



## Wicked Beginnings

*L.A. Cotton*

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# **Wicked Beginnings**

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**Wicked Beginnings L.A. Cotton**

**The first book in a brand new YA/NA crossover series from L. a. cotton**

When seventeen-year-old Eloise Stone finds herself half way across the world, moving into her Uncle's pool house, she expects things to be ... awkward. She doesn't expect to come face-to-face with the boy from last summer. The boy that made her feel things she'd never felt before. But a year is a long time, and Lo isn't the same girl she was then. Besides, they're family now.

It's weird.

Maverick Prince acts as if he doesn't remember her, treating Lo like nothing more than an annoying younger sister, and not in a 'he cares' way, just in a 'he's an arsehole' way. One thing's for sure, he isn't just dangerous for her sanity—he's hazardous for her heart.

Lo thought moving to Wicked Bay was the worst of her problems, but as life begins to unravel around her, she's going to find out it's only the beginning...

## **Wicked Beginnings Details**

Date : Published October 2017

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Author : L.A. Cotton

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Romance, Young Adult, New Adult, High School

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## From Reader Review Wicked Beginnings for online ebook

### Anne Mercier says

This book! LA Cotton never ceases to amaze me with the captivating stories she writes! Wicked Beginnings was another one of those books, with the a\$\$hole, bad boy, hot and sexy hero, the off-the-charts undeniable attraction between Maverick and Eloise (Lo)... hot, hot, hot! Love to hate you or hate to love you, either way this story is compelling, enthralling, and will have you turning page after page as you're dying to see what happens next! While it *does* end on a sort-of cliffhanger, it gives you an ending that, all that nail biting you've been doing?... it's worth it. So worth it.

I loved it! I want book 2 now! But I'll wait, because I *know* it'll be worth it!

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### Becky Rendon says

Leave it to L.A. Cotton to have you needy and on edge. Full of angst, energy, and chemistry. This book needs a warning. Wicked Beginnings is all about the intrigue. It is full of eyebrow raising situations but not enough answers.

I need more. I need it now. I want to know all those deep dark secrets hiding behind those hooded eyes. I am twisted with the need to know everything.

It seems waiting is all I can do. But I will get more info if I have to shake these characters until they tell me everything. I mean it's only book one after all.

reviewed for Sweet Spot Sisterhood

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### Bel says

Brilliant new YA/NA series. I love the writing style of LA Cotton, her stories never disappoint and this was no exception. Eloise "Lo" Stone is forced to move half way across the world to live with her father's brother and his family after her family suffers a tragic set of circumstances and go in search of a fresh start.

The Stone-Prince clan is regarded as local royalty in the small town of Wicked Bay and her cousins are nothing short of being the most popular kids in school. Kyle and Summer Stone take an immediate liking to their cousin Lo, however their two step-siblings Macey and Maverick Prince are a different story. There are many secrets and lies being told and so much teen angst you could feel it radiating off the pages.

I absolutely loved this first instalment, it sets up this new series brilliantly leaving you with so many questions.. what is Maverick's deal? What secrets are being kept from Lo? She knows there is a lot more going on than meets the eye. I loved all the secondary characters and their intricate relationships they weaved with one another. Can't wait to see where this series goes from here. I was fortunate enough to receive an ARC and this is my honest review.

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## **Bilabi says**

Finished this in a day so I guess this book wasn't too bad.

While reading I felt like i read something similar before already ... "Paper Princess (The Royals)".

I'm starting to think I've just read way too many romances.

If I haven't read "Paper Princess" I'm pretty sure this book would have been rated slightly higher .. 4.5?

### **Storyline:**

There's a forbidden(?) step-cousin relationship, high school popularity drama and loads of alcohol. Throw all that together & you've got a slightly angsty romance novel.

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## **Nazanin says**

### **3.75 Stars**

Seven months ago, Eloise's (aka Lo) mum and brother died in an accident and she barely made it. Then Lo and her father went to America (from England) to make a good life for themselves. Lo wasn't happy about this change but she accepted it (just for her father) as a fresh start. So they went to her uncle's home, they were supposed to live with them for a month. But she didn't expect to come face to face with the mysterious guy from last summer! But that guy was changed just like Lo! He was angry and violent! And he treated Lo with cold shoulder! And that's not all! Then Lo found out about the real reason for coming to the state and she felt betrayed...

As much as I liked Lo, I disliked Maverick and Lo's father! I mean I could understand her father for what he did but I couldn't accept it! And I think in this case it was Lo's right to know about everything! I wanted Lo to hate her father, Urgh... I couldn't understand why Maverick pushed Lo away! He had a reason but it wasn't strong and I think it wasn't the main reason! I really liked to know why he was so angry! And what was his problem with his dad! I really liked to have his POV and know what's going on in his mind! I think I should read the second book to know more about him!

Told in Lo's POV, 1st person. It's the first installment in the "Wicked Bay" series and it ended with a mild cliffhanger. It's well-written. The main characters aside, I really really liked Kyle and would like to read his story! He was so fun! Overall, it was a good read and I hope you like it as well!

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## **FeeMac says**

Lo and Maverick another power couple to add to the literacy world. An absolute powerhouse of a read. Full of teenage angst and drama with that added addition of family secrets which made this story one that was very hard to put down.

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## **The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says**

Wicked Beginnings is perfect for fans of the Fallen Crest series by Tijan or The Royals series by Erin Watt! Lo lost her mom and her brother in an accident and now she has to move to America and live with her dad's brother and his blended family. No one seems happy to have her there. She had visited in the past and had a connection with Maverick, but they did not know who they were to each other.

The story is told entirely from Lo's POV. You get an understanding of her pain and loss. She is a teenager with deep grief over losing her mother and brother, a bit of survivor's guilt, frustration at moving to a foreign country, and then anger at her father for moving on. Lo was a very dynamic character that I felt really sympathetic towards. I wanted to throat punch her dad. Like, really hard!

Because you don't get any POV from Maverick, I am not sure I like him yet. They are in lust for sure, but I don't have any clue as to why he is such a jerk to her. Honestly, I don't really see the chemistry between Maverick and Lo. He is so hot and cold that I can't understand his behavior. I don't know what Lo sees in him and honestly just wanted her to move on! And there are so many questions! What is the deal with Alec Prince? What is going on with Rebecca and Gentry?

I think readers will draw a lot of comparisons to Paper Princess and The Royals. It didn't bother me, but I did find myself making parallels in the characters for sure!

POV: 1st

Tears: a few (Lo has had some crappy stuff happen!)

Trope: high school drama, step-family

Triggers: none

Series/Standalone: series

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Paper Princess by Erin Watt, Fallen Crest by Tijan, How to Date a Douchebag by Sara Ney...then you will probably like Wicked Beginnings!

Wicked Beginnings!

See full review on The Book Disciple

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### **Lorie says**

#### **4.5 STARS**

I pre-ordered book 2 before the I hit hit the 30% mark.... it was THAT good. I loved it, but now that I think about it I learned next to none of their secrets! January 3rd can't come fast enough. It's worse than waiting for Christmas!

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### **Lustful Literature says**

#### **\*\*KIM'S REVIEW\*\***

I am an LA Cotton fan so when I saw a new series coming out I said please, thank you and added it to my TBR! Of course she did not let me down with this bad boy.

Eloise ("Lo") lost her mother and brother in an accident and slowly fell into a downward spiral. Her father decided it was time for a fresh start so they moved from England to California. For the time being they would be living with her uncle and his family until their new house was ready. She wasn't exactly thrilled with the idea but she definitely wasn't expecting two of her step-cousins to be so wicked. Never mind the fact that that one of them just so happens to be the boy she met when she visited Cali last summer. However, the other two are nice to her and she manages to make friends quickly. One boy in particular tends to want more than a friend's status with her while another one completely gives her the creeps. Lo can also tell something is going on with her father as he's barely around and when she finally finds out why...sheesh...how much can one girl take in such a short period of time?!

Maverick ("Rick") is hot, dark and broody. Something has clearly made him that way but we don't know what it is...yet. When he sees Lo again he acts as if: a. He doesn't remember her or b. He doesn't want to. Yet at the same time it's clear as day he doesn't want her to be with anyone else either. And when these two are put in the same room you cannot deny the attraction between them. Now whether he wants to entertain that or not is something you will have to find out. You can also tell something is going on with him and Lo's uncle. Whenever they are near each other the tension is palpable. I know there will be more to this storyline and I can't wait to delve into it.

So what happens when you throw a new girl into school who has the attention of a few boys and particularly the most popular boy in the school? Said boy who pretty much every girl in school wants especially one in particular. Oh and did I mention secrets? Yes secrets...secrets between friends...secrets in the family. Again I ask you...so what happens?! DRAMA! YES FOLKS DRAMA! LOTS OF IT! SQUEE! Can you tell I'm a fiend for it? Gimme, gimme, gimme!!

I sat down the other night and read this book from front to back. No breaks. You won't want one either. But then there was an unfortunate truth. I was done! AND NOW I NEED MORE! I am so happy I was lucky enough to receive an ARC from this author however now I'm greedy and I want the next one ASAP! Like right now. STAT! Pronto. Arriba! PLEASE?!!

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### **Siobhan Davis says**

Wicked Beginnings is the first book I've read by L.A. Cotton, but it most definitely won't be the last. This book was an addictive read from the very first page and I devoured it in record time. It contains everything I love in a novel - a plucky heroine we can root for, hot, rich bad boys in abundance, swoon-worthy, angst-y romance, witty dialogue, and high-school drama in spades.

Maverick, oh Maverick (furiously fanning face in a feeble attempt to cool down) how my heart beats wildly for you! He is the quintessential misunderstood bad boy constantly denying his feelings, and we're left wondering why. The push-and pull nature of Lo and Maverick's relationship was delicious, and the sexual chemistry sizzled across the pages of my Kindle.

The side characters were great too, and I especially liked Kyle and the youngest sister. Character development was great, the pacing was consistent and it flowed smoothly, and the writing was superb. While we are still left with many questions at the end, I don't consider it a cliffhanger ending. That said, I'm dying for the next installment because I'm in bad need of another Maverick Prince fix.

Highly recommended if you are a fan of angst-y, dramatic YA/NA crossover romance.

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### **Bookgasms Book Blog says**

Holy crap what did I just read?! GAH did L.A. Cotton just move to the top of my kindle crack pile?? YES! YES SHE DID! Good Lord people - Wicked Beginnings was amazing!!! It was edgy and so tension filled. I absolutely loved Lo and Maverick. Their chemistry was HOT and the tension was palpable between them!! These kind of stories are my crack and I honestly could not get enough.

When Eloise "Lo" Stone moved to another country with her father to live with her American relatives, she never expected her life to be thrown into so much turmoil. Dealing with recent tragedy, only the memory of a boy she met a year ago keeps her warm. But when that long-lost boy turns out to be her broody and edgy step cousin - Maverick Prince - she realizes she never really knew him after all. Filled to the brim with so much drama, secrets and angst.. Wicked Beginnings rocked my world. I loved the intensity between Lo and Maverick and all of the extended characters. I never wanted this story to end!! Would I have wanted it to be a little bit more steamier? Of course! But as this novel surfs the YA/NA line, I could deal with it.

This novel was reminiscent of all the NA/High School/social elite stories we love from Tijan and Erin Watt, but also had its own unique flavor. I seriously can not wait for the next book! Bravo! 4.5 stars!

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### **Sharon Mariampillai says**

Thank you Sharon J for recommending this book to me. This was an amazing read. I read this book in one day, and could not put it down. I really loved every minute of it. Eloise aka Lo is an amazing character. She lost her mother and brother in an accident. So she and her father move from England to California to start fresh and living with her uncle. She is the new girl in school and she attracts the attention of the most popular

guy in school along with some other guys as well. It was amazing to read, especially with all of the secrets and drama that occurs in the book. Now, Maverick aka Rick is broody and hot. He met Lo last summer in Cali, and when he meets her again, he tries to act like he does not remember her. However, he does not want anyone else to have her. They have amazing chemistry. I wonder how the series will turn out for them. The ending was fantastic. I cannot wait to read the second book. Overall, an incredible read.

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### **Shannon Moore says**

4.5 stars!

#### **I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS!**

First, and most importantly, can I get book 2 now please? Like, right now?!

Okay, so this isn't a cliffhanger per se, just a very open ending. It's obvious that the story between this group of characters is only just beginning and there's more to come. I can't wait!

Plus I love all of the extra drama/angsty bits. Definitely different than the regular books I've been reading. And Lo, you go girl! She's kicking butt and taking names. I love how she doesn't put her issues aside and she's not afraid to ask the hard questions. A take no prisoners kind of attitude.

Some small things might have annoyed or confused me a little bit but I'm hoping that will all come to light as the story continues.

Cliff notes version:

Lo and her father move to California from England

They move in with her uncle, cousins and step cousins

Maverick and Macey are broody step cousins with undisclosed reasons for their issues.

Kyle and Summer are the cousins, both are awesome people.

Maverick and Lo had met before and didn't end on good terms

Tons of family drama from every angle

Friend drama

Mean girl drama

Football vs Basketball drama

Lots of good stuff

Click on amazon for your copy now! It's an addictive story.

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### **S.Shade says**

This book leaves you with so many unanswered questions. Maverick was such a mystery and I need to know all of his secrets. Book two can not come fast enough!

After a terrible accident Eloise "Lo" Stone and her father move across the country to start a new life in the States, moving in with family until they get on their own feet. What Lo did not expect was running into the dark haired boy who changed her life the summer before. And she certainly did not expect him to be living

with the family she now called her own. She comes to find that Maverick Prince is her brooding bad boy step cousin. Throw in family issues, a lot of unanswered questions from the meet up the summer before, a lot of high school drama, and a forbidden attraction to a certain bad boy, and Lo's life becomes a lot more complicated than it already is.

As hard as it was to put this book down I had a major issues with the story. I really did not understand the relationship Lo and Maverick had. Now I am all for the broody bad boy and I understand that they had one moment in time that changed their lives but in all reality Maverick was a complete a-hole and ignored her for most of the book. I just did not feel or see how they could connect when their was so little interaction. The friendships build were great between the other character though. Kyle, Lo's real cousin, was a favorite of mine and you actually got to see their relationship build throughout the story.

*I voluntarily read and reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.*

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### **Daisy Delfin says**

Wicked Beginnings is a book that I would compare with Erin Watt The Royals and Siobhan Davis Kennedy Boys books. I liked both series very much.

Lo is moved from her father from England to his homecountry USA. There she lives with her uncle, his two step children and two children and her aunt.

I can't reveal much about the content here, because then it's too easy to draw conclusions about the story. But whoever loved the stories of Erin Watt and/or Siobhan Davis should also try this book. It was my first book by LA Cotton, but I'll read more in the future. I am also looking forward to read the second book of this series.

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