



Foolish Hearts

Emma Mills

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A contemporary novel about a girl whose high school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* leads her to new friends—and maybe even new love.

The day of the last party of the summer, Claudia overhears a conversation she wasn't supposed to. Now on the wrong side of one of the meanest girls in school, Claudia doesn't know what to expect when the two are paired up to write a paper—let alone when they're both forced to try out for the school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

But mandatory participation has its upsides—namely, an unexpected friendship, a boy band obsession, and a guy with the best dimpled smile Claudia's ever seen. As Claudia's world starts to expand, she finds that maybe there are some things worth sticking her neck out for.

Foolish Hearts Details

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Author : Emma Mills

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From Reader Review Foolish Hearts for online ebook

Cece (ProblemsOfaBookNerd) says

This was so delightful. I sat down intending to read 50 pages and instead I read 270. I honestly cannot deal with how cute this book was gahhhh

Also, and I don't really intend to type up a full review of this, but I just have to say: thank GOD for this book about girls who are friends with each other and aren't competitive or jealous of their friends having friends. Thank god for these women being funny and loving and supportive. I love them. I love them all.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

Foolish Hearts follows Claudia, who, after accidentally witnessing the great breakup of Her School's Popular Sapphic Couple, is forced into a rivalry with the exceptionally closed-off and hurt Iris.

Okay, first of all, this book made me so deeply fucking happy. like, on a level of my soul I did not know existed I am happy. It was a weirdly emotionally cathartic read for me because it's a happy book, but it also doesn't shy away from the fact that these are all teenagers dealing with their own shit.

► There is a romance and it's freaking adorable, but the main developing arc of this book is a friendship – that between Iris and Claudia. **you wanted developed female friendships? you got developed female friendships.**

► **I love Iris,** so fucking much. Iris starts out the book as a really mean character, very closed off from other people and bad at pulling herself out of her shell, and then she develops into one of the most compelling and freaking amazing female characters of recent years.

► I love the cast of this book so much. I would give my life for Iris and Paige and Gideon and Claudia and Zoe and Alex and Noah and Del and even fucking Lena, and I just... don't know the last time I liked a full cast so much. Oh my god.

► And of course, this book is **freaking hilarious.** Like, some of the best humor I have ever seen. I don't know if this will be for everyone - humor is a super subjective thing, after all - but I found this book absolutely freaking hilarious in its entirety. Take a look at this shit:

"Kill Darth Vader, and marry Voldemort," Zoe finishes.

"What the hell?" Alex says. "That's the exact wrong answer."

I don't want to participate, but I can't stop myself: "Why would you want to marry Voldemort? Why would you not kill Voldemort?"

"I think-"

"No, literally, who chooses not to kill Voldemort?" Alex says.

"I think I could change the course of his whole life," Zoe says simply.

"You don't think you could change Darth Vader?" I say.

"Nah, girl, Padme tried."

"I feel like I would fuck Darth Vader, because he's got like powers and stuff, you know?"

Alex says. "How would the force factor in? How would we negotiate the suit and stuff? It's a guaranteed wild ride from start to finish."

[I was screaming at this. It's so in character for all of them and it's also something I would say and I adore it. nahgirlPadmetried.gif]

The reason I really liked this book is that I think this book is a super authentic portrayal of the fact that teenagers are people, each with their own passions and obsessions beyond just "hanging out with friends." Which seems like such a basic point, but trust me, in current contemporary YA, it's really not. The lead character being a gamer girl and bonding with a new friend over a boy band, without either of those things being belittled, is something I think I've literally never seen before. Also, the portrayal of being an unpopular person in high school is so... not-over-the-top. It's not like Claudia is all alone and it's all she ever thinks about and oh, woe is me; it's just that she isn't as close to any of her school friends and she wishes for more. Also, very accurate humor and dialogue; the phrase "my guy" was used properly within this book, and at one point a character calls another character "Straighty McHetero" and it's basically the funniest thing I have ever read. And then there's the entire portrayal of a high school drama department being accurate, and so much more. Basically, wow, finally someone gets what high school is actually like beyond the cliches.

in summary: it's **a super emotionally real, and also freaking hilarious book**. I adored this and I could not recommend more.

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Larry H says

I'm between 3.5 and 4 stars on this one.

Every so often, after I've read a number of thrillers, crime novels, or even emotionally draining books in a row, I seek out what I like to call a "literary palate-cleanser," essentially a book which appears to be a little bit lighter in tone and one which won't have me eyeing my neighbors and delivery men, expecting a crime to break out.

The "palate-cleanser" term isn't meant to be a disparaging one—sometimes I'm just looking for a book that's funny and/or sweet, that won't send my psyche or my suspicious nature into overdrive.

Emma Mills' new book, ***Foolish Hearts***, seemed to be exactly what I was looking for. And to be honest, when I saw the book was ranked #1 in Amazon's category of "Teen & Young Adult Theater Fiction," I thought, as a former theater kid, how can I miss? But this is so much more than a book about the theater—it's a book about friendship, family, telling yourself and others the truth, facing your fears, and realizing that people are so much more than they seem upon first (or even second or third) impression.

Claudia attends the exclusive Prospect-Landower School for Girls, mainly because her father is a teacher there. She's much more comfortable hanging out at home, playing video games with her best friend Zoe and her older brother, and living a life in which she doesn't have to interact too much with her much wealthier classmates, some of whom are obscenely rich, and some are private-island rich. Claudia isn't interested in stepping outside her comfort zone at all since her boyfriend broke up with her a few years back.

"In truth, we are rarely all on the same page. More often than not, they're all on one page, and I'm on a

completely different one. It can't be helped most of the time. Society itself puts us on different pages. They drive Range Rovers and have celebrity deejays at their sweet sixteens. I had to scrape and scrounge and toast subs, and remake the subs that I toasted badly, just to buy a car."

But in an effort to try and be more involved in school for her senior year, she attends a luncheon party thrown by one of her classmates, and almost instantly gets herself into trouble, as she winds up inadvertently overhearing the breakup of *the* couple in her class, Iris and Paige.

"Together, [Iris] and Paige hold the titles of class president three years running (Iris), most popular girl in our grade (Paige), and cutest couple in our school (collectively). Thought 'cutest' isn't quite right. I don't think anyone who knows her would use the word *cute* to describe anything relating to Iris Huang...she's also ruthless and unforgiving and, some would say, ill-mannered and incredibly unpleasant."

When Iris realizes Claudia has been eavesdropping on such a traumatic moment, she threatens to destroy Claudia if she tells anyone what she heard. And when an assigned pairing for an assignment goes completely awry, their "punishment" is to audition or be in the crew for the school play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Although Iris gets a small part and Claudia gets to work on the costume crew, the two are thrown together more times than either can count, and Claudia starts to wear Iris down, at least a little, until Claudia realizes that Iris is uncharacteristically obsessed with a boy band that she enjoys, too.

As the two try and build something resembling a friendship, Claudia also keeps getting thrown together with Gideon Prewitt, the goofy, handsome star of the play. Gideon keeps sending Claudia signals that he'd like to get to know her better, and everyone, except Claudia, seems to understand this. But the more she starts thinking about Gideon *that way*, the more her fears keep tripping her up, so she keeps finding reasons to keep their relationship as fun and platonic as possible, because she can't imagine Gideon would reciprocate her feelings, or if he did, would she be discarded just as quickly?

Foolish Hearts is sweet and funny, full of flawed characters who won't tell anyone how they really feel, but it utterly warmed my heart. While high school is so much more complicated than it was back in the dark ages when I attended, Mills still evoked an incredible feeling of nostalgia for me, a longing for simpler times, when the biggest anxieties were doing well on exams and wondering whether someone liked you back.

The plot isn't necessarily surprising, but it is tremendously enjoyable. I liked the way Iris and Paige's relationship wasn't a source of drama or controversy, it was presented in a matter-of-fact way, simply as another plot point.

Foolish Hearts definitely fit the bill for what I was looking for in a read, and I'll be sure to read some of Mills' other books. If you enjoy YA fiction that doesn't necessarily come with any heavy drama or messages, give this a try.

See all of my reviews at <http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com>....

????? ? says

First of all, who let me get so emotionally invested in this book that not only was I incapable of putting it down but I also wanted to flip back to its first chapter as soon as I had read the last line??

This book was like a face mask for my soul. And I think it could really use an extra page or two. Scratch that, maybe it's me, I just need more pages of:

- ? girls loving girls
- ? platonic displays of affection between boys
- ? siblings bonding over their shared love for video games
- ? just god-tier relationships in general
- ? boy bands and Shakespeare plays
- ? a game of fuck, marry, kill where Voldemort surprisingly doesn't get killed
- ? and a wholesome romance that made me painfully aware of the lack of cuddling I'm experiencing right now.

jessica says

i wish could take the all of the warm fluffy feels of this book and fashion them into a cosy jumper to comfort my soul for the rest of my days. emma mills has perfected the art of YA contemporary.

4 stars

Lily ?? says

I genuinely can't for the life of me remember the last time I so thoroughly enjoyed a YA contemporary – brb trying to assemble the pieces of my heart that got lost in this book.

[Blog](#) | [Bloglovin'](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [Twitter](#)

Misstdennis says

4.5/5 stars

"You need Google Maps to find your way out of my eyes, or at least a comparable navigation app"

Hello, hi, I'm coming to you from riding the longest a roller coaster ride of emotions of 2018.

Yes, we are like 4 days into the new year, but that's beside the point.

This book was so damn cute!

I read this book in *almost* one sitting, and I say *almost*, because for some unknown reason my boss thought my day job was more important than reading???

Yes, this is just another YA Contemporary **but** this was such a refreshing read!!

Not once did a read that eye rolling, cliche bullshit line *"He smelt like sandalwood as I moved closer to kiss him"*

Cringe!

This book had me laughing hard on one page, then the next I'm sitting in a pool of my own tears with snot

dripping from my nose.

Foolish Hearts is the YA Contemporary you need to pick up this year. The characters in the book tug so hard on your heart strings they'll stick with you for a while.

Claudia, Iris, Zoe, Alex, Noah & Gideon... My sweet little babies, I love you so much.

"If you could have any superpower, what would it be"

"Super spit" he said without hesitation"

I'm giving this adorable page turner a **4.5 star rating** because I'm not totally hooked on contemporary novels and this book(*in my opinion*) wasn't perfect, but that's okay!

But maybe, just maybe, this is the book that changes my view on this genre...

may ☺ says

Full review posted:

Emma Mills must have like a special sauce she consumes before writing a book bc the way shes able to craft these fluffy, emotional, heartwarming stories with important undertones is truly a work of art.

THERE'S SO MANY AMAZING ASPECTS TO THIS BOOK WHERE DO I START???

1. fantastic sibling rep:

His eyes light up upon seeing the cookies. "Did you make them?"

"My sister did. They're just the break-and-bake kind."

"Those are my favorite."

"No they're not," Victoria says.

"Hey, how about you head upstairs and start getting ready for bed?"

"It's seven o'clock."

"How about you head upstairs and just ... stay there?"

They look at each other for a long moment and seem to be having some kind of nonverbal sibling communication. Finally Victoria sighs and steps away from the door.

"I get half of those cookies."

2. A beautiful wholesome, strong bromance:

"Did you ever want a brother too?"

"I already have one, remember?" he says, nodding toward Noah.

3. Girl friendship:

She reaches out and pats my shoulder awkwardly.

I blink through the tears. "What are you doing? What is that?"

She pulls her hand away. “I don’t know, I’m bad at this. Do you want a bottle of water?”

“What? Why?”

“I don’t know! They keep them in the car! And you’re like … losing fluids. I said I was bad at this.”

I let out a weak laugh.

“Hey, look at that,” Iris says, and she almost looks proud. “Maybe I’m better than I thought.”

I wipe my eyes on the back of my arm. “Maybe.”

Nerd culture and epic family dynamics and friendships and accepting yourself and teenage drama if I try to quote them I’m going to end up quoting the ENTIRE book (im not even kidding, I was 0.4 seconds away from quoting chapters)

It’s cute, its funny, its fluffy, it’s got meaning and merit and it made me sob.

Idk how the heck but this book made me cry BUT I WAS CRYING OVER A GREEN BARRETTE things are getting bad wow

My heart just feels so FULL when I read these type of books aaahhhhhh

5 stars!!

Lola says

3.5 stars. This is a real page-turner, perfect for reluctant teens. Granted, it’s light and not the kind of read that will change the way you look at the world, but it will give you a few good laughs, warm your heart for sure and possibly encourage you to get closer to someone you care about.

Claudia didn’t mean to, but she overheard a breakup scene between Iris and Paige, who form the cutest couple in her school. Because she’s been discovered, Iris plans to ruin her life.

You’d think it’d be a cliched story with the mean girl bullying the sweet, innocent girl who wants to cause no trouble whatsoever. But it’s not. Oh, Iris very much hates Claudia, but since circumstances make it that they are forced to spend time together, Iris progressively starts to open up to Claudia, as a friend.

“Bad” girl turned “good” by another girl? I say yes. Though remember that this is not a romantic story between Iris and Claudia, since Claudia has her sights on somebody else – a boy. Iris still loves Paige, but the latter finds her too selfish. Can she change, stop being so spoiled, inconsiderate and egocentric?

It’s a fast-paced story that will keep your interest alive. I fell in love with Claudia and was incredibly entertained by the latter and Iris’ interactions, but couldn’t feel the same way about the play itself, which was a main focus in the story, hence the in-between rating. Even in real life, theater is something I could live without, though I’m sure this is not the case for everyone, so you might enjoy it considerably more!

Chelsea Humphrey says

While I did skim to the end, I'm still going to mark this as DNF since I didn't really consume the meat of the book. I think I've simply grown out of these stories; 16 year old Chelsea would have loved it though and I think it'll be a wonderful story for age appropriate readers.

Won via Goodreads Giveaway ???

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

December Owlcrate ♥ Close-ups and descriptions in the link below picture.

MORE PICS

OMG! Stick me with a fork, I'm done! I gave this book 5 freaking stars because it made me feel all fluffy inside and I need some fluff because I'm losing my stuffing! <-- And my mind!

I loved it so much! I thought I wouldn't like it. Lol, just goes to show what I know!

I love all of the characters! Claudia is such a wonderful person! She has a best friend Zoe that goes to another school than her <-- reasons. And Claudia's older brother Alex and Julia. Claudia, Alex and Zoe play an online game called Battle Quest. I want to join them but I don't do computer games because my computer hardly works as it is and I suck and that stuff.

Moving on. Claudia overhears a couple breaking up and she ends up getting caught. Duh duh duh.. and it's one of the mean girls, Iris. But things are not always as they seem and Iris and Claudia become great friends. Then there is the love interest, Gideon. He's a nut and it's slow going with them leading up to anything. Claudia is not in a good way with boys since her first boyfriend was a jerk hole.

There are a lot of other people in the book that I loved. I loved everything about this book. The games, the music interests, the school stuff, some drama, just everything a ya book like this should be without some dumbarse story line.

And whether you love it or not, I do and that's all that matters to me. =)

Happy Reading!

Mel ♥

MY BLOG: [Melissa Martin's Reading List](#)

AMAZON: REVIEW

amy says

foolish hearts deserves all the hype radio silence has been getting.

i know, right?

don't get me wrong, i liked radio silence a big deal and i'm not here to compare them in any way or pit them against each other, i just simply want you to acknowledge emma mills as the genius that she is!!!

foolish hearts gave me everything i want in a contemporary. and that comes from a fantasy type person. i do enjoy a contemp every once in a while, but usually they don't really do it for me.

so what makes this one so special and different?

honestly,,??y???Y????? i can't really tell you. maybe it's because it made me laugh out loud, which doesn't happen very often. maybe it's because it was so god damn easy to read with its deliciously short chapters and simple writing. maybe it's because it just **spoke to me personally**. i actually feel kinda attacked, to be quite honest. because this book was written about ME and i'm going to sue miss mills for ripping me off so blatantly and turning me into a fictional character called claude without even TELLING ME ABOUT IT. imagine the audacity

no but really, this book felt like a breath of fresh contemporary air. the romance wasn't forced at all, if anything it developed very naturally. i also love that friendship is still a main focus. enemies to lovers is the best trope, but enemies to FRIENDS?? bitch. *bitch*. i live for that shit. genius, i'm telling you.

there's also a w/w relationship in this. it's like emma mills asked herself how she could make this book even better and threw a lesbian as one of the main characters in there!! hell to the FUCK YEAH. iris is the literal embodiment of "gay panic" and i love her.

hey also, what the fuck was emma mills thinking when creating **gideon prewitt**?? she just created the perfect boy, and i'm kinda mad about it. how dare she just sprinkle some fairy dust and ? babbity babbity here's the most flawless version of a male specimen that you can think of?? literally PISS OFF i already have unrealistic expectations

in conclusion: all the characters (but especially gideon) make my heart go badump BADUMP and i would die for them all

the story is easy to follow, the characters are very likeable and the dialogue is actually realistic (emma mills really did a 5 year study to figure out how to capture the essence of Fangirling huh). i do wish it focused more on the theater plot and some of the scenes were less cringey but other than that i have zero complaints

foolish hearts is the equivalent of a soft warm hug from a person that you love. and i'm so glad i got to read this beautiful book! it's definitely worth checking out, if you ask me.

rating: ★★★★

emma says

THIS IS THE BEST EMMA MILLS BOOK.

How did I wait so long to read it??? How was it so good???? How can I pull the high school experience of the protagonist out of this book and live it for myself, despite it being fictional and me being 21?????

My ability to work out such questions is even more ineffective than usual, because I have DIED of CUTENESS. I have only recently been resurrected from DEATH ITSELF, because this book is so overwhelmingly ADORABLE it MURDERED me in COLD BLOOD.

Sporadic CAPS for EFFECT.

You can tell just from the number of shelves this is on that it's got the Me Endorsement. Let's do a list of them, for proof (and flair).

- 4-and-a-half stars:

That's a high-ass rating, boi! And honestly I might change it to five! Who knows, the world is an unpredictable and fantastical place and if I'm still thinking about this book in 3-5 business days then it'll be pretty much perfect! Update: Yeah I sure as hell changed it to five!

- auto-buy-authors

Emma Mills made it to this list because her contemporaries are mediocre-to-good and the covers are beaut as hell. GUESS WHAT. This is my least favorite of her covers but the word mediocre belongs nowhere near this book I'll tell you that much!

- best-contemporaries

Yeah. I said it. It's going on the most coveted shelf of all. (Just kidding favorites would be that, or at the very least favorites-2018, but please let's not be ridiculous and just be grateful for what we have.)

- couldnt-wait-to-read

Honestly this shelf and its brethren, cant-wait-to-read, are lies. There is not a book on Earth I can't wait to read, because this book came out a million years ago and has been on my TBR since pre-release and look how long it took me. BUT STILL. It conveys an excitement.

- funny

BOOKS ARE ALMOST NEVER FUNNY. Do people ever laugh at books?? I don't. Except this time!

Fooled you. This book is very hilarious.

- i-love-these-characters

This is...actually perhaps the highest praise I can offer any book. I Never love YA characters. They are always boring and interchangeable. Except, guess what, AGAIN NOT THIS TIME. This book: defying all expectations I set up for you in literally the previous sentence.

- recommend

Obviously.

THIS BOOK IS SO GOOD. The friendships are amazingly well-done. The family relationships (okay maybe not parents but definitely siblings) are fantastic. Gideon, the love interest, is the crown prince of my heart and my new favorite YA guy of all time, or at least this moment before I forget. Like, a boy with...charm? A personality? A sense of humor? In *my* YA? It's more likely than you think.

I would say “book boyfriend,” if I didn’t hate that term and find it unbearably cringey/cheesy/embarrassing.

But I do, so.

Also there’s a FF relationship between two supporting characters (one of whom is indicated to be bi) and it’s just the sh*t. It does seem like Emma Mills may keep on writing hetero-ass romances for all times, but I’ll be more okay with that if she keeps giving me this fantastic adorable LGBT+ rep along the way.

The relationship development and the character development and the friendship development...it’s all just. <3.

The fact that I am losing the ability to use words and am instead using vintage-style pre-emoji emoticons is not a good sign. Time to wrap it up. EVEN THOUGH I COULD GUSH ABOUT THIS BOOK FOR A THOUSAND MILLION YEARS.

Literally how did I write this whole review without realizing it’s an obvious five star.

Bottom line: YESYESYESYESYES YESSSSSSS!

pre-review

THIS IS THE BEST EMMA MILLS BOOK!!!

HOW DID I WAIT SO LONG TO READ IT!!!!

REVIEW TO COME, ONCE MY ENTHUSIASM LEVELS DIP JUST ENOUGH THAT I CAN TAP THAT CAPS LOCK KEY AGAIN AND STOP SCREAMING AT YOU ALL!!!!!!!

Heather says

Adorable read!!

Korrina (OwlCrate) says

Reread on January 23 2018: I loved it even more than the first time. I fell in love with all of the characters so much more. This has become one of my favourite contemporaries of all time.

Original review, posted on May 8 2017: Oh my gosh, this book was so fantastic! I feel so light and happy after reading it. It may just be the funniest book I've ever read...I honestly don't think I've ever laughed out loud so much while reading a book like I did this one. Bahhhhhh! SO GOOD.
