



Secret

Brigid Kemmerer

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EARTH. FIRE. AIR. WATER.

Nick Merrick is stretched to breaking point. He's trying to keep his grades sky-high or he won't get in to college. He's trying to keep his brother's business afloat or the Merricks will be out on the street. He's trying to keep the secret of where he's going in the evenings from his twin brother Gabriel - or he fears he'll lose his family. And he's trying to keep his mind off the hot, self-assured dancer who is his 'girlfriend's' partner.

And then Quinn takes to hanging around his sworn enemy, and an Elemental Guide is counting the hours until he can try again to kill the Merrick brothers. Storms are brewing. On all sides.

SECRETS IN THE WIND. DANGER IN THE AIR.

Secret Details

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Author : Brigid Kemmerer

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From Reader Review Secret for online ebook

Lia Park says

The moment I decided to read the book I knew it was the right thing to do. 5 out of 5 stars without hesitation!

So Nick has a secret and he's afraid to tell his brothers or the world. It's not that he is ashamed but he is scared of how they will react. Will they throw him out of the house? Will they beat him up? Will they simply accept him? Will they continue to love him the same? In my opinion he should have told them but I understand why he didn't. Being the gay brother among 4 it's not the easiest thing in the world. I seriously love how this book tries to send us a message against bullying and abuse.

Quinn also has some issues with her crack addict brother and her drunk mother. They both abuse her and yet she loves them. She refuses to ask for help because she is afraid of being sent away and her lack of self-esteem makes things worse. She feels like she has to "pay" for help and that's not what friends do. Nick and Quinn try to keep each other's secrets but when these secrets become complicated and too many to handle their friendship is tested.

Nick's problems grow bigger when he meets Adam and when Quinn starts hanging out with his enemy, Tyler. But Tyler is not what he really seems to be and he helps Quinn. I actually got to like him even though I didn't forgive the things he did in the past but I let it go. Tyler also has a secret and it's a really messed up one; I was not expecting this.

I am not going to talk about the writing style anymore. I've said in past reviews how much I love it. I am only going to say how much I enjoyed the character development. I was introduced to an immature, broken family with trust issues and too much hate. Now I am here with the same family, stronger than ever. All four brothers know the actual meaning of love and trust but sometimes they tend to forget. They know they need each other in order to live because that's what family is for.

So this book and the series in general is all about family, friendship, love and survival. I fail to see a better combination that leads to greatness.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

[M/M (hide spoiler)]

Wendy Darling says

Kate and I chat about the awesomeness of Nick & Adam's relationship, the huge disappointment of the cover, and the beauty of pulling off non-annoying text conversations in our review discussion:

<http://www.themidnightgarden.net/2014...>

3.5 stars A few quibbles (mostly in the form of Quinn), but still a very fun book overall! SO looking forward to Michael's book.

Erica (Reading Kitten) says

This review was posted on my blog:

<http://thereadingkitten.blogspot.nl/2...>

Possible spoilers for the previous books in the series!

Thanks to Netgalley and Kensington Teen for providing me with an e-copy for review!

I feel like I've only been writing omg-I-loved-this-book-so-much reviews lately, but I've just been reading so many amazing books lately... Four five-star reviews in a row! I don't think that's ever happened before. But I'm not complaining. At all.

I did a little happy dance when I got *Secret* from Netgalley. I've been excited for this book to come out ever since I read Nick's novella *Breathless*. That's when I fell in love with Adam... and I'm even more in love with him now. Even thinking about this book makes me all giggly. Nick and Adam are just so adorable. Cutest couple ever.

Secret follows two main characters who each have their own point of view in the book. First we have Nick, the "nice one" of the two twin brothers. And then we have Quinn, Becca's best friend from *Storm*. If you've read *Breathless*, you know that Quinn caught Nick kissing Adam and that, since then, they have a fake relationship. She's helping Nick to keep up appearances of being straight while he tries to figure out what exactly he wants to do with his feelings for Adam. And it's pretty obvious what he wants - he just doesn't want to deal with his family knowing about it. He's afraid it will disappoint them.

Meanwhile, Quinn has to deal with a really bad home situation. Her mom is a drunk, her brother is doing drugs in her room and beating her up... She's afraid to even sleep in her own house because of it. Quinn's friends do know that her home situation isn't the best, but she's never told them how bad it really is. She thinks they wouldn't believe her or would think she's exaggerating. Then she meets a guy, who does seem to understand her - Tyler. I thought this was very unexpected, because we've kind of learned to hate him in the previous books. He and his friends have done all sorts of bad things to the guys and Becca, so he's not exactly the most likeable character in the series. However, in the way he's treating Quinn we get to see this other side of him that I really liked. It shows that not everything is as black and white as it sometimes seems. As Michael said wisely: "We see the dark side of Tyler because that's all he lets us see."

Secret was quite focused on the relationships between all the characters and their 'every-day' problems. The paranormal crazyness doesn't start until the last quarter-or-so of the book. I didn't mind, because I really enjoyed the more 'contemporary' feel that the book has in the beginning. But when the action really started, I absolutely loved that part as well. Of course the elemental stuff is never really gone, since Nick, an air elemental, is one of the main characters and as they say in the book: "Air is everywhere."

What I also loved in this book was the dialogue. It made me laugh out loud more than a few times and some scenes even made me tear up a little. And that's just what I like in books: for them to make me feel things and to really be invested in the characters and their story. (view spoiler)

Overall I would definitely recommend this book and the whole series, basically. These books are just so much fun to read and they're really well-written as well. Not everyone might be a fan of the gay romance thing in Secret, but well... I personally really enjoyed it and I'm really happy Brigid decided to write the story this way. Just give it a try and I'm sure you'll like it just as much as I did!

Faye, la Patata says

Want to see my full review? Check out my and Rashika's DISCUSSION POST of Secret here!

4 STARS. AFTER ALL THE RANTING I DID, I AM GIVING IT FOUR FUCKING STARS.

- * Nick and Adam were swoon. They made me giggle like a high school girl full of refined sugar.

- * I loved the suspense and action. They kept me at the edge of my seat. Why is Kemmerer so talented and I'm not?? T.T

- * I loved the drama, even though it drove me batshit insane sometimes. I didn't like Quinn, and I still don't like her, but her character development was better than the others. STILL - THE WORLD DOES NOT REVOLVE YOU HONEY AND IT TOOK ME A LONG ASS TIME TO EVEN LIKE YOU FOR A FRACTION.

- * I loved how diverse the personalities of the characters were.

- * And that ending... it makes me want to read the fifth book... NOW.

What I did not like?

- * I wish we were inside the antagonists' heads even longer. I mean all we had was one measly chapter at the beginning. The Guides' showing up near the end felt... anti-climactic.

- * Tyler. FUCKING TYLER. BOOK KEPT TRYING TO SHOVE TO MY FACE HOW HE'S ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY, THAT HE'S ONLY MISGUIDED AND ONLY DID WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF HIM. Book, you can kneel and kiss my feet but my opinion of that chickenshit won't change. He's a maniac, someone who willingly tried to kill other people, who beat up people younger than him, all because, what? No, don't tell me, because that's not important. HE HAS NO EXCUSE FOR THE THINGS HE DID AND JUST BECAUSE WE FIND OUT A LITTLE ABOUT HIM NOW DOESN'T MEAN ALL HIS ACTS WERE REDEEMED. Not in my eyes, anyway. If he's going to keep on reappearing in the next books, I will pretend he does not exist.

- * And Quinn... man, she emotionally exhausted me.

Nicole says

If you read Breathless, then you already know Nick's secret. If you haven't, then this review definitely contains some spoilers. You've been warned;)

Nick Merrick has a secret, a secret so big he lives in total fear that his brothers will find out what he is hiding. The stress is tying him in knots, while his potential boyfriend is making him come undone. It's a battle that unfurls into all out war, and it's a guessing game as to who will be left standing when the final page is turned.

I literally couldn't put this book down. The pace was terrific without feeling rushed, but also heightened enough during the fights that I couldn't read fast enough to find out what was going to happen.

Kemmerer deals with a sensitive issue in this fourth installment of The Elementals Series, and she handles it with sensitivity and dignity and in a way that the reader feels every emotion that Nick feels. Kemmerer portrays Nick's struggle so well and so realistically. I have read so many LGBT books where the character realizes he is gay and five pages later he is totally fine with it and is in a great relationship ten pages later. I hate those books. So unrealistic, but Nick's fear of coming out to his brothers is so real, so tangible. I could feel it in every page and every thought he had. And the tension doesn't stop when the secret comes out. I loved Michael's reaction and Chris??? OMG, if I knew how to insert GIFs, I'd have little bursting hearts all over this review. And when a reader feels an irrepressible urge to punch a fictional, nonexistent person in the face, you know that is some damn good writing. Kemmerer stays true to the characters her fans have come to know and love. Their strengths, weaknesses, triumphs, and failures are laid out for us to see from one chapter to the next.

But just because Nick's secret was revealed in Breathless, don't think that Secret doesn't have plenty of surprises and OH MY GOD moments. A complete jerk and an enemy of the Merricks becomes a well-rounded character who develops into someone the readers can relate to and sympathize with. One of the biggest surprises for me was Quinn. I confess I have never liked her. I thought she was an obnoxious, reactive drama queen and I hated that sweet Nick had started dating her. I have to admit, I am still not crazy about her, but after Secret I do have sympathy for her and the terrible abuse she has suffered from those who should love her the most.

Kemmerer once again takes characters that could be flat and forgettable and turns them into these amazing (fictional) people who tug our heartstrings and make our eyes leak, and she leaves plenty of questions for upcoming Elemental books (notice I used plural because I am hoping, praying, pleading that Michael's book is not the last in this fresh, original, excellent series).

Pre-order this book now and have the tissues handy! And if Nick's self-doubt and pain don't move you, go to a doctor and get your humanity checked. This is going to be on every Top 10 YA and paranormal must read list of 2014!

Melanie says

See more reviews at [YA Midnight Reads](#)

3.5 stars

Don't let my rating sway you. Secret, the fourth instalment to the Elemental series was another brilliant read; however there are a few quibbles here and there that I have discovered in hindsight. Perhaps I'm being too picky? But I can't seem to lower my expectations on a Kemmerer book no matter how hard I try—most likely because I know how fantastically well she can write—especially after Spirit—and as for Secret in my opinion, this book could've been so much better.

We've read about three of our Elemental boys so far: Chris, Gabriel and Hunter. We've all fallen in love with them and I know you all secretly (or not so secretly) want a Merrick guy or a Hunter Garrity. And now in Kemmerer's latest, we fall in love with Nick even more. (Because we all totally loved him *way* earlier on in

this series--even after finding out he's gay and no female can truly have him. He is still an endearing character nevertheless.) Unlike other books in the series, where the books follow one Elemental however still have the others as sub-main characters, *Secret* focuses solely on just Nick and his development as a character. We don't have much heart-racing action or badass-ery-ness. Sure, there still is some, but to a much muted point compared to Kemmerer's previous instalments. I guess this is where my first complaint kicked in. I went into *Secret* expecting what I expect from this series; a whole heap of action. (And romance—though I did get that.) But I didn't exactly get that. Maybe this is an “it's me not you” situation.

Regardless of the lack of action and plot movement, *Secret* was still a captivating read. Nick's character was no disappointment. I loved how Brigid Kemmerer handled Nick's struggle of opening up to himself and his feelings. That it was okay to be gay. His confusion and constant fear that he'd be mocked was realistic and I was rooting for him the whole time. He wants to tell his brothers—Gabriel in particular about him but he's afraid of what they'll think. Nick's always been the one that's there to help his brothers whenever they ask. Nick's the one that cares about school and his work. But with everything going on, he may not be able to keep it all together for much longer.

Other than Nick's POV, we also have Quinn's POV—Becca's best friend. I honestly wanted to like this chick. Her family has practically torn apart, her brother hates her and her mother is literally a crazy nut-case. She even threw a knife at Quinn once. The poor girl. All the people who were meant to love her didn't. And you know what? I. Don't. Care. This girl has got to be the most annoying character in the Elemental cast. She gets mad at Becca because she didn't tell her anything about who the Merricks and Hunter truly were even though it wasn't Becca's secret to tell. And when Quinn finds out that Becca nearly died and got raped? Quinn only got madder. NO. JUST. NO. Stuff you. Oh and she ends up finding her own love interest—Tyler. WHAAAAT. Even though Nick warned her and told her the things that he did, Quinn still goes to him. Like who in their right mind? Stupid and selfish.

Although *Secret* let me down in the plot and action (and one of the characters), Nick's storyline still made an intriguing read. Oh and did I mention the romance Nick has? **It. Is. AWESOME.**

~Thank you Allen and Unwin Australia for sending me this copy!~

David James says

I cried. Enough said.

But really, when it comes to a Brigid Kemmerer novel there are never enough words. Because regardless of the plot, Kemmerer finds ways to make you read emotion instead of words, feelings instead of chapters. And before you know it, you're lost in the epic world of the Merrick brothers.

I loved *Secret* because it is truthful, real, and powerful. Hopeful and brave. *Secret* is intensely romantic and beautifully told. It's a story so raw with emotion that the entire novel feels a lot like a dance, and, in truth, it is. *Secret* follows Nick and Quinn, and we see different sides of them throughout. As with all the Merrick books, however, the entire cast is part of this epic dance, and I loved the interactions between Nick and his brothers.

Secret is about the dance between relationships and family, friends and lovers, and the beauty that comes

from us all being a little bit different. It's a story that tells of the hardships that always result when we deal in assumptions. Mostly, *Secret* is a story about a boy and a girl trying to find their rhythm in a world that doesn't know them but wants to. A world of the Merrick brothers. Because when it comes to worlds and those little pieces of life that matter, *Secret* clues us in that family and friends are, in fact, our brave new worlds.

I needed this book to be written, and I promise you this: Brigid Kemmerer got *Secret* right.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Who's your Merrick?

I love how every person who reads the *Elementals* series has a favorite and a least favorite book or character, then a second favorite or second least favorite book or character. Hardly anyone will agree on the order of what goes from first to last. With most series, there's a general progression from okay to better or better to worse, and a good portion of the time, fans will wholeheartedly agree where a series "started to pick up" or "started to go downhill." But there's something special about this particular series and its entire set of characters and experiences which speaks differently to every person. My favorite character is Michael, but my favorite books are Gabriel's and Nick's (so far). Chris's book was awesome, and Hunter's book was decent, but not a favorite. One of you might have Hunter for a favorite character, or Chris's book as your favorite. But I think most of us fans can agree on one thing : *We love the Merricks*.

The rest of my review is going to be a little different from my normal reviews. I'm going to be writing it only for the people who have read the *Elementals* series. **If you have not read the series up to this point, you'll want to avoid the rest of this review** because I'm just wanting to talk about my feelings - with tissues handy. If you're curious about this series, you might want to check out my earlier reviews for the series prequel (0.5) and book 1 if you want to get a feel for what these books are all about.

I knew as I was reading that there was no way I'd be able to write a public review stating the pros and cons of why people should read this series. There was just no way to do this when my heart was getting pummeled.

So I want to talk with you fellow fans about why *Secret* is tied for my favorite book of the series. It was really all about the emotion for me.

"You're safe here," he said softly. "Okay?"

"Sometimes I wish you weren't...you know."

"I know."

Nick always did what his brothers expected.

"What do you want? Does anyone ever ask you that?"

Those lines has me emotional, but the following scene with Nick and his mom broke me down into a blubbering mess :

He'd leaned into her contact, and she'd said, "You're the only one who still lets me do that. My gentle boy."

I don't even know why the dam burst there. It just did - and it came from out of NOWHERE.

But then it kept going. Of course Michael had to come along and be wonderful. Was anyone else having the same emotion?

"He wouldn't fall asleep at night unless Mom put you in his crib."

FFS, Can it GET any more emotional?

"I'm not his best friend, Nick. You are."

Why yes, yes it can.

Nick kept going. And Adam never said stop.

Even though Nick was the star of the book, I was just as pleased with Quinn's story with Tyler. Tyler wasn't the "normal" romantic lead. He smelled like beer and cigarettes. In a weird way, I liked that. He's a young man being a young man with the same habits that a lot of young men have. Quinn's story never felt forced to me (as "I was abused" stories often do), and I was happy that she wasn't tossed aside in the wake of Nick moving on.

So that's it. I just wanted to talk to the other fans about why this particular book resonated with me. Even if this wasn't the specific Merrick book to shoot to the top of your favorites list, I'm sure you might understand why we all have our reasons to find a Merrick book (or two) to love, even if we don't all agree on which one should be at the top.

This book provided from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

4.5 stars

It's been a very long time since I finished a book in one sitting (a couple of hours, really) not daring to blink or look away lest I miss something important. Brigid Kemmerer hit it out of the ballpark once again. Secret is, I dare say, her best Elemental book so far. The sensitivity and subtlety she showed with Nick launched her from an author whose books I enjoy to someone I admire and deeply respect.

Unlike Hunter's book (and Gabriel's for that matter), Secret has very little action and a whole lot of contemplation. Nick is in such a difficult situation, forced to hide his true self from everyone, including his twin brother, convinced that they'd never accept and love him if they knew who he really was. Nick's

struggles were done so beautifully and realistically, his pain poured out of every page, his insecurities and fears a burden on the reader's shoulders. Nick's reluctance to open up was incredibly frustrating, since not knowing the outcome made his suffering so much worse. At times, even being rejected by everyone seemed better than pretending, but it was clear that Nick needed to reach his breaking point first... and reach it he did.

Also unlike the previous books, the other Merricks get very little attention. There was always one Merrick boy (or Hunter) at the center of each book, but in *Secret*, everything was about Nick and only Michael played a more significant part. I attribute this to the fact that Nick is such an overwhelmingly troubled character, but also a strong presence that simply takes over every scene, his mild manners notwithstanding.

In addition to Nick's story, we see everything that goes on in Quinn's house, especially now that her older brother is back in town. Against all odds, Quinn finds a love interest of her own, and in the most unlikely of places. It was hard for me to like Quinn, her prickly nature making it almost impossible, but I was fully aware of how complex she was and how her reactions always made sense. While I felt Nick's pain and even suffered along with him, it was through Quinn that I saw Kemmerer's superior understanding of human nature. Please allow me this small comparison – I always complain that something is missing from Katie McGarry's books. Her characters never seem real because their reactions are textbook perfect. Whatever she's missing, Kemmerer has it in spades. Her characters are nuanced, deeply flawed and, most importantly, entirely believable.

While reading *Breathless*, the prequel novella also told from Nick's perspective, isn't strictly necessary, I strongly recommend it for those who wish to fully enjoy Nick's (and Quinn's) story. It will give you a great idea of what to expect and show you a side of Nick you've never seen before.

Brigid says

Secret releases today! *cue flailing* Thank you all so much for the reviews, and the emails, and the tweets, and the messages. You all are so amazing. I'm so glad to be on this journey with you.

Secret is up on NetGalley, friends!

Here's the link: <https://www.netgalley.com/catalog/sho...>

If you've been approved on NetGalley before and you don't get an approval, please let me know (email to brigidmary@gmail.com is best) and I'll see what I can do. (Ultimately, it's up to my publisher, but I'll do my best.)

Jennifer Armentrout says

I heart this series. That is all.

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

5 Stars...The tumultuous romance! Brigid Kemmerer's stirring delivery! Loved it!

Nick Merrick is the brains to his identical twin Gabriel's brawn. He's a considerate Air Elemental. Gabriel's a rash Fire Elemental. The part of peacemaker has long been Nick's role in the targeted family. With the help of a friend, he hides a significant truth concerning his identity. How his family will react remains uncertain. Guides are hunting the Pure Elemental Merrick Family. The girl who learns Nick's secret has dangerous secrets of her own.

A young handsome dancer unleashes the closeted part of Nick that he's long suspected. Joy, fear, passion, and insecurity wind tightly inside. College means leaving his family behind. Hiding his boyfriend could mean losing something special. Coming out to his brothers may cost him his best friend, yet none of this may matter if the Elemental Guides finally succeed in killing the Merricks.

"You're tearing me apart!" – *Rebel Without a Cause*

Never have I met a young adult character who felt so real! It's obvious Ms. Kemmerer researched above and beyond the call of duty in preparing for a teen paranormal romance. Nick's "coming out" of the closet ran a gamut of emotions. (He's so torn!) **The tone was never too serious, containing cleverly amusing dialogue between Nick and Adam.** I was absolutely consumed by the **story's refreshingly honest and remarkably passionate telling.**

Oh, how safe and responsible Nick Merrick yearned! His emotions can be recognized by anyone who ever felt a charged attraction to someone. For the first time in his life he felt. Everything clicked into place for him and he was deeply afraid. His inner turmoil was heartfelt! The emotions in *Secret*, from passion to fear - hummed across my ereader's screen. The whole story buzzed with chemistry and turmoil. **This book was alive!**

Then there was Quinn! (She's the character who's also on the book cover.) Her character has been present since the first Elementals book. She's selfish, moody, and troubled. Quinn may be oft-putting to some fans but she's the emotional basket case, diva, or drama queen some readers may recall from high school. Basically, she's a mess...for a very good reason. Quinn's thorns maintain their presence throughout the story. They are expected under the circumstances and consistent with her experiences. Once her story was revealed it provided the 'aha' moment, explaining her self-destructive behaviors. With the help of an unexpected friendship (and what a surprising turn of events it turned out to be), Quinn may be on the right path to overcome her troubles. I do hope see more of Quinn and her potentially redeemable shady friend.

The Merricks and their relationships dominated the story, but the ongoing story arc between Pure Elementals and the Elemental Guides had a little bit of show time. Hopefully, there is more to come beyond Michael Merrick's upcoming book. **All I can say in conclusion to reading *Secret* is... I am awed, Ms. Kemmerer!**

ARC courtesy of K Teen (Kensington Books) via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Sam says

Update: Ah, well it seems like the name has changed to *Secret*. Since I've read *Breathless* and know a bit more about Nick and his preferences, the title fits. (SO MAKE SURE YOU READ THE NOVELLA!!)

AND THERE'S A BLURB <3 I love Nick so much. *_* Nick Merrick <3 <3 Be mine.

It has a name!

Siege: A similar operation by a police or other force to compel the surrender of an armed person.

Oh well. Whatever that means... It's gonna be goooooood.

Who doesn't love Nick? Come on, we all fell for him in *Storm* and fell a bit harder in *Spark*, didn't we? Admit it. Nick is a wonderful character! I can't wait to get inside his head.

2014 is simply too long to wait for Nick Merrick! *Sigh* At least Spirit is out in a few months!

Natasha says

4.25 Big Beautiful Homoerotic Stars!

Spoilers!

So I read this over the Christmas break and it was definitely the most enjoyable read I've had in a while. First off, I'd read and adored the entire Elemental series, so that's imperative.

Nick has always been my favorite. I like nice boys. Nick is a nice boy, and he's smart and considerate and thoughtful.

Now, when I read 'Breathless' and found out that Nick, my true love in this story, is gay, well, let me tell you... I celebrated.

M/M Romance is my one true love, so Brigid took the series in the exact perfect direction for me, and may I say, did not disappoint.

Now, I've read some M/M books by traditionally M/F authors and boy oh boy, some of them suck. Like, really suck. This book did not. It was well reserved, seemed like a true and believable M/M story without anything hokey or dumb, and truly made me love (most of) the characters.

Nick has a hard time coming to terms with his sexuality. He's grown up in a house of all men and a twin brother with the IQ of a broomstick constantly breathing down his neck. The only time I've liked Gabriel was in his book and when I secretly was imagining homoerotic things with Gabriel and Hunter... so naturally when Gabriel's homophobic, simple-minded prejudice rears its ugly head in Nick's book, I started to dislike him even more.

He doesn't have an easy time. He doesn't really have anyone to turn to because his brother's are all busy in their own lives and his best friend and twin, Gabriel, has his head stuck too far up his ass.

Adam is fantastic. I have a mini crush on Adam. Sweet, self-assured, dancer Adam. They're a perfect couple. And can I say that the scenes with the sexual between them were **HOT, HOT, HOT!** Like, seriously steamy for YA. It doesn't have to be full blown sex for me to enjoy it.

Here's why this story is 4.25 stars instead of 5 for me... because I enjoyed literally every part with our Elemental boys and Adam... Quinn. I used to like Quinn. Hell, in *Breathless* I liked her. I used to feel bad for her because Becca is kind of a bitch. But fuck, was she ever annoying in this book.

Trying to convince everyone that Quinn and Nick were a straight couple was painful. They did it in the dumbest ways possible.

Also her home life was something terrible. She had a druggie brother, a drunk mom, and still she kept living in this abusive situation. I know abuse is nothing to take lightly, but I felt like perhaps it was.

My biggest problem with this situation is that the only way Quinn can get out of this terrible home situation (or allows herself to) is because of Tyler. Tyler is the one she leans on, basically, and trusts, even against her best friends wishes. Oh but also Tyler was very rude to her and physically abusive in the beginning. I smell danger.

The reason this situation bothers me so much is that the lesson I'm reading is that if you (Quinn) have an abusive home life, you should wait for your *Knight in Shining Armor* to do something about it. She did not smarten up for herself and seek help, she needed Tyler to do it for her. I felt like perhaps this was the wrong message. I'd have preferred even if through his caring and support, she eventually realized she was worth more and confronted her mother/brother or went and told an authority figure on her own. I'd have been able to respect that lesson a bit more.

That being said, I thought everything else was perfect! I thought Nick's coming out to Michael was hilarious and awkward.

This was a FANTASTIC book! Definitely considered a success from an Elemental lover and avid M/M reader!

ARc courtesy of K Teen (Kensington Books) via Netgalley

Original Review:
(view spoiler)
