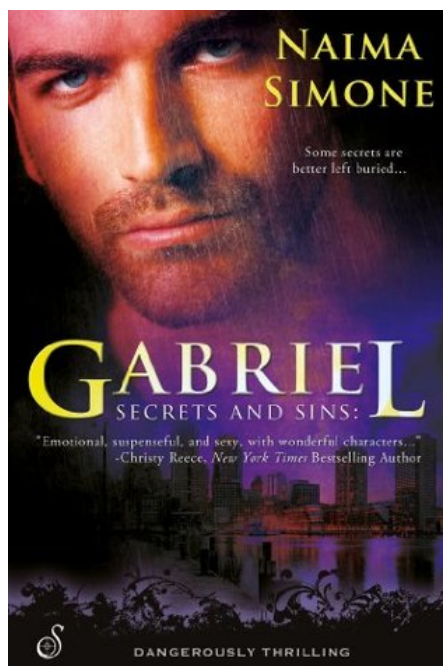




Gabriel

Naima Simone

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Twenty years ago, Leah Bannon's beloved Uncle Richard vanished without a trace. Leah, now a private investigator, begins to suspect it was murder. When she reopens the cold case, Gabriel Devlin—the man she loves but can never have—inexplicably stands in her way.

Only four people know the truth about Richard's mysterious disappearance—Gabriel and three childhood friends...who have all sworn to take that secret to the grave. But a hidden enemy wants those shocking secrets brought to light...even if he has to kill to make it happen. After experiencing an unimaginable loss two years ago, Gabriel refuses to put himself through the pain of loving someone who could be gone in an instant. But as he thwarts Leah's investigation at every turn—both to keep his friends' pact, and to keep her safe from danger—the sexy PI makes it impossible for him to protect his secrets. Or his heart...

Gabriel Details

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From Reader Review Gabriel for online ebook

Kame says

4 Stars

Gabriel had a perfect life, he was a successful author, had a loving marriage and a great son. Then it all crashed and tore to pieces, all he could do was sit in his car and watch as a tragic accident took his wife and son's lives. Now two years later he exists; staying in his writing cave in a new condo as he refuses to go back to the house he shared with his family, refusing to even let anyone take down the Christmas tree. He has people who care for him, his close friends and his best friend Leah. She frequently uses her "emergency" key to invade his condo to ensure he has eaten and to do his laundry. She does what any friend would do, anyone who has secretly loved their best friend since she was sixteen. Gabe is not only hiding from his life without his family, he is keeping a dark secret, a secret he has sworn to keep with the three friends he has known since birth and who he considers brothers; a secret they have kept for twenty years. Keeping that secret was all that mattered until Leah receives a letter in the mail.

Gabe is a very convincing grief stricken author. A lot of time was taken to describe his pain and how he was dealing with his grief. Leah is a private investigator, as she left the police force due to an injury in the line of duty. Her connection with Gabe and his friends is strong; she has dealt with a lot of loss in her life and takes care of Gabe to ensure she doesn't lose him. I found her character resilient and tender. I enjoyed how we saw glimpses of Gabe and Leah's friendship, along with the little internal dialogs they had in their heads about how much they cared for each other. Gabe's relationship with the other three men (Chay, Rafe, Mal) was strong and their bond was explained very well; each of these men were concisely introduced and I can definitely see the appeal of each having their own book in the series.

Until about two-thirds of the way through this book I would have classified it more of a suspense than romantic suspense. There were some romantic elements as Gabe and Leah loved each other from afar – and a few stolen HOT kisses (maybe sniper kisses is a better term, Leah has no idea they were coming) but there was no sizzle other than kissing – and I was fine with that – the suspense element kept me reading. Then an event caused Leah and Gabe to be honest with their attraction, they came together and did not share the true depth of their feelings in their hearts. Honestly to me the few intimate scenes in the book seemed out of place, I wanted to get back to the suspense part of the story.

I enjoyed this book; it was different from what I have been reading lately and was a great introduction to a series I will keep my eye out for. I received this book from the publisher through NetGalley for my honest review.

Philisha Stephens says

Addictive from beginning to end! From the start of this book, I was pulled in with my heart-strings at the devastation to Gabriel's emotions. So when the book took off and I saw him at his lowest point, I wanted to wrap my arms around him and help him any way I could. I was rooting for him the whole way desperately wanting his life to be a good one. As for Leah, her unrequited love is tough because she actually liked the wife.

Her life story was one that I found myself pulling for her as well. I liked both the main characters. The supporting cast was good and I hope there will be subsequent books for the other three friends.

All the struggles with the main characters were resolved at the end of the book, which is an automatic plus for the reader because I have closure on the couple. Gabriel's struggles throughout are consistent with his character and it's really heartwarming to watch (read) him overcome and persevere.

Really great story, strong plot, excellent writing with a good balance between show and tell. I loved the story and will be reading Naima's other books as a result. Also, I love the picture on the front cover.

This book was free from the publisher but in no way has that influenced my rating.

Linda says

Elena Rainier, an Alabama attorney, feared for her life and her wealthy and reknown attorney from old money beat her for the last time ans she slipped out and called two local newspapers to meet her at the hospital to see her injuries. Normally, he hit her where it didn't show but she was tired of his treatment and pleasure in her pain. The paper told the story and Alex gave her a quick divorce before he went to jail and she reappeared as Danielle Warren in Boston. She got a job in a diner, but missed having a career in law with encouragement from Pat her boss, she took her fake resume' to Malachim Jerrod's law practice.....

Malachim Jerrod was left with a crumbling law practice because he helped his friend cover up a twenty year old murder. They were just boys when Richard started to sexually abused his friend. now they all decided to come clean and his license was up in jeopardy. To make matters worse, he was living proof of his mom's affair and since birth he had to endure Christopher's verbal abuse and snide remarks. Just when he let his guard down and allowed Tara Lincoln into his life, unaware that she had agreed to tell Christopher of their clients which he stole away.....

Naima Simone pens a story that will make you pull for Elena/Danielle, weep at the damage caused to her and Malachim, the death, the kidnappings and the beatings but I was surprised at the ending and never saw it coming!

Monica says

Leah Bannon is an ex-cop turned PI investigating the unsolved murder of her beloved Uncle Richard Gabriel Devlin—the man she loves but can never have—inexplicably stands in her way.

Only four people know the truth about Richard's mysterious disappearance—Gabriel and three childhood friends, who happen to all know our heoine, but have sworn to take that secret to the grave. A hidden enemy draws deadly secrets to the light, even if he has to kill to make it happen.

Yass, this is so good. I heart words, prose, poetry, floetry and this book has all of that wrapped up in a good mystery with a not so typical heroine.

I love that sweet, exotically beautiful Leah is the hardened cop, so strong, yet feminine. I like that Gabriel is falling apart, needing Leah, yet too stubborn to admit that it is time to move forward and take that chance before its too late.

Wow, I enjoyed this book. Seriously- can't wait to read this again and again.

p.s. my views were in no way influenced by the author or the publisher. Cause you know I try to keep things real!

Bookdebour.blogspot!

Mei says

What a delightful surprise!

I'm soooo happy and honored that Entangled Publishing has given me this book to review! This was a new author for me and, oh, boy, did I enjoy this book!

I'd given it more than 5 stars if I could!!!

The story, the characters, the narrative, everything about this book was awesome!

I loved Leah's spirit, her strength, her level-headedness, her love for Gabriel, her honor... She wasn't a whinny female who was undecided. She was strong in her convictions, but flexible enough to change them when the situation required it! **Brilliant!!!**

Gabriel was a tortured soul. (view spoiler) During the whole book I could feel his struggle and it was legitimate. (view spoiler)

The whole book was so logical, so well done that you could sympathize with both of them, but also with all the other characters in it, even the most evil one!

The story was very interesting and fast paced with an unexpected twist at the end!

Ms. Simone, I applaud you for having written such a wonderful book!!! I cannot wait to read Malachim's story!

Tammy says

This book was an ARC in exchange for an honest review. This was my first Naima Simone book and it won't be my last. This novel had me on the edge of my seat from page one, the steamy tension between Leah and Gabriel is VERY hot and the mystery and suspense keep you up all night. Leah Bannon is a former cop, now PI and is investigating the 20 year old disappearance of a man she thought of as an uncle. Gabriel is a lost soul, losing his wife and son in a car crash two years ago has left him a broken man. Leah has been in

love with him since she was 15 and won't give up hope of saving Gabriel from himself. Gabriel and his three best friends try to protect Leah from finding out the hurtful truth about her so called uncle. Looking forward to the next book in the series!

Anne TRAQUAIR says

I have just got and read this book, and as usual Naima Simone has written another 'Hook You' classic. From start to finish (in one complete read) I could not put the book down. I had to know what happened in the end. It is extremely well written, the characters are addictive and so is the story. Cannot wait for the others in the series. WELL DONE AGAIN NAIMA XX

Book-Lover says

What makes this worthy of a 5-star rating? **The Writing!!!!** Seriously, there is only one other book that stands out as being exceptionally written, and that's When Ravens Fall. Each page just blew me away! Right from the get go, each situation, each character, each internal dialogue is so impressively written. Painting such characters, that I felt swallowed up every time I went back to reading this book.

I felt like I can't fully express my review of this book, cause it was that damn good!!

Secrets and Sins centers around 5 people who have been best friends since childhood, who while on the surface seems like they are working together, they are actually working against one of their friends to stop her (only female in the group) from uncovering a hideous, dark, tragic, heartbreaking secret.

Leah's "uncle" Richard, disappeared 20 years ago. It has always haunted her, because while he was the only one who gave a damn about her after her mother died, he simply vanished without a trace. A mysterious letter comes to her, unraveling this story and lighting the fire under Private Investigator Leah to find out the truth about what finally happen to her "uncle".

Gabriel! Oh Boy Gabriel! This guy just **BROKE.MY.HEART.!** Literally from chapter one, he had my heart breaking! On the eve of Christmas, two of the people he loves most, is completely ripped out of his life. For two year, he;s in a state of depression, abuse, despair and darkness, as if that isn't enough, he discovers that what happened wasn't an accident but intentional! Whoa!!
(that scene is rip-your-heart-out and ugly-cry read)

The story unfolds where Gabriel has to work along side Leah to steer her away from her discovery as to what really happened to Richard. To add to the mix, there is someone out to hurt everyone the group loves, and many turn up dead! At the same time, Gabriel's fighting this burning desire to bury himself so deep in Leah that he'd be lost for days. His conflict over his developing feelings for Leah which he keeps hidden from everyone is so beautifully written, I really really related to him!!

"Awareness skittered over his skin, excitement twinged deep in his gut. His groin clenched as the slow slumberous stir of arousal awakened and stretched like some great sleep beast. At the same time, the acrid

mudslide of shame and self-disgust coated his throat and stomach, transforming the arousal into something bitter, unwanted.....resented."

I had my suspicions about what the big secret was, but the way it was unfolded still shocked and disgusted me!! The story has a great climactic suspense build that explodes in the last 90% of the book, as well as we see Gabriel face some pretty heavy demons that he's lived with for the past two year since his world was ripped apart.

This author is phenomenal and I will read more of her books! Also, since it's *Secrets and Sins:Gabriel* I'm assuming that the other's will have their own story!!

ARC provided by Entangled Publishing LLC courtesy of NetGalley for an honest review.

Mae Dixon says

Secrets always have a way of coming out, even 20 years later. Gabe was a man hurting because of a devastating loss. He wanted to continue wallowing in self pity, knowing that this would not bring back his loved ones. Leah checks on him, the man she has loved for a long time. If only he could see that he could have a future with her if he would let her in. Leah is a PI and gets info about an uncle that disappeared years ago, and from that point on the story has so many secrets and lies that are uncovered and will leave you on a rollercoaster with all the dips and turns. You will enjoy Gabe, Leah and the best friends story. Loved the romance between them. As always happy to get an HEA for the couple. You have to know when to let go of the past and move forward. Awesome Naima!!

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

Secrets and Sins: Gabriel was a combination of all the things I love in a story, mystery, suspense and romance. The theme of this romance is one that usually breaks my heart a bit: unrequited love.

Leah has been in love with Gabriel since she was a teenager. She has it bad for him, and always has:

She doubted even the talk-show doctor with his decades of experience could cure her of this love. Over the years she'd witnessed Gabriel date, marry another woman, and start a family. She'd seen him bury his wife and his heart. And still, she loved him.

She's tried to move on with her life, more so when he was married, but after the accident she put all her plans on hold to help Gabriel get through his pain, whether he wanted the help or not. When an investigation of a beloved "uncle's" disappearance falls into her lap twenty-three years later, Gabriel is intent on helping her with the investigation.

Gabriel lost his wife and toddler son in a tragic accident two years ago. He still grieves and has gone through times where he just wanted to be buried in the casket with them. But lately his thoughts of Leah, his best friend, fill him with confusion and shame. He can't get lusty thoughts of her out of his mind. He knows he

can't act on them because he wouldn't be able to give her anymore than a fling or one night stand and then everything would be ruined between them. The investigation of Richard, Leah's stand in uncle has all his warning bells ringing. He and his childhood mates have secrets that bear on the investigation and he doesn't want Leah discovering what they are. When it becomes apparent Leah's life is on the line, the feelings he keeps shoving aside burst out and cannot be ignored. His urges to protect her are too strong to deny.

This story took me a bit to get into. The mystery didn't get exciting to me until about half way through. Once it did though, I was eagerly turning pages to find out who was behind all the danger now, and in the past. The romance took a long time to develop because Gabriel kept fighting his feelings. I have to say, Leah had way more patience than I would've. My heart went out to her pining away for Gabriel for so long. The way he treated her in the beginning ticked me off! I know he went through horrible loss, and maybe I should've had more compassion for him, but I guess I just kept putting myself in Leah's shoes, and I wanted to smack him! I wanted to give Leah a little shake, too!

The one good thing to come out of the danger and harm Leah experiences is it wakes up Gabriel's feelings for her. It was a relief for him to come out of the fog! I'm a sucker for an unrequited love that finally gets some response!

In spite of some of my issues I did enjoy this and read it basically in one sitting. The mystery, once it gets going was exciting and I kept trying to guess who could be responsible. It was nice for a change not to immediately know or suspect. This is an excellent story if you're looking for a bit of a thrill ride.

A copy was provided by Entangled in exchange for an honest review.

Darcell Phoenix says

I am a fan of Naima Simone's writing so I knew that when I picked up her latest 'Gabriel: Secrets and Sins' I would be in for a very enjoyable afternoon. From the opening paragraph to the end of the book I was glued to the page, soaking up every word. This was a complex story with many variables which kept the reader guessing as to who the culprit was behind all the chaos. It is a story of murder, suspense and unrequited love. The characters were very well developed and you as the reader felt invested in them.

Gabriel Devlin, a loving husband and father watched as his life was ripped apart when he watched helplessly as his wife and son were taken from him in an automobile accident. Crushed beyond all hope, Gabriel is left to put the pieces of his life back together, a life he's not sure he wants to put back.

Leah Bannon is his friend who can see the pain he's in so she does what she can to make sure he knows he is not alone. She loves him, has loved him for a while but she knows that she can never hope to have him because he is still in love with his deceased wife.

Along with this, there was the mystery of what happened to Leah's 'Uncle' Richard who had disappeared over twenty years ago and the letter she received asking her to reopen the investigation. The way the author connected each character to the mystery had this reader trying to guess who the real player was and coming up short when another twist was introduced into the story.

All in all, Gabriel is a must read, it will pull you into the story and leave you wanting more at the end. My hat is off to the author Naima Simone for delivering another enjoyable story.

Margreet Asselbergs says

3 1/2 STARS

When Leah lost her mother at the age of five, it was her uncle Richard who took her under his wing. Then six years later, he disappeared without a trace, leaving everything he owned behind.

Now twenty years later, Leah, a private investigator, receives a letter claiming Richard was murdered, and she sets out to find out for once and for all, what happened to Richard.

Gabe is having a hard time processing the loss of his family two years ago, but he is Leah's best friend and knew Richard as well, so she asks him for help. Gabe can't betray a pact he entered so long ago, and he can't handle the pain of guilt that being close to Leah causes, and he declines. But when Leah forges ahead with the investigation and an unexpected clue turns up at a crime scene, Gabe knows there is more going on than Leah understands and becomes worried that she might get hurt and joins forces with her.

When Leah's life is threatened and the secret that was kept for all these years becomes unraveled, Gabe knows one thing for sure. If he were to lose Leah as well, it would surely destroy him.....

This was a good book.

In the first few chapters it dragged a little, but then it picked up and snagged me right in. The plot is great and well fleshed out and the characters are nicely developed, although I never managed to feel personally engaged with them. There was definitely suspense and a few parts got a bit steamy. I found the book to be very descriptive, but beautifully written.

<http://ripeforreader.blogspot.ca/2013...>

Shronda says

Having read several other Naima Simone books I was totally excited to be taken away from my life. As I entered the world of Gabriel I found myself between wanting to root for him and wanting to shake him. At times I found myself loving the heroine but at the same time being like "girl please". I figure if I am talking to the characters the author did a good job.

Cannot wait for the other books in the series!! Loved Gabriel and would recommend for everyone that loves a good romance with a little suspense!!!

Didn't give any spoilers because I like to be surprised and don't want to ruin it for anyone else!!!

Marta Petrocelli says

As a fan of Naima Simone's novels, I thought I knew what to expect when reading Gabriel. Well, I was only half surprised. It didn't surprise me that I couldn't put it down and somehow managed to read it in one sitting. Nor did it surprise me that the characters were likeable and real, since they always are. What surprised me was the depth of emotion I felt when reading Gabriel and Leah's story. Their evolving relationship was not rushed - how could it be when there was so much pain? Their coming together was hot but sweet and loving

at the same time. They were two desperate souls trying to find their way and I really felt their pain, anguish, indecision. So well written and emotional. A love story that touches your whole heart. Thank you, Naima, for just getting better with every story.

Nanettez says

I received an advance copy, thank you!

This story is like A dark "Richard Castle" tv series meets a Filipina Dick Tracy. I liked it a lot... Although I pity both characters with their "heart wrenching guilt" to love each other, I sometimes am annoyed on some point that they dont just get it on! Yet I understand the complication of their situation and I loved it that I'm just sucked in with the two of them. As much as I am so in depth with the love story of Gabriel and Leah, the mystery that's surrounding them was great! It's a great romantic suspense story, not to forget a great bond of friendships among the "Angels"

A great summer read, I truly enjoyed it and can't wait for more books from Naima Scott.
