



## The Shape of My Heart

*Ann Aguirre*

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Some people wait decades to meet their soul mate. Courtney Kaufman suspects she met hers in high school only to lose him at seventeen. Since then, Courtney's social life has been a series of meaningless encounters, though she's made a few close friends along the way. Especially her roommate Max Cooper, who oozes damaged bad-boy vibes from every pore.

Max knows about feeling lost and trying to move beyond the pain he's been on his own since he was sixteen. Now it's time to find out if he can ever go home again, and Courtney's the only one he trusts to go with him. But the trip to Providence could change everything because the more time he spends with Courtney, the harder it is to reconcile what he wants and what he thinks he deserves.

It started out so simple. One misfit helping another. Now Max will do anything to show Courtney that for every heart that's ever been broken, there's another that can make it complete.

## **The Shape of My Heart Details**

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Author : Ann Aguirre

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## From Reader Review The Shape of My Heart for online ebook

### Victoria says

The impossible happened... I read and *really* liked a New Adult novel.  
I might be biased but this book was good.

It mostly comes from the fact that Courtney, the main character and our narrator is basically me: Bisexual feminist independent mature non-virgin punk rocker honest college student.  
I'm like, a *lot* of those things. So of course I was going to like her and identify with her.  
She also has her shit together a 90% more than any other female in a romance book.

For a millisecond, I considered giving him a hard time, but it had been a shitty enough day, and it wasn't like anything horrible had happened to me. *I'm not a damsel in distress. I can handle my own business.*

Don't believe me? Just watch.

Before I put my phone away, I saw I had a text from Max. With a frisson of determination, I put it away unread. I can't be passive anymore. *I can't build my whole life around one person. I have to live.*

The plot could have been about anything as long as Courtney was kept in character and without becoming a walking cliché and thank god she didn't.

The love interest, Max, could have easily become the 'troubled sex god with a dark past' but Courtney and him are friends at the beginning and as their relationship develops they actually *talk* and get to know each other more; so his dark and complicated past isn't the actual plot of the book.

IDK I just really liked this one. And I, who loathes the New Adult genre, would read it again.  
Like I said before, the end is coming.

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### Darcy says

This one is by far my favorite of the series. I think a big part of it was because so much of Courtney and Max's relationship started out in friendship. While they had a good start going as roommates it was the trip to face Max's past that solidified things for them. Max was very vulnerable and Courtney got to see it all, allowing her to admire the person that Max is now.

I did hate how each of them didn't want to admit that they wanted more with each other, but understood that each was afraid that they would get hurt. So I was happy that they finally got their heads out of their butts

and went for it. Max and Courtney were so cute together. It was fun to see all the friends and family react to the couple.

I really wondered what else could happen at this point, there was so much of the book left and things were going so great! Turns out that family wasn't all it is cracked up to be. I hated what Max and Courtney went through, but liked that Courtney took control of her life after that, it was a long time coming and something that Courtney needed to go through.

I did like how this one ended, but even better was the epilogue. I loved the future view of everyone, loved that there were so many happy endings and each couple was going strong!

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### **La Mala 🌸 says**

**3.5**

Aclaración: *Es probable que le este dando puntaje extra porque estoy de muuy buen humor tras haber dormido más de las tres horas que venía tratando de dormir esta semana. Aún así...*

Aclaración 2: ¿Se acuerdan de los Backstreet Boys?? ¿Se acuerdan? ¡Volvieron! ¡En forma de títulos de serie NA!

Me encantó esta novela. Super dulce, super entretenida y, por encima de todo, muy bien lograda la química entre los dos protagonistas principales, la amistad entre ambos es lo mejor que tiene este libro.

Lo malo es lo usual: clichés, pasados trágicos, y bla bla bla... todo lo que se espera en un New Adult.

A pesar de todo, muy entretenido!

Se lee rápido y sin problemas, la prosa *no es terrible* (traducción: no trata de pasar por elegante inventando metáforas sin sentido), y, como verán mi caso, puede empezarse por éste sin necesidad de leer los dos primeros.

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### **Danielle (Love at First Page) says**

*The Shape of My Heart* is the third and final book in Ann Aguirre's 2B Trilogy, and, while still full of swoons, is ultimately my least favorite. I've been looking forward to reading Max's story ever since meeting him in *I Want It That Way*, which is part of the reason I would have loved this book to be from his perspective. The other reason is that it was very difficult for me to connect with the main character Courtney. She's missing the warmth that I found so inviting and relatable in Nadia and Lauren, and I felt like the author was trying too hard to make her character stand out. Courtney isn't classically pretty, Courtney likes to dress with an edge, Courtney is bisexual, Courtney is the opposite of a blushing virgin. This is, I think, supposed to be refreshing in a sea of interchangeable NA heroines, but mostly I found it forced. I was missing that emotional connection to her. Otherwise, Max really does bring the swoon, and I enjoyed the trajectory of their romance.

The trilogy follows three roommates - Nadia, Lauren, and Max - as they traverse college, friendship, and love, and we see how they move in and out of each others' lives and grow into the people they want to be. We learn from the very first book that Max is good looking and laid back and definitely a lady's man. He has a series of one night stands and doesn't take things too seriously. Seemingly. When Lauren moves out and Courtney moves in, this is certainly her opinion of him, though she also senses that there's more than meets the eye. They become good friends, and Courtney even agrees to accompany Max to his grandfather's funeral. This trip ends up becoming the catalyst for Courtney viewing Max in a whole new light and for their romance to take off as fast as Max's motorcycle can carry them.

I've already talked a little bit about Courtney. There were moments I certainly liked her, especially for the way she constantly stood up for Max and was willing to be his biggest champion. She's very fierce and doesn't care too much about what others think of her. One thing I found interesting is that she has conversations in her head with her dead ex-boyfriend. I thought this was handled very well, and I loved seeing her grow and ultimately let go. She's willing to sacrifice her comfort zone to love Max completely, and that definitely warmed my heart. I just wish I had found her narration as engaging as the first two books. There were quite a few moments when I was *bored* and wanting the story to move forward. I think, at the end of the day, I wouldn't be able to call her a 'best friend' like I could Nadia and Lauren, so it's impossible not to compare.

As for Max, he is every bit as sweet and sexy as Ann Aguirre's other two heroes in this trilogy. All three have this irresistible combination of being protective and slightly possessive but also vulnerable and sensitive. With his tattoos and motorcycle and overall unkempt appearance, Max may seem like a typical badass, but he has insecurities and an air of desperate longing that broke my heart. He has never been able to trust another person with his past and with his whole self, so seeing him open up to Courtney was so precious. I also like that their romance is slightly of the 'ugly duckling' variety, in that Max sees nothing but beauty in Courtney, even if not everyone else agrees. They start out as best friends, which you can see in their easy banter and playfulness, but over the course of the book they both fall in love. Max has no trouble expressing how much he has grown to need Courtney, and it's very, very sexy.

There is the requisite separation that occurs near the end of the book. I didn't find it as improbable as the one in *As Long As You Love Me*, but then again I thought the 'reunion' could have been sweeter. It left me slightly dissatisfied. Thankfully there's a heartwarming epilogue at the end that ties together all three books and leaves the reader feeling content. I don't think the 2B Trilogy is the angst-filled variety you usually find in NA, which is why I enjoyed it so much. If you're looking for something that will probably be less dizzying but still full of swoon, be sure to check this series out.

This review can also be found at [Love at First Page](#).

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## Glass says

Third and final book new adult series, 2B Trilogy by Ann Aguirre, was a pleasant enough read and I believe that fans of this kind of books will be satisfied with story about Max and Courtney. One thing I have to admit is that I expected much more from this story.

**Max.** I was looking forward to reading his story because he was such a strange guy in previous two books. Mix of two completely opposed images - he is emotional and vulnerable young man, cuddly and sweet, but only in front of his roommates. For everyone else, he turns into player and womanizer, friendly guy who

seems to get along with everyone. I knew that there would be a darker story about his past compared with other characters and that was completely fine by me. Unfortunately, it took turn into overly melodramatic and not so dark after all. More like "Cinderella and evil stepmother" or similar black and white reasoning.

**Courtney.** Probably one of the most original female characters - because of the fact that she is bisexual. I have never so far read new adult (or young adult) with bisexual character. So many wasted possibilities! Don't get me wrong, I did like her, but I felt as if that part of her portraying was thrown into the mix just to make her look more interesting. Whole part about Courtney liking girls and interacting with her ex was unbelievable. Story quickly turns into regular new adult boy/girl romance.

**Final judgement?** The Shape of My Heart is satisfying conclusion to the trilogy with few original ideas and even more typical new adult premises.

Review posted at Ja ?itam, a ti?

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### **Skye Kilaen says**

I loved so many things about this friends-to-lovers new adult romance between roommates Courtney, a purple-haired bi girl from a wealthy Jewish family, and Max, a formerly homeless mechanic working his way through college. The banter between these two is amazingly funny. Found family is one of my favorite tropes, and theirs is lovely and diverse. Courtney and Max fall for each other for all the right reasons, and their reactions to the obstacles that come up seem age-appropriate for college students without being immature. I adored the epilogue, too, which takes place years after the book. Totally satisfying HEA, which is what I read romance for!

The pacing? A little funky. I felt like I was reading a series of novellas about these characters that each had their own arc, rather than one book with its own long arc. The road trip that begins the change in Courtney and Max's relationship moves along SO fast and has so many punchy/seemingly-climactic emotional moments that I had a hard time getting home from the trip with these two and realizing that I had the rest of their book to read. But if you can work with that, the spark between these two and their dialogue is well worth it.

Diversity note: Max's mother was from Paraguay. Her death in his early childhood means he wasn't connected to her culture, and we aren't told whether he thinks of himself as Latino, but his background does affect his experience, at least with Courtney's family.

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### **Michelle says**

[image error]

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### **Kelly says**

Courtney and Max slayed me. We got to know Max some in the previous books and he's come across as a player. Seeing the other side of him--the side he doesn't show ANYONE until Courtney comes along--

knocked me dead. They guy's a total sweetheart. I just <3 him so hard.

Which isn't to say Courtney's not a sweetheart. She is. I like the girl. I like her a lot. The stuff she put up with from her parents hurt. Her stoic acceptance that she's not pretty kinda got to me. I admired her attitude and her willingness to be there for Max when he needed her. I liked the slow bloom of their romance and how Max wasn't ashamed IN THE LEAST to call her his.

\*flattery sigh\*

Yeah, that slow, best friends-to-something-more relationship thing worked for me.

We got to reconnect with former couples, meet some new folks along the way, and watch the entire group grow up. All in all, I'd say that's a solid way to end a series.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

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## AH says

*Initial Thoughts:* I'm enjoying this series - it kind of brings back memories of that life before children, money, and "real" jobs. I loved watching the main characters Courtney and Max fall in love - they were just so cute together.

### *The Review:*

New Adult done right. The characters are authentic; their angst and issues are realistic, AND there is a happily ever after.

In **The Shape of My Heart**, we meet Courtney Kaufman and Max Cooper, both of whom live with some sort of grief and guilt. Courtney suffers from the loss of her first boyfriend and first love Eli who died from leukemia at 17. Max also has his own demons: he feels responsible for a car accident which left his brother unable to walk.

I liked how the romance progressed in this book. No insta-love here. Max and Courtney are friends and roommates first. Max even encourages Courtney to date others and sets her up with a friend. It's kind of funny because Max's brother comments that they anticipate each others' needs, just like a couple. In any case, the romance is nicely done with just a few bumps in the way for a happily ever after.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I really cared about this couple and I wanted them to find happiness in each other. They deserved it.

*Thank you to NetGalley and Harlequin for a review copy of this book.*

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## ???s **Xamante de los spoilersX** says

[ Y morí cuando le dijó que también se enamoraría de ella incluso

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## Alyssa says

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*

The Shape of My Heart by Ann Aguirre

Book Three of the 2B trilogy

Publisher: Harlequin HQN

Publication Date: November 25, 2014

Rating: 4 stars

Source: eARC from NetGalley

\*\*\*Warning: this book contains mature subject matter, and is for the eyes of mature readers\*\*\*

Summary (from Goodreads):

Some people wait decades to meet their soul mate. Courtney Kaufman suspects she met hers in high school only to lose him at seventeen. Since then, Courtney's social life has been a series of meaningless encounters, though she's made a few close friends along the way. Especially her roommate Max Cooper, who oozes damaged bad-boy vibes from every pore.

Max knows about feeling lost and trying to move beyond the pain he's been on his own since he was sixteen. Now it's time to find out if he can ever go home again, and Courtney's the only one he trusts to go with him. But the trip to Providence could change everything because the more time he spends with Courtney, the harder it is to reconcile what he wants and what he thinks he deserves.

It started out so simple. One misfit helping another. Now Max will do anything to show Courtney that for every heart that's ever been broken, there's another that can make it complete.

What I Liked:

If anything has been confirmed in this book, it is that I really, really like Max. I liked him in the other books, but I really liked him, the true him, the him that we don't get to see until this book. He is easily my favorite part of this book!

Courtney has moved in as Lauren moved out. Now that Nadia is moving out, a new girl, Kia, is moving in with Courtney, to make the quad Angus, Max, Courtney, and Kia. Courtney and Max are close (as friends)... and they get even closer when Max asks Courtney to come home with him to his grandfather's funeral. Courtney doesn't quite realize how crazy and tragic Max's life and past were until she went to the funeral. Things change between them, for better or for worse, but it's not only Max that has a past that hurts...

Like I said, Max is the best part of this book. It would have been so cool to have had Max's perspective, instead of Courtney's - or maybe both. I'm not always a fan of dual perspectives, but it would have worked in this series. Max seems like a player and a flirtatious, totally not serious guy, but he's really none of those things. Well, he is, but it's a front. His past is pretty rocky. I really felt for the guy. With all that happened between him and his father, I think it was brave to go back for his grandfather's funeral, even if it was his grandfather.

Max is actually the sweetest guy. He bared it all for Courtney, left nothing up for interpretation, put it all on the line. It actually surprised me how honest and open and forthcoming he was - most guys that SEEM like him (the front, the surface) play the game and string the girl along, without telling her how he feels. But Max is very open and honest.

I didn't like Courtney initially in the series - she was okay, but I didn't really connect with her. I still don't really connect with her, but I at least like her. She has an interesting past as well - with the dead ex-boyfriend who seemed to be her soul mate, and parents like hers... well, I won't ruin Courtney's past for anyone. Aguirre took her sweet time revealing Courtney's past/home life to readers, which was definitely the right instinct.

In terms of the typical New Adult contemporary romance angst and cliches and tropes, there definitely were some in this book - Max's past was definitely trope-y and almost cliche, in terms of an NA novel, but not to the point where I was like, really?! And Courtney wasn't your typical female protagonist - she was a lot tougher and more adventurous than most. No blushing virgin or timid girl, paired with a sex god male protagonist.

I like the progression of the character development in both Courtney and Max. Obviously it's more clear when it comes to Courtney's development, since this book is written in her first person perspective. She really changes, as she lets go of her dead boyfriend and opens up to Max. Max, on the other hand, finally lets himself be happy with a girl he cares about, finally makes peace with his brother. Both Max and Courtney overcome a lot in this book.

The romance is really sweet. Well, sweet might not be the best way to describe the fiery chemistry between Courtney and Max, but the relationship itself and its progression is sweet. I loved seeing Max and Courtney go beyond friendship and make things work as a couple. They are the cutest!

The story is pretty engrossing - I was never disinterested, and wanted to know what Courtney would do next. There were some plot points that I originally thought were random and just randomly thrown in there, but as I kept reading, I saw how they fit in the story. The climax revolved around the two protagonists and their relationship, but it worked, especially with how it related to Courtney and her home life. The ending is great! Aguirre includes an epilogue of six years later, which is both awesome and bittersweet, since this is the last novel in the series. Love!

#### What I Did Not Like:

I'm so meh about Courtney, honestly. I mean, I like her more than I did previously in the series, and I like her and Max together, but her character is so questionable sometimes. I can't go into detail because that would totally ruin things for people, but like, why would she stoop to such a level, with her parents? If she thinks she's so independent? Maybe it's so hard for me to see because I'm a lot like Max, in which I work for everything I have. Anyway. Something about Courtney just doesn't sit well with me.

#### Would I Recommend It:

If you've enjoyed the first two books, definitely give this one a shot! I really liked I Want It That Way, and I thought As Long As You Love Me was pretty great, so I'm certainly glad that I kept reading. This is a good New Adult contemporary romance series - as far as NA contemporary romance goes. Says the girl that generally hates New Adult contemporary romance!

Rating:

4 stars. A series well-written, Aguirre! I can't say that I usually enjoy NA contemporary romance novels, but your series is definitely worth reading!

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### **Nina says**

SO MUCH LOVE. Bisexual, feminist, sex-positive, nerdy female MC without a "perfect" body and with the weirdest sense of humor ever? Yes, yes, a thousand times yes! So tired of the stereotypical pretty girl who doesn't know she's pretty until a guy tells her so, and Courtney was such a breath of fresh air in the world of YA romance. Ann Aguirre, please keep up this series!

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### **Jenn says**

This was probably my least favorite of the entire series. Max and Courtney were extremely interesting characters who filtered through the previous two books - especially Max who you could just tell had more going on than what was projected. But when stripped down, it just seemed like the author wasn't quite sure how to portray them so she just kept layering on drama and more drama.

First there's Courtney - an openly bi character who recently broke up with her girlfriend and is trying to figure life out. We learn here that she comes from money with her parents paying for her school and sending her allowance, so basically she has never worked a day in her life. But luckily, she wasn't a spoiled princess. She rebelled against the perfect mold her parents tried to put her in and is just going through the motions until she graduates.

Then there's Max - the labeled playboy. I always knew there was more to him just based on how he felt about Lauren and here we see the stripped down version of him. We learn more about his family life and how he's been on his own since he was 16. He's the exact opposite of Courtney background wise but the two click so well personality wise.

What I liked was watching these two try to navigate as their feelings went from best friends to more. And since the book is from Courtney's POV, it was nice to see Max open up. Also, his brother was adorable and I'm glad that we got to see as much of him as we did.

What I disliked was the constant drama. It was literally just one thing after another to where it became unbelievable that this many bad things would happen to two people in such a short amount of time. Another thing I didn't like was how sappy Max became. Once they revealed their feelings to each other, he was like the pathetic puppy who follows you around because it wants a home. (Side note: I love puppies so this is in no way a dis to puppies, but you know the saying, right?) It was all "I can't live without you" "You're my life now". Please be your own person again, Max.

Overall, it was cute but over dramatic. And we got to see how everyone's story plays out in the future, so that was a plus.

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## **Tanya (Girl Plus Books) says**

The Shape of My Heart was a truly satisfying end to the 2B Trilogy. I admit I was ambivalent when I first learned that the final book would focus on Max and Courtney. While Max had always been an interesting character, I had no feelings for/interest in Courtney. I should have known that Aguirre would change that quickly because she did the same for me in the second book.

Courtney and Max are roommates and friends who have also shared a couple make-out sessions when they've been drunk/lonely/curious. Courtney knows nothing will progress beyond friendship since she's not the typical beautiful-and-thin type that a hot guy like Max would go for. (Thankfully this "I'm not pretty enough" trope was not overdone, but it was getting close.)

Ultimately, Courtney has been my least favorite protagonist. While I felt a real connection with both Nadia and Lauren in the previous books, Courtney's consistent use of humor even during the most serious conversations became off-putting. Yes, maybe it was her attempt to protect herself emotionally, but it also made me feel she lacked the warmth that I got from from Nadia and Lauren. I did like the fact that she was aware of her privilege and did her best to downplay it - even as she benefited from it. Her steps toward independence were admirable, even though it seemed to go incredibly easy with little effort/struggle.

**"I love that about you," he said.**  
**"What?"**  
**"The way you treat me like I matter."**

I have to say, Max was definitely my favorite out of the two. I mean, what's not to fall for? He's funny, handsome, hardworking, and, when he finally allows someone to get close to him, incredibly sweet and romantic. Learning about his background was heartbreakingly sad. The struggle he'd endured to get to where he was made me want to applaud him and hug him at the same time. The guilt and pain he'd carried around, without unburdening himself on a single friend, broke my heart.

The Shape of My Heart really shone for me once Max and Courtney embarked on a relationship. Once feelings were finally acknowledged and admitted. Max and Courtney together just made my heart happy. Navigating a relationship was new to both of them and watching them learn as they went along was adorable. Max, especially, seemed to blossom in this new relationship and it really showed how lonely he had been for so long. He had so much love to give and now that he had an outlet for all this emotion, he showered it all on Courtney. Sweet gestures, tenderness... he really laid his heart bare.

The conflict/parting was inevitable but got to me anyway and even elicited tears. I'm a sucker for a happy ending so, even when I know it's only been postponed and is still bound to happen, I'm emotionally crushed

when a character I love is hurt and heartbroken. Knowing the love is still there but they're not together... my tender heart can't take it. Even when I know that HEA is just pages away.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the 2B Trilogy and, while the first book remains my favorite, The Shape of My Heart was a good read, topped off by a truly feel-good epilogue that is a perfect wrap-up with all previous characters.

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### **123sha says**

This book made it so hard not to fall in love with Max. Seriously. HOW CAN YOU NOT FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM??!?!?

/Although, to be honest, I just skipped the second book when I found out Lauren had a different story because I wanted her to end up with Max then./

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