I wish I spoke Spanish a bit more but I wasn't completely lost on their dialogue.

**The Paper Swan** is gritty, dark and violent at points, yet packs a love story of epic proportions. That innocent young first love that spans a lifetime and never seems to extinguish completely. The story spans some 25 years and we truly live through a journey here..of giving us the completeness of everything going full circle. This is why I prefer standalones. We get it all, wrapped up in a perfect package and aren't left to wait months for the sequel in order for the story to be fully played out. We also get dual POVs, but not the flip-floppy every chapter type. The type where when you're just starting to think, *I'd sure love to be in Skye's head right now*, the POV swaps to her. And though the book spans many years, there isn't big disjointed time-jumps that tend to drive me crazy. It flowed flawlessly.

Leylah Attar has a poetic writing style that engrossed me from the start. Not over the top, but coupled with thorough character development and depth of story, it's completely all-encompassing. It's truly a book to get lost in...lost in the world of her characters, lost in her beautiful words. This quote I found strikingly beautiful

and truly shows the love story buried beneath the violent cartel plotline.

*We are sand and rock and water and sky, anchors on ships and sails in the wind. We are a journey to a destination that shifts every time we dream or fall or leap or weep. We are stars with flaws that still sparkle and shine. We will always strive, always want, always have more questions than answers, but there are moments like these, full of magic and contentment, when souls get a glimpse of the divine and quite simply, lose their breath.*

There is quite simply NOTHING I'd change about this book. Nothing.

I HIGHLY recommend *The Paper Swan* for fans of darker, grittier books yet still want that love story built in. The story is sadly believable and told in a way I couldn't help but embrace it wholeheartedly, wishing for a happily ever after for all.

Bravo, Leylah Attar! Thanks for venturing into the dark side. And please please please give me a novella at least for Raphael.

**Book trailer-** [http://youtu.be/KLg9l\\_VbcaU](http://youtu.be/KLg9l_VbcaU)

\*\*\*The book blurb almost makes it sound like a love triangle. Yes, there's multiple protagonists in this book but it's in no way a love triangle.

*Advanced copy received by author in exchange for my HONEST review.*

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**Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**



## 2 stars!

Every now and then there's an 'it' book, and for the past few weeks The Paper Swan was definitely the book that took social media by storm. Even though I pretty much dropped out of book world completely the last two weeks, the few times I logged onto Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter or Amazon I would always see fellow friends and bloggers rave about this book which naturally piqued my interest. So it may be the sheer hype but whatever the reason, this book didn't work for me. It had just enough mystery to keep me reading until the end, but I didn't *feel* anything, know what I mean? I really did love the ~~vague~~ blurb though, but the tricky thing with that is I always expect a knockout premise to back up such an intriguing synopsis and in my opinion, the plot failed to evoke any kind of emotion in me. Because I went in completely blind, I stumbled my way through the first 10% wondering just what the book was about, and once I found out, my excitement for the book sort of deflated – it's a premise I've read dozen times before, and I'm betting you have too.

However, there are many, many books I ended up loving despite an overused storyline (prime example: The Deal) and it all boils down to presentation and the author's writing style. Is the plot engaging? Can I connect with the characters? Do I love the writing? Things like that. Unfortunately for me, the plot was bland, I really didn't care for the moody hero or spoiled heroine, and I wasn't a fan of the writing. I will say that the author does write beautifully, but her style is simply not something I enjoyed. The only way I can describe it is that the writing is **TOO MUCH** and it made things feel unnatural, especially towards the end of the story where loose ends were wrapped up so fast the book pace became the complete opposite of the first part of the book. Sometimes, it's best to keep things simple.

Also, book pet peeves. I'm pretty sure every reader has a thing or two they don't enjoy reading about in their books. Mine are time jumps. I just can't stand them, and when an author skips around in their storyline it annoys me so much I literally start shaking with fury. Had I loved the book before time jumps were even presented, I might have been able to overlook them, but because there wasn't much I was enjoying to begin with, these multiple time jumps + past/present chapters were the last straw for me.

As you can probably tell, almost all my reasons for not liking the book has to do with my personal reading tastes, not because the author did anything wrong. And since I'm in the very small minority who feels like this book wasn't all that jazz, I still say give it a try – as long as flowery prose and time jumps don't bother you that is ;)

*ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.*

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## Candace says

I love a good revenge story and this book was no exception! Right from the start, 'The Paper Swan' drew me in with the abduction of Skye. From that point on, I was hooked on this story. As the storyline progressed, it became clear that Skye and Damian were in quite a tangled web.

Although Skye was portrayed as a spoiled, snobby and pampered rich girl, Ms. Attar did a great job of writing her character in a way that didn't make her unapproachable or unlikable. Yes, she had led a privileged life up to that point, but her sweet recollections of her childhood revealed a more down to earth, human side of her.

As the story progressed, I came to like Skye even more. She wasn't the entitled princess that I had first

pegged her as. She was compassionate, strong and forgiving.

Similarly, Damian's character grew on me. His cold-blooded persona eventually faded away, revealing a wounded boy still grieving for his losses. He had been dealt a bad hand early-on in life and never recovered.

My heart went out to Skye. Forced to choose between her father and her lover, she would lose either way. In my opinion, she is the person that was made to suffer the most in this entire situation, not her father.

Eventually, there is a HEA. At least, as happy as can be, given the situation. Nobody comes out unscathed in this story. More than anything, it served as a cautionary tale to those that might let their desire for vengeance consume them. It was a beautifully written story that held my interest from start to finish.

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## **Catarina says**

### **4 Paper Stars.**

I will not tell you much about this story because I believe this is one of those books you have to experience, and the blinder you go, the better. Sky and Esteban grew up together, as Skye an orphan of a mother, was pretty much raised by her nanny, MamaLu, Esteban's mother. Fate gets them separated and their lives move in opposite directions.

Enters Damian, an anti-hero that captures Sky with a plan of revenge. He wants to revenge his past and finally make justice.

And when justice and revenge, present and past mix together, Sky will realize that sometimes in life... your ghost are not as dead as you think.

Despite these story as some pet peeve aspects for me, what grabbed my attention was its uniqueness. Not exactly a dark reading (just the first chapters), just a refreshing take on a plot that is not original on its own. The character were easy to like despite their many (especially the hero's) flaws, and there were enough twists in the story to make us entertained and the writing style flows easily. It got a little slow towards the 70% mark but it picked up and the whole story wrapped up in a beautiful way. If you want to read a story that takes a little bit out of your comfort zone, this book is a good chance.

**Rating:** 4 Stars.

**Steam:** Some hot scenes.

**Sensible Subjects:** (view spoiler)

**Love Triangle:** (view spoiler)

**Cheating:** (view spoiler)

**HEA:** (view spoiler)

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**Arabella ~?AB?~ says**

**★★★★★ 5 Stars ★★★★★**

**Now LIVE!**

**Amazon - <http://amzn.to/1erRcxW>**

**Amazon UK - <http://amzn.to/1hgZTNv>**

**"Vengeance begets vengeance, more chaos, more darkness."**

The Paper Swan was my first book from author Leyah Attar. The intriguing blurb and the fact that a lot of my Goodreads friends loved her previous book 53 Letters for My Lover, had me curious enough to want to pick it up with the hope of finding another great indie author.

I am pleased to report that I was not disappointed, the writing and the subject matter reeled me in completely and I devoured every word and heartfelt page.

I would describe this book as a captive, friends to lovers, second chance romance, which takes place mainly in Mexico between the daughter of a wealthy businessman and the son of the hired help.

We are taken on a journey from childhood to the present day whereby Skye finds herself kidnapped, on a boat in the middle of nowhere, with the only other person on board being her captive . She is determined not to become a victim of Stockholm Syndrome and fights back with everything that she can. Who is this man and where is he taking her?

Two children from two different cultures and from very different backgrounds form a very special bond, but are torn apart by something that seems out of their control. Revenge is a destructive emotion and is the only thing that is keeping these two from their happy ever after.

I loved the way the book was written, the build up was gradual and we learnt about all the little details that were important in order for us to really feel part of the characters journey. It was a deep story with many different facets and superb characters that all made for a fantastic read.

This really was a beautiful love story and one that will stay with me for a long time.

**This is a standalone dark romance, told in dual POV.**

*ARC gratefully received from the author in exchange for an honest review*

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

**IT'S LIVE <3**

**Amazon → <http://amzn.to/1erRcxW>**

**Barnes & Noble → <http://bit.ly/1LErAem>**

**Kobo → <http://bit.ly/1MJrnFg>**

**iBooks → <http://apple.co/1gPjxjn>**

## **5 UNIQUE STARS**

Such an amazing story! This is my first book from Leylah Attar so I didn't know what to expect! What I find? A beautiful, intense and emotional story! With suspense, mystery and some dark moments which kept me on the edge of my seat until the end of the story! I can admit that I haven't read something like this before! It's so unique and I was so captivated from the writing which is so beautiful and poetic!

This story is about revenge, secret, lies, redemption, forgiveness, love and passion and you can feel all of them!! I don't want to ruin it so I will not say anything else about the plot! Because I want you to devour it like I did!

The characters felt so real and I couldn't stop myself from loving them! I seriously adored them even though there are moments that you are pissed with both characters you still feel the love, the intensity and the passion between them! I liked that we can see the story from both point of views! This makes the story so understandable!

I don't say much about the covers in my reviews but seriously this one is so beautiful! I fell in love with it the first moment I saw it!!! The cover and the title suits the story perfectly!

This is one of these stories that will stay with me forever! I haven't read something like this before! If you are looking for something original then you should definitely read this on!

!I highly recommend it to everyone!! You will not regret it!! Now I'm more eager to read 53 Letters for My Lover!! \*This is not a love triangle!\*

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SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

★★★★★! The Paper Swan (stand-alone). Kidnapped heiress finds herself torn between the captor & his mission!

*“God, he was intense. And deliberate. And he could say things with his eyes that made my knees tremble.”*

**The Paper Swan** (stand-alone) is an **epic love story** of love and vengeance, deceit and forgiveness **spanning decades**. It opens up in present day to heiress **Skye Sedgewick** finding herself kidnapped and stored in a crate before getting loaded onto a boat. Her captor **Damian Caballero** is on a set course in his **quest for vengeance**, more on why to unfold with story.

Being kept away from her pampered life and trying to decipher her captor's motives puts Skye's life into a tailspin. She is **forced to dig deep** traveling back into childhood **putting all the pieces together** while discovering that not everything is as picturesque as she thought.

*“You're ruled by things I can't compete with. Your rage trumps love, and hope, and faith.”*

Falling for Damian is not option. It's the love that **can never be** yet it's inevitable that these **two lost souls** find a **deeper connection**. For a brief moment in time **there is only them** and their love until reality kicks in and Damian must continue on his quest.

Their love **will test them**; their beliefs and values while putting everything on the line. It's an epic tale; **dark, gruesome, painful, poignant**, but most of all it's a story of **soul searching passion** and **unending love**.

*“I wanted to stay with him so I could put together all the dented, shattered parts of him, because I could never be whole where he was broken.”*

Eight words to describe **Damian Caballero**: **Strong, determined, broken, loyal, noble, conflicted, detached and stubborn.**

Eight words to describe **Skye Sedgewick**: **Trusting, loyal, strong, nurturing, conflicted, reserved, reflective and adaptable.**

**The Paper Swan**, told from alternating POVs, is a life story and a love story. With a **fairytale feel** it depicts **profound** sadness, **painful** secrets, **life-altering** deception and **heart-wrenching** disappointments. But in all its darkness there is hope for the **healing power of forgiveness** and a **love that transcends time**. As for ending it was **closure**, but I'd welcome an epilogue further into the future.

**Spell-binding** story-telling! **Epic** saga! **Consuming** plot! **Emotional** journey! **Excellent** character development!

*"Sometimes everything gets dismantled so something better can be pieced together."*

\*\*\*

Hero rating: 5 stars

Heroine rating: 5 stars

Sexual tension rating: 5 stars

Sex scenes rating: 4.5 stars

Sex scenes frequency: 4 stars

Plot rating: 5 stars

Dialogue rating: 5 stars

Storytelling rating: 5 stars

Story ending rating: 4.5 stars

Book editing rating (5 = no edits spotted): N/A, ARC

\*\*\*\*\*

**Overall rating: 5 stars**

**Would I recommend this book: Yes.**

**Would I re-read this book: Yes.**

**Would I read future books by this author: Yes.**

**Thanks** to all the shhluts; **warhawke**, **Mercedes**, **CC**, **Snow**, **Myla**, **Jabberwocky**, **Loyda**, **Nawal & Liz** for our ARC (F)BR on Shh... I had a blast!

*ARC provided to me by author Leylah Attar in exchange for an honest review.*

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**Aestas Book Blog** says

**::: FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED ::: 5 STARS! :::**

**Fierce, powerful, and absolutely breathtaking, this beautifully-written book will sweep you away in an epic love story that spans years and lasts a lifetime.** *The Paper Swan* is a must-read for any romance readers who are searching for a completely unique story that'll captivate you from start to finish. While the twists and turns are intense, gritty, and sometimes even dark, this was actually one of the sweetest and most beautiful love stories I've ever read. I loved every word and highly recommend it!

I want to be very clear that this book is a standalone romance with no love triangle. It's also not tragic (really, the ending is gorgeous) so you do not have to worry about anything. Yes, it's a truly crazy ride, but I'm almost certain that any romance reader will love this and not have any problem with any of it's content.

This is one of those stories that you just need to have TRUST with. Trust the author and trust me when I say that its better not to know anything about this story before you start it other than the blurb...

*They say it takes 21 days to form a habit. They lie. For 21 days she held on. But on Day 22, she would have given anything for the sweet slumber of death. Because on Day 22, she realizes that her only way out means certain death for one of the two men she loves.*

Don't freak out! Remember: there's no triangle and it's not tragic. I know there are a bunch of you right now sitting here reading this and eyeing this blurb warily but just trust me, I get it. The very first thing I did when I saw it was go out and make sure there was no triangle/cheating/death before I even considered reading the book, and even though the blurb is accurate, it's also not what you think. I promise, cross my heart, and pinky swear that it's not going to devastate you. It's just a really unique love story, but it has everything that would make a romance fan happy even though it's edgy and has darker moments. You guys know that I always warn you whenever there's anything I think you should know beforehand but this is one of those times when really, you'll be fine. I wouldn't say that unless I meant it. Just dive in!

***"I wished I could see myself through his eyes. Then again, he never looked at me with his eyes. He looked at me with his soul."***

When you start the book, *holy hell*, the prologue just throws you right into the story! It's immediately captivating because you're suddenly in this intense, life-threatening situation with the heroine and, just like her, you have absolutely no idea why it's happening, or what is going to happen next. There are so many questions and so many possibly directions for the story to take so it just begs you to turn the page!

I loved that the heroine was strong, smart, and capable. She was relatable, down-to-earth, and just felt very much like a real person I'd love to get to know. And I totally fell for the hero (or, you could really say anti-hero). This guy had been dealt a truly unfortunate hand of cards and his life lead him down a dangerous and destructive path, but with the way it was written, you were shown why he'd become that man. At what point is a does a person bear too much pain? At what point does it change them? I loved the complexity of his character and the range of emotion his story drew out of me over the course of this book.

This is a story that keeps you guessing the whole way through and toys with your heart while unraveling an intricate tale of passion, vengeance, redemption, sacrifice, acceptance, forgiveness, and the purest form of love, where the lines between good and bad are often blurred, and with writing so vivid that you feel like you're experiencing the story alongside the characters. It begins in childhood and tells the story of how a boy turns into a monster and loses himself while trying to save the one he loves most, but how that monster can too find love because even though he's no longer that boy, a part of him still remembers who he was and who he loved. It's filled with emotion, intrigue, suspense and passion. I couldn't put it down!

That's honestly as much as I want to say about the story. I feel very strongly that you should just go into this book blind. I can technically categorize the type of romance but I want you to be as surprised and thrilled as I was while you read. Despite this story's gritty and sometimes even violent twists and turns, this was honestly

turned out to be one of the heart-warming love stories I've read. Leylah Attar's stunning writing wraps you up in this epic journey and sweeps you away. This book had it all — beautiful writing, beautiful story, beautiful cover. It's one of my top favorites of this year and a must-read recommendation!!

*"It's not over, you know. It never has been," he said. "Whether you say yes or no, you will always be my forever."*

**Rating: 5 stars!**

Standalone romance. NO triangle. NO cheating. NOT tragic! I promise, pinky swear, cross my heart. Ok? Trust me!!

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**Khadidja says**

i ve read this book 5 months ago and my first reaction was " WTF girl you fell in love with your captor , you can't seriously be this dumb" !

and i did read it again after 5 months and i changed my mind !! it's not really that DARK ! it's all about power , an abusive relationship, the book is well written the end was really unexpected it's s about a kidnapping rich girl "Skye", spending money, and not having a care for the world is her hubby . Damian her childhood crush was the one who brutally tortured her and almost killed her , I'm definitely going to be reading more from this author. If her other stories are as beautiful as this one then I'm all in! The storyline, characters, the writing everything is perfect

**"Vengeance only begets more vengeance, more chaos, more darkness. Vengeance abducts us and imprisons us and mutilates us, and we suffer and suffer until we unravel its probing parasitic suckers from around us."**



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## Saffron says

### 4 to 4.5 "Book God is in love with me" Stars!!

Let's first acknowledge the fact that this book is my third consecutive 4 star read. Yes, you heard it right. THIRD!

So I am not a very touchy-feely person when it comes to authors. As in, I don't have many auto-buy authors. In fact, in all the years that I have been reading I hardly ever trust an author enough to buy their book blindly. So in short, I usually love books more than I love authors.

When I read Leylah's 53 Letters for My Lover last year I was extremely touched by it. That book depicts the kind of culture/arranged marriage situation that is very prevalent in India and being an Indian I related to it on a very deep level. I loved the writing, the setting, the characters in that book. In short, I LOVED that book to the point that I would go to this author's page and look for any new books she might have added. Imagine my delight when I saw this book set to release in August. I knew that I was going to read it the very day of its release. I was fortunate enough to read it early so...

If you've have read the blurb then you probably don't have much information about this book. And I believe it's necessary to fully enjoy this story. All we know from the blurb is that this story leans towards the darker side, has a little bit of suspense, a lot of action and two men. I know, two men and one woman equals love triangle. Let me assure you that it is not so. In this case, let's assume that math is NOT always right.

As I said, I'm not going to divulge anything about the plot. However, I thought I might give you a list of things/tropes to expect from this book:

1. This story spans a lot of years, even decades and usually I am not a huge fan of time jumps but here it is handled very, very beautifully. In fact, time jump here reminded me of the writing style in Love in the Time of Cholera
2. You can expect a lot of action in exotic locations. Again, not a fan of action if it over-shadows the romance. To people like me: don't fret. Action does NOT overtake the story. Romance is the utmost focus.
3. I am huge sucker for poetic writing/ fresh language. I love when author does NOT describe "tension so thick it can be cut with a knife" in exact those terms and comes up with something original. Like why does tension have to be "thick", why can't it be "syrupy" or "sticky" or something like that, something new? Anyway, what I'm trying to say is fresh language is hard to find. And in this book, I found it plenty.
4. One of the surprising elements in this story was childhood-love trope. I adore that trope. ADORE it. So again, for people like me, this will be a treat. Also, for those who love second chance romance. Again, this one has that.

5. If you like a strong heroine that uses her head and doesn't whine too much then you can find her here. And if you like a hero who is kind of an anti-hero but really is a hero after all. Again, you can find him here.

6. Oh and did I mention, exotic location and beaches? and sea food? Yes, it has that too.

I know, I haven't said anything about the story so I don't know how helpful this review might be to you. But, trust me you don't want any spoilers before diving in. All you need to know is it's a fast paced read with awesome romance, beautiful lines and wonderful characters.

***So why the hell am I not giving this a full 5 star rating?*** Because, there were some things towards the end of the story that I felt were rushed. I would have liked to see them resolved a little more slowly. Alas, they didn't so yea, this is why.

Anyway, all I want to say is: **GO. READ.THIS.**

PS: Thanks Allison for letting me gush over this book with you. Muah <3

*ARC provided by the author in the exchange of an honest review.*

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## **Jennifer Kyle says**

***"You don't always get the treasure by holding on. Sometimes the magic happens when you let go."***

This story didn't provide me with any major wow moments and sadly the reveals and twists were easy to **predict**. However, the writing was so strong and captivating that at times it took a while for me to register that the events didn't fully win me over (That's how much I enjoyed the author's storytelling and this is my first read by this author). Overall, I did enjoy this story even if it wasn't an 'epic' read for me.

Within the first few pages, our heroine is kidnapped and taken to a boat and treated pretty horribly by her kidnapper. I was all sorts of nervous and thinking about who kidnapped her and the whys of it all. Around twenty-five percent in the book, a reveal is made that for me gave the story a just okay vibe as you then know the direction the author will take with the book.

***"There are no good guys or bad guys. Everyone has a reason."***

The author presents chapters in two of the main character's povs and a few time jumps as this tale of loyalty, revenge, vengeance, retribution, loss, love and forgiveness is told.

***"One of them was going down, and it was up to me to decide who."***

There is a character named MamaLu and forgive me but every time she was mentioned I thought of Ricky Richardo's BabaLu (I loved her regardless of my chuckling). I think some friends will fall in wow with this story, some may struggle, while others will fall in my category that it was a good okay read which was very

well written.

*”How do we end up like this? How do we make a mess of something so beautiful and true?”*

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**Hulya Kara Yuksel says**

I'm speechless right now... My God, this book was sooo beautiful! <3

*“I want to remember this,” he said, pulling me into his arms. “If I die tonight, I want to die remembering what it was like to hold the whole world in my hands.”*

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“You can either choose love or you can choose hate, because where one lives, the other will die.”

"The two men that I loved the most, with all my heart, were out to destroy each other. I had a feeling that by the time it was all said and done, only one would be left standing."

“We are sand and rock and water and sky, anchors on ships and sails in the wind. We are a journey to a destination that shifts every time we dream or fall or leap or weep. We are stars with flaws that still sparkle and shine. We will always strive, always want, always have more questions than answers, but there are moments like these, full of magic and contentment, when souls get a glimpse of the divine and quite simply, lose their breath.”

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