



On Dublin Street

Samantha Young

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Jocelyn Butler has been hiding from her past for years. But all her secrets are about to be laid bare...

Four years ago, Jocelyn left her tragic past behind in the States and started over in Scotland, burying her grief, ignoring her demons, and forging ahead without attachments. Her solitary life is working well—until she moves into a new apartment on Dublin Street where she meets a man who shakes her carefully guarded world to its core.

Braden Carmichael is used to getting what he wants, and he's determined to get Jocelyn into his bed. Knowing how skittish she is about entering a relationship, Braden proposes an arrangement that will satisfy their intense attraction without any strings attached.

But after an intrigued Jocelyn accepts, she realizes that Braden won't be satisfied with just mind-blowing passion. The stubborn Scotsman is intent on truly knowing her... down to the very soul.

On Dublin Street Details

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From Reader Review On Dublin Street for online ebook

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

My thought process in stages as I was reading this book :

Starts out strong...okay, this is interesting...nice, he's pretty smokin' in that alpha male kind of way...hell yeah, this is some hot sex...wow, I like how this story has different layers to it...**hold up, he did not just - SIGH**...and I think I'm going to start skimming now...okay, the end was sweet.

3.5 stars I'm sure people will be surprised that I even went as high as I did because there were a few things in this book that would normally set me off into the danger zone. I'm not sure why I was more forgiving with this book but even I can have my forgiving moments. That said, there was one random section where Braden flipped out of his "sexy alpha" mode and right into "scary alpha" mode that did make me uncomfortable. The crazy scene went by fast enough though, that I decided not to make a huge issue out of it.

Since we had to flip the crazy switch...would you be surprised if I mentioned that the always sure to make me flinch **"love is like a drug"** reference was present! It's as if I'm constantly playing this game of *Russian Roulette*, waiting for it to show up in my romance novels. *We've gone through a few rounds in the chamber, so it's about time for that bullet to make itself known!*

But wait, if there's a love/drug reference, it means that...YOU GUESSED IT - there must be a bunch of babe/baby/nickname usage happening! It's as if these two things go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other.

I'm going to start calling this phenomenon the "trifecta" of contemporaries. If one of the above things is present (crazy alpha behavior - love is a drug reference - nickname usage), then there's a chance that the other two things might show up.

With that aside, I can honestly say that I did enjoy this one. This was a hot and sexy little romance with enough of a story to balance out the two people dancing around their sexual tension. Normally, I don't like when a therapist is used as a character who will further the plot by allowing the character to bring up the past, but in the case of this story it worked.

Other than the one small blip of rage craziness, I liked Braden as an alpha male. While alpha males often work for a pnr or historical book, it's usually tricky to write alphas in contemporaries without them coming across as too controlling for the modern world. He was a balanced character because he had moments when he wasn't serious. I loved the way he would shake with laughter when Joss would get sarcastic and rude with him. Often, I saw Braden's behavior as endearing when he was trying to push Joss. There's probably no way for me to explain this correctly, so I'll just say that his brand of controlling was not too far over the line for me to where it was sending up red flags (again, that one crazy incident aside). I thought it was hot in that "get down to business" kind of way.

"Let me rephrase." He took a seething step toward me. "When it comes to you...I don't like to share."

The sex was verrah nice. And it happened enough to where I didn't feel cheated, even with all of the excess

characters and stories happening. I was more than okay with the sex-to-story ratio for a romance book.

"I want you in my bed. Gentleman are boring in bed."

"That's all it takes to make me hard," he told me softly, his lips brushing my ear. "You : saying my name."

One last thing : the use of the word **vajayjay** should never happen in a book. Ever.

~ Becs ~ says

I read a lot of contemporary romances, most of them really very good, but every now and then a book comes along that just WOWS you and you know that what you're reading is really very special. This is THAT book. I loved every second, stayed up way too late to finish it and then couldn't sleep because it consumed me with its emotional intensity and I couldn't get it out of my head.

Braden is an incredible hero – I loved him so much. There are book heroes that you like, some that you really love and then there are those mind-blowing, pantie-wetting, exploding ovaries kind of heroes that just make you melt. Braden is one of those! I fell hook, line and sinker for him – from the first moment that he crouched down in front of Jocelyn when she suffered a panic attack at a family dinner and just stared deep into her eyes, brow etched with concern and quietly asked 'Better?' without prying or pushing or judging all the way to the incredibly passionate sex scenes, I was his and he was mine!

Oh sure, he's not without fault – he's arrogant, possessive as hell, has severe caveman tendencies and is very bossy but all this just makes me love him more. He's definitely been inducted into my Harem of Fictional Boyfriends Hall of Fame.

Even the prologue stunned me. We have Jocelyn as a High School teenager in class, kicking back in her chair, not really concentrating on the lesson, thinking more about what boy she fancies –it's a moment frozen in time. Everything is about to change, nothing will ever be the same again –fate is about to intervene in the cruellest way possible. It's an incredibly atmospheric scene – Jocelyn's last moment of normality.

She's about to get the news that her family has been killed in a road accident. This loss, and another incident not long after, cause unimaginable pain that radiates out from her centre to tarnish and darken all aspects of her life for years to come. Pain is threaded through everything and Jocelyn never stops fearing tomorrow, the future and what it can take from her. She locks down her feelings, walls herself off emotionally and never allows anyone to get close – the pain of loving and losing being more than she could possibly cope with again.

Then she moves in with Ellie in her flat in Dublin Street and meets her older brother Braden and begins to get close to them which reignites the panic attacks she'd long considered buried in the past. Braden, sensing her reluctance to allow herself to 'feel' but knowing beyond doubt that they share a very strong attraction, proposes a sex-only no-strings affair with no commitment and no emotions and Jocelyn agrees. They embark on an incredibly passionate affair and the sex scenes are intensely steamy and delicious but there's an ambient sadness that pervades the whole story – true happiness and redemption from all her pain is so close but Jocelyn refuses to reach out and grasp it. Her fear of loss is still holding her back.

So, this is an incredible journey, so very hard to put down, as the words washed over me like smooth, velvety

chocolate. Every character is vividly and consistently drawn and they lived in glorious technicolor in my imagination as I lived every second with them. I smiled at them, laughed with them and most definitely cried what felt like oceans of tears with them – it's an all-consuming, deeply soulful and emotional story. I'd much rather see this book made into a film than Fifty Shades of Grey.

This book is special. You must read it.

5 wonderfully emotional stars

For more reviews, please visit Sinfully Sexy Book Blog

Thanks must go to Debb for the awesome rec!

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

“Gentlemen are gentlemen in bed. They make sure you’re having a good time.”

“I’ll make sure you’re having a good time, and that you’re okay with everything we’re doing. I just won’t be well-mannered about it.”

My brain is in shock by the pure awesomeness of this book and characters. I really wish I knew all the English words for something amazing, I'd put them here, really.

It had me hooked from the first page, in love with Braden some 20 pages after that, getting a few cold showers in the middle, and crying my eyes out at the end.

So here's to the author:

The story is about Jocelyn, a young woman who lost her parents and baby sister when she was 14, and who still has trust issues with everyone she knows. In fact, she doesn't let anyone get near enough to know her. So, while looking for a flat in Edinburgh, she meets a mysterious man (a freaking hot sex on legs oozing hotness kind of man) and they share a cab. Might I just say that this was the best cab drive EVER!

She meets Ellie, a girl looking for a roommate in a fabulous flat, and she decides to move in. What she doesn't know is that The Suit (the mysterious freaking hot sex on legs oozing hotness man) is Ellie's brother (those coincidences, just love them)

So she's in the difficult position of living with a great, funny and happy girl, and constantly being in the company of her brother, who is eating her up with his eyes every time they meet Their attraction is through the roof, and even though she tries to fight it, it's impossible considering Braden's got her in his sights and plans to have what he wants (YUM!!!)

Those two were just great f*cking characters!

Joss is very complicated, having lost her whole family when she was very young, she doesn't want to get close to anyone anymore in fear of getting hurt. But ever since she moved to the new flat, her walls just keep tumbling down. She and Ellie become fast friends, and Braden keeps pushing her with his flirting and their attraction. She does go to a psychiatrist (just loved those sessions!) and she slowly begins to heal.

Braden. Hmmm. The guy is total and utter hotness! Just brilliant. He went directly to my list of men that should be REAL and dating ME!! Gaah. Not enough review space to gush appropriately about him, so I'll just keep it short

From the first moment he sees Joss, he wants to be with her. He's kind of like a mind reader or something XD He knows what to say all the time, and he seems to read Joss pretty well. They have something between them, and even though Joss is ready to ignore it, he isn't. So after she tells him she doesn't do relationships and letting people close, he decides to take what he can get. He proposes a "friends with benefits" deal to her, and lucky for us readers, she accepts and they have some mind blowing sex but this whole book felt like a huge seduction on his part. Because even though he proposed the "just sex" arrangement, he breaks the rules all the time, getting under her skin, making it a relationship, and making her like the fact that it is so. The man is just brilliant and even after she tried to break up with him several times he wouldn't let her, knowing her issues and freak-outs XD Ahhhh. He's just freaking perfect

Ellie - did I mention how much I love her A roommate everyone would want I kinda sensed something about her from the beginning and was sad to know I was right

So, this book had my emotions all over the place The first chapter brought me to tears, and the last 20% of the book did the same That scene (view spoiler) I was crying right with her the whole time. And then later when Braden told her (view spoiler)... Yup, cried with her on that one too. So after all that I was misty-eyed until the very last scene which brought tears, AGAIN!!! But they were happy beautiful tears (yes, I cry beautifully :P)

One of my favorite quotes:

"They were boys, not men. And just so you know... they never got what you got last night from me. They never got it because they never gave me what you gave me. Not even close." I brushed my lips across his, and glanced up to meet his eyes, smirking at him. "There. That's a little more air you can blow into your ego." My grip tightened around his neck. "But it is the truth."

This book was an emotional journey, and it just left me mind-blown. One of the best books I've ever read, definitely one of my favorites. I was going into this book simply looking for some hotness. But I got more. So, so much more.

Just have to say one thing: Braden you make me...

Jill says

2.5 stars

IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME....REALLY!

Auntee says

This book has ruined me for others...I haven't been able to read anything since.

Until then...*Braden*...

Well, what can I say that hasn't already been said? There's over **1,500!!** reviews for this book, the author has just signed a 7-figure, 2 paperback book deal with a major publisher, sold 150,000 downloads of this self-published book in one month, *and* I'll bet movie rights might be next. So I doubt my little review will make much difference in its success...but I'll add my 2-cents anyway. **I loved this book!** In fact, I fear it's ruined me for all others (temporarily, of course) since I haven't picked up another book in over a week. That's how caught up I am (still) in this one!

The characters, the story, the setting, the plot, and OMG the *heat* in this one...everything worked for me. I was totally absorbed in it and did...not...want...it...to...end! The story is told in 1st person (not my favorite, but it worked) from the heroine's (Joss/Jocelyn Butler) POV (sure wished we could hear from the hero, though). Joss is snarky, rude at times, stubborn, and self-contained, with a tough outer shell trying desperately to hide a soft and sweet inside, and very, very vulnerable. It takes a while to appreciate her in this book, but keep an open mind because she's young (22) and has been through *a lot*. She had a major upheaval in her life at age 14, and she hasn't really dealt with it for 8 years. She's 22 now, fresh out of college in Edinburgh, Scotland (she's half American, half Scottish) working in a bar part time while she's trying to write a novel. The story starts with her moving into a beautifully renovated apartment (on Dublin Street) that she will be sharing with a friendly young blonde (Ellie Carmichael) who is working on her PhD. Ellie has a half-brother, Braden (a very successful, sexy real estate developer), who is very devoted to her (I loved their brother-sister relationship). Braden and Joss had shared a cab (where all kinds of sparks flew) once and when Joss finds out that the man she dubbed "the Suit" in her mind is *her flatmate's brother!*, **and** she will be seeing a lot of him in the future, well that just opens up a lot of problems for Joss. Joss is determined to keep herself closed off from people. She wants to be acquaintances rather than "friends", doesn't want to share *anything* about herself or her painful past, and lord knows she's not looking for a relationship. But Ellie and Braden have other ideas...

"Oh Joss, what am I going to do with you..."

I won't say any more about the plot, except to say there's something for everyone. I laughed, I cried, I sighed, I swooned... I loved the whole atmosphere surrounding the book, and all the little details the author provided.

She doesn't skimp on describing anything--whether it's Ellie's and Joss's apartment or the clothes they are wearing or the TV shows they are watching or the places they visit or their circle of friends--everything is told in such a way that you can easily visualize it. And the physical descriptions of the characters? Here's an example:

For Braden:

The Suit wasn't classically handsome, but there was a twinkle in his eye and curl to the corner of his sensual mouth that, together with the rest of the package, oozed sex appeal. Perhaps in his late twenties or early thirties, I could tell from the lines of the extremely well-tailored, expensive silver-grey suit that he wore, that the Suit worked out. He sat with the ease of a fit guy, his stomach iron flat under the waistcoat and white shirt. His pale blue eyes seemed bemused beneath their long lashes, and for the life of me I couldn't get over the fact that he had dark hair.

I preferred blondes. Always had.

Yet none of them had ever made my lower belly squeeze with lust at first sight of them. A strong masculine face stared into mine--sharp jaw-line, a cleft chin, wide cheekbones, and a roman nose. Dark stubble shadowed his cheeks, and his hair was kind of messy. Altogether, his rugged unkemptness seemed at odds with the stylish designer suit.

Braden...

Joss...

Braden with his sister Ellie...

Speaking of Braden...OMG what a romance hero! Quite honestly he makes the whole book. He's everything you want in a romance hero--sexy, successful, funny, devoted to his family, a little overprotective with those he loves, a little cocky (he does have a healthy ego), intense, generous, understanding, bold...and one sexy, persistent dirty-talkin' ("I don't know what I like better..." he mused, stroking his chin in teasing contemplation. "...the naked you, or you in that tank top. D's right?") fantastic lover (oh yowza, their first time!) He was just perfect for Jocelyn (as he insisted on calling her); I felt that he really understood her and was patient enough with her while she worked out all the stuff she was going through. Yes, at times I got frustrated with her and wondered why Braden didn't just give up on her (while hoping that he didn't!) but he hung in there, knowing when to push her and when to ease up, even though at times she made it very tough on him. But their HEA was soooo worth it...getting there was a real struggle sometimes but filled with many, many hot (and increasingly intimate) times which made it so much sweeter.

Braden and Joss kiss...

Now, anyone on the fence, let me try to convince you. If you like a fully developed story, with plenty of hot, sexy, steamy scenes that are crucial to the plot (and not just added in to titillate) then this is for you. If you like a complicated, vulnerable heroine who finally learns that it's okay to open up and let people inside, who's ready to put the past behind her and face the promising future that she could have, then this one's for you. If you like a good cry in your reads (no spoilers but you *will* tear up a time or two), then this is for you. If you like a well-thought out romance, where everything is not always perfect, then this is for you. And finally, if you like a to-die-for-hero, one that you wish could be **yours**, then by all means this is your book. I can honestly say that Braden Carmichael is one of my all-time-favorite romance heroes, and that this book, **On Dublin Street**, is one of the best books I've read in 2012. Highly recommended 5+ stars!

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

3 Emotionally Unavailable Stars

Lots of Spoilers

I was really looking forward to reading On Dublin Street. There were so many amazing reviews on this book. 5 stars here, there, and everywhere. so I just knew I was going to love this book. Then I read it and I wanted to choke the life out of the heroine Joss. Jocelyn Butler aka Joss just about ruined this book for me with her emotional constipation. Don't get me wrong she had a lot of bad things happen to her. Her parents, little sister and best friend died when she was a teen. So some emotional issues is totally understandable, but damn.

Joss came off in this book as a cold bitch. I get she was suppose to be emotionally damaged and have all kinds of walls up. But she ended up coming off with no personality traits. She was so standoffish that I as a reader didn't get to really know her either. Other than the fact that she hurt Braden and Ellie over and over again with her cowardly ways and coldness. She shut herself off from everyone. For 8 years she didn't deal with her loss or anything really. She just lived in a cowardly state of denial. I would have been fine with that. I would have understood and been sympathetic had that crap stopped when she fell in love with Braden. But nope she hurt him over and over. She pushed him away when he needed her the most. She did it so much that I lost all sympathy for her and just wanted to bitch slap her and tell her to get over it already.

Braden and Ellie I loved. Braden was sexy and I loved his single minded pursuit of Joss. He wanted her and he wasn't going to take no for an answer. I however didn't get what he seen in her at all. She must have had the magical pussy, because she treated him like shit for almost the whole book. Braden was caveman sexy and had a charm that jumped off the pages. So while I really liked the hero and his sister and I enjoyed parts of this book Joss really brought this read down for me. Although I will say that I didn't hate Joss she just drove me nuts.

Aestas Book Blog says

Almost 4 stars

"I know you love me, Jocelyn, because there's no fucking way I can be this much in love with you, and not have you feel the same way. It's not possible."

I feel pretty torn about how to rate this book. The guy was FUCKHOT!! I loved him. He reminded me a lot of Gideon Cross. But that being said, to me, the heroine's actions and denial of their feelings for each other brought the story down for me. I still did like the story, but her issues and reluctance to commit to the relationship just prevented me from connecting more strongly with the story...

When the ultimate tragedy strikes Joss's family, she needs a fresh start and moves to Scotland. Right near the beginning of the story, we meet the hero when he and Joss accidentally end up sharing a cab... and can I just say: deep, gravelly voice + Scottish accent *shivers*!! He comes off as a arrogant (in a lovable way) and unapologetically charming and just totally fuckhot and while Joss is very physically attracted to him, she refuses to allow herself to become emotionally interested in him.

After finding herself a gorgeous new apartment, she find that it comes with an even more gorgeous perk - her flat-mate's swoony brother: the taxi guy, Braden Carmichael. At first, there is just a long period of flirty banter but Joss resists quite a lot, until finally they come to a friends-with-benefits arrangement that Braden agrees to, but really is just using it to try and convince her to be in a relationship with him.

His grip on my chin tightened, quieting me. "I'll come over tomorrow night."

This was not happening. How could I let this happen? "Braden, I don't want anything to happen between us."

He raised an eyebrow, clearly unconvinced. "Tell that to your damp knickers, babe."

I narrowed my eyes on him. "You are such a dick."

The writing starts out quite strong and just totally immerses you into the world and sweeps you into the story. The thing about this story is that on the outside, its kind of flirty and sexy, but you can sense the multiple undercurrents of hurt in everyone's buried back stories. They are all coping with their own personal hell - especially Joss.

Although Joss and Braden meet right at the start of the story, their relationship is very slow building. And because of how strongly she resists him, he has his work cut out to woo her. But he does it quite subtly - as if he senses how something in her past is causing her pain, and knows not to push until she's ready.

Braden was just a totally gorgeous character - both inside and out. He was swoony, protective.. and did I mention fuckhot?! And you gotta love a man who is bossy in the bedroom but also loved to snuggle. In the relationship, he does make mistakes, but he apologizes for them and does his best to keep Joss from spiralling downward into her personal hell.

Joss was very independent, very emotionally closed off and so very deeply hurt and affected by the tragedy in her past that her efforts to shielf herself from ever reliving it leads her to many moments of stupidity on her part. Luckily, for most of those times, Braden is there to call her on it and keep her facing the reality of the increasing intensity of their growing relationship. When she slips, he does his best to bring her back.

At first, I very much got a Bared To You feel from this book, but having finished it, I'd say it veers off in quite a different direction.

I'd say that I loved the first 5% or so, then the next 30%, I was pretty sure I liked it - but I wasn't sure, and then BAM!! The hotness hit and I was in love with it for a while, but then it took a bit of a downward turn for me again as Joss' insecurities took over her life and caused her to make a bunch of decisions that I really didn't like.

Joss takes a long time to fight her demons and learn to be ok in a relationship. I loved that Braden would push her to the edge of my comfort zone, but never over it. BUT, I felt that she took WAY too long to finally give in to the relationship.

Overall, I adored the "fuckhot Scot" (teehee). And at first, I found Joss's "moments of stupid" more forgivable because at the same time as having her issues, she recognized that she had them and was seeing a therapist to try and work through them. But eventually, her inability to admit she had feelings for Braden despite her CLEARLY having them brought the story down for me and there wasn't enough time of the book

dedicated to her and Braden being in a functional relationship after she finally was through them.

If you are ok with reading through stupidity from the heroine, you'll probably love this book, but I think part of what annoyed me was I went into it expecting them to have fallen into a bit of a functional relationship for at least part of the book. And I kept wait and waiting and waiting. Then around 30%, I thought I got a wiff of one, then even more at 45%. But then it wasn't until the late 90%'s that she finally gave in. I guess I'd I had expected that from the start, I'd have liked the book more but that just wasn't the kind of book this was.

This being said, I think this is the kind of book that would make a really awesome movie (haha and not just cuz I want to hear the Fuckhot Scot's voice ;P)

Casting for Braden and Joss:

For more of my reviews, visit Aestas Book Blog

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Melissa says

Jesus C!

Braden Carmichael has got to be one of the hottest book boys I've read since Kellan Kyle AND Christian Grey. Yes. You read that correctly. Braden Carmichael had my "knickers" in a twist from the moment his sexy Scottish accent entered my life...

"Most women would be taking advantage of my imprisonment in the taxi with them-chew my ear off, shove their phone number in my face...as well as other things."

"Wow, you really think a lot of yourself."

He grinned back at me, his teeth white but imperfect and his crooked smile sent an unfamiliar shot of feeling across my chest. *"I'm just speaking from experience."*

Knickers. Twisted.

Jocelyn "Joss" Butler is trying to escape a tragic past. She is private, she doesn't get close to people, she doesn't speak about her family or friends, and is perfectly fine keeping it that way.

Joss needs to find a new place and as luck would have it, she answers an ad for a place on Dublin Street which brings her to Ellie. Ellie is fun, beautiful, kindhearted, eccentric and easy to get along with. I personally fell in love with Ellie upon meeting her.

"It's not about her strength. Maybe it's the way she looks or talks that fools people into thinking Ellie's fragile. I know different. Ellie can take the bad stuff and bounce back better than anyone I know."

As happenstance would have it, Ellie is Braden's younger sister. Of all the dumb luck. You think you run into a hottie and are done with it? Not for good old Joss.

Throughout the book, we are taken back and forth through Joss' inner turmoil of her past and how it has affected her. We also have a very perceptive Braden who seems to be able to read her very well and call her out on her bullshit. It is definitely not what she bargained for...

"But you...I think you've made an art form out of deflection and self-possession."

She wants simple, unattached, uncomplicated. Braden, oh Braden. He can work with that. He is as possessive as he is sexy and it is HOT.

He took a seething step toward me. *"When it comes to you...I don't like to share."*

Dirty talk? Absolutely.

"That's all it takes to make me hard," he told me softly, his lips brushing my ear. *"You: saying my name."*

Are you intrigued yet? You should be. It wasn't all dirty talk and possessiveness (although I would be okay with that too), as with any "relationship" you argue and you banter...

"Sex and holidays."

"Uh, what?"

"I'm making a list of things that make you agreeable." I scoffed, pushing my foot into his leg, *"And all you got is sex and vacations?"*

"The length of the list is not my fault."

Okay so I know it seems I went a little quote happy with this review, but you should see my Kindle. There were so many highlight worthy moments in this book.

On Dublin Street was a brilliant mix of passion, love, and trust. How does one deal with inner demons? Jocelyn was taken on a personal journey of how to overcome all of her insecurities and doubts with Braden being a big player in helping her do so. No matter the ups and downs, curve balls will always at some point be thrown your way...

But life wasn't a Hollywood movie. Shit happened. You fought, you screamed, and somehow you worked like hell to get out the other side still intact.

This book would get WAY more than 5 stars if I could, it is easily one of my favorite books!! EVER.

xrysa says

[lost her family in a car accident (hide spoiler)]

Lisa says

Samantha Young, you can write! I knew this already. It's really a simple fact. HOWEVER, YOU DEFINITELY WROTE THE HELL OUT OF THIS ADULT CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE!!!

Damn!

On Dublin Street is Samantha Young's first venture into the adult contemporary romance genre and it was superbly written, definitely a page turner that I could not put down. This amazingly poignant story had me invested right from the beginning. I laughed, I cried, my heart broke and then it was pieced right back together again!

"I want this. I want our arrangement. I want you..." I sucked in a breath, feeling my control slip. "...to fuck it out of me."

"Fuck what out, Jocelyn?"

Couldn't he see it? Was my mask really that good? I shrugged. "All the nothing."

"I might never stop fearing tomorrow... The future and what it can take from me, scares me."

Jocelyn Butler (a.k.a. Joss) is a twenty-two year old woman living in Scotland after moving there from the United States. She has been through copious amounts of loss and heartbreak in her life. After losing her family and then experiencing another tragedy with her best friend, Joss is very determined to keep people at an arm's length and basically has vowed to in no way again forge any lasting ties with people. If she stays away from loving people and stops them from getting close they have no power to hurt her and cause her to experience devastating loss once again. Essentially, the girl is a loner and she is in deep denial! She is living in this abysmally lonely world where she shoves her past deep inside her. I can't say that I always understood where Joss was coming from throughout the book, but I definitely sympathized and saw her as a young girl who had to learn to take care of herself and unfortunately experienced devastating hurt way too young.

Joss' life spirals out of control when her new roommate's, Ellie Carmichael, brother enters the picture. **Hello Braden Carmichael!**

"Our attraction was nuclear. I had never known anything like it. It made Braden Carmichael extremely dangerous to me."

Enter Mr. Sex on a Stick with a potty mouth.

"Asshole."

"Just for that, I expect you to wrap that dirty mouth of yours around my cock tonight." He narrowed his eyes on me.

Braden and Joss have an instant primal sexual attraction and I loved the sparring that occurred between the pair due to Braden's alpha-maleness and his persistence. Joss eventually agrees to entering into a "friends with benefits" relationship with Braden, one that she quickly discovers is being maneuvered and set out by Braden. Needless to say, both Joss and Braden end up developing deeper feelings for one another and the story intensifies from there.

Samantha Young does an amazing job giving us a story with many developed layers which are slowly unwrapped. I love how the hidden depths to both Joss and Braden are slowly revealed, making the storyline so much richer. Even though I did not understand Joss' decisions sometimes, I absolutely loved her. She is a young woman who is very aware that she is messed up and I admired the fact that she sought help when she could no longer deal with matters on her own. Joss is a strong character but Young definitely shows us her soft side and vulnerabilities throughout the book.

I also loved the fact that Young did not make out Braden to be this hero with no issues of his own. He has a past, one with hurt and loss as well. Despite this, or maybe because of it, he refuses to see Joss as broken and beyond repair. I loved his persistence and tenacity and his willingness to not give up on Joss, even when she was doing everything in her power to walk away from him. He was most definitely the perfect man for Joss. *Sigh!*

“I spent last night going over and over the last six months in my head and I know that you’re lying to me. I know you love me, Jocelyn, because there’s no fucking way I can be this much in love with you, and not have you feel the same way. It’s not possible.”

Samantha Young has written a very real and profound love story. All I can say is that I hope this is not the last adult contemporary romance book she writes. This wonderfully crafted book is a stupendous achievement and I truly believe that it should be enjoyed by all romance lovers.

Sometimes the clouds weren’t weightless. Sometimes their bellies got dark and full. It was life. It happened. It didn’t mean it wasn’t scary, or that I wasn’t still afraid, but now I knew that as long as I was standing under it with Braden beside me when those clouds broke, I’d be alright. We’d get rained on together. Knowing Braden he’d have a big ass umbrella to shelter us from the worst of it.

Kristen says

4 1/2 to 5 stars with a caveat

Oh my gosh, what an emotional, angsty, and enthralling read! I won't go into plot detail considering many reviews have already done a good job explaining what this book is about, but I will share my overall impressions.

On Dublin Street owned me from the first page to the last. It had my emotions all over the place—from tremendous frustration to pure elation. Most of my jumbled emotions were due to the heroine, Jocelyn, and her understandable yet exasperating behavior. My heart truly ached for all that had happened to her throughout her young and impressionable years. That said, her constant negative outlook on personal relationships, her fickleness, and her unwillingness to commit to the hero throughout the book drove me crazy! I found it difficult to like or even admire her character because of the way she treated those who cared so deeply for her. Like I said before, I understand why she felt the way she did; she had good reason. Still, I didn't enjoy her dismal and sometimes hurtful attitude. In fact, I found myself desperately wishing for more happy and positive interactions between her and the other characters to help counterbalanced all the angst.

On the other hand, Braden, the hero, completely swept me off my feet. At first, I wasn't sure what to make of his flirty, cocky, and beguiling character. His bluntness and arrogance was shocking at times. It didn't take him long, however, to completely win me over and have me rooting for his happily-ever-after. His devotion, compassion, and loyalty to the ones he loved—not to mention his overwhelming sexiness—earned him a place as one of my favorite heroes.

The secondary characters were delightful and gave this book, in my opinion, its heart and soul. Especially Jocelyn's roommate and Braden's sister, Ellie. She was such a fantastic and vibrant character. I adored everything about her charismatic and endearing character. If only everyone could be so fortunate to have a friend like her.

On Dublin Street is an emotional, angsty, passionate, sexy, and captivating read. The ending was perfect and made all the angst and heartache worthwhile. Although I struggled deeply with Jocelyn's attitude and behavior, I truly loved so much about this book. I highly recommended this story to anyone looking for a realistic, emotional, and memorable read that's overflowing with heart and soul.

Karla says

Letting my shelves and updates state my case for this one.

Although....if you want a short version:

Heroine: I haz problems.

Hero: *sexy eyes*

Heroine: *feminine core immediately melts & nipples pebble* But...I haz problems. No sexx0ring with this stud for me.

Hero: *constantly offers Cock of Healing™*

Endless Supporting Cast of "I-Don't-Give-A-Fuck!" Doom: We might just be names on paper with no personalities whatsoever, but we're adorably quirky with interesting personal lives! Everyone likes to talk about us! A lot!

Ellie: And I am the Best Innocent and Eccentric Roommate Evah out of Central Casting! I have "Readers ♥ her!" written all over me! I wear my cardigans inside out and wrinkle my nose at the icky sex stuff! What's NOT to love?

Heroine: Hello? Problems....I haz 'em.

Hero: I want to fuck you inside you. Cock fuck inside wet come.

Heroine: *creams self* CURSE MY PROBLEMS AND UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT!

Author: I guess I'd better wrap this up soon. I know! A medical emergency creates last minute conflict and quick resolution!

Readers: So.....beautiful.....

Bank Account: *ka-ching!*

Granted I don't read much erotic contemporary, but this one read so much like smutty fanfiction. Cardboard characterizations...totally contrived set-up...nothing happens...nothing happens...sex sex sex...drama

flail....pointless conversations....sex sex...drama flail....sex sex...biggest dwama of them all....boring epiphanies....sex sex....and BLAH.

"That's All" Ash says

Seriously: my cheeks hurt from smiling so much!

And there are dishes in my kitchen that are about, I kid you not, *ten feet high* because I just haven't been able to get to them in the last day. The same goes for my laundry. And there's a distinct *butt* print in my favorite chair, because that damn thing really is a little *too* comfy for its own good.

And you wanna know *what* caused this?

THIS DAMN BOOK!

That's what.

Gah, guys... it's SO FUGGIN' good!! Like, finger-lickin' good. :)

◆ *"No human relation gives possession in another – every two souls are absolutely different. In friendship or in love, the two side by side raise hands together to find what one cannot reach alone."* -- Khalil Gibran
◆

◆ Jocelyn ◆

At fourteen, Joss found out that her family had been killed in the only way that bent metal, burnt rubber, shattered windshields, and gritty asphalt *can* kill a family in a single fatal attempt.

A year later, she lost her best friend to a broken rope and a reckless river.

So, three years later after her best friend's death, Joss packs up her seemingly half-empty boxes... and moves to Scotland, her late mother's home country.

She finds herself on Dublin Street, hailing for a cab, on her way to meet a potential room-mate.

And once again, her life changes on a dime.

But in a very, very different way.

◆ Braden ◆

Why the hell did he have to be the human version of a sexually charged nuclear weapon?

On a rare sunny day in Scotland, on a very crowded Dublin Street...

Braden comes face to face with Jocelyn.

And he can't get her or her sad eyes out of his mind. Especially seeing as she's his sister's newest roommate.

And despite the newest, gold-digging model of a girlfriend on his arm;
Despite the fact that he's a business mogul with a thousand other things to do;
And despite the fact that Jocelyn seems to want completely *nothing* to do with him;

He wants her and her heart that's trapped between mile-high granite walls and her slow smiles. He wants to see her completely unraveled, relaxed after he's just fucked the God out of her, and he wants her to be
♦ his ♦.

So he makes an arrangement:

"You and me. Just sex. Whenever we want. No strings attached."

Notwithstanding the fact that Jocelyn would rather just ignore her attraction to Braden... she gives into him and his "arrangement". She'll give him her body for three months, but nothing more. Because she knows just too well what happens when you get attached to people.

They disappear.

But for three months, per agreement, she'll put herself completely at Braden's mercy.

"Do you want me to fuck you?" he growled in my ear.

"Fuck," Braden responded, the burr of the word vibrating against my lips.

"Harder," I gasped. His lips skimmed my ear. "Ask for it, Jocelyn."

And then the unpredictable happens.

During the three months, Jocelyn finds herself falling for Braden. It happens without her knowing.

It happens during those lightning smiles, between the merciless laughing and teasing, behind the first time he holds her hand.

Jocelyn finds that Braden is taking down all her walls faster than she can rebuild them. And he's finding out her secrets and holding them as he would his own.

But every time she tries to push him away,

"Let me go," I whimpered, my lips swollen and sore.

"No," he breathed harshly.

"I can't do this with you."

"Why?"

"I just can't"

"Then I don't accept that."

Every time Jocelyn runs, Braden will catch her.

And he'll do it again. And again. Until he wears her down.

Until she doesn't want to run anymore.

Until she falls in love with him.

Because she will.

Christy says

5 stars!?

On Dublin Street is one of my favorite books. I've been meaning to re-read it for the longest time, so when a friend told me how incredible the audio version was, I made time to squeeze it in straight away. I'm so glad I did. This is one of those books that was even better the second time around.

Braden Carmichael is one of the very first book boyfriends I ever claimed as my own. In my original short review, I referred to him as my 'new literary love'. He is just so damn perfect! I could go on and on about how much I love him. He's smooth, sexy, funny, alpha, and sweet.

Joss is a heroine I completely adore. I know a lot of people have issues with her, but not me. She is perfectly imperfect. She is flawed in the best way. Her entire life changed when she was younger and she is the person she is because of those changes. She does the best she can and the growth she has is inspiring. She is also so funny. All through the book, her snarky and fun attitude just makes me smile and laugh. I love seeing her open up to not only Braden, but Elle as well.

Samantha Young is a fantastic storyteller. I find myself getting lost in the world of her characters. This book is wonderful. One of my favorite contemporary romances. Joss's journey and progression was great to see. And did I mention how steamy it is? Braden and Joss together.. gah! SO hot.

If you haven't read this book, I have to insist you pick it up right away. And if you like audio books, I can't recommend this one enough. It was fantastic. Meet Braden Carmichael, fall in love with him, and thank me later ;)

Rachel (BAVR) says

Some spoilers ahead!

Oh, good grief. Before I even get started, let's just establish a couple of facts about this review:

- 1) I know my opinion is not the popular one (at the moment).
- 2) I do not feel guilty about Fact #1.
- 3) Therefore, I am going to be brutally honest.

If I could go back in time one week and erase the crazed idea I got to read *On Dublin Street*, I would. Even though I'm an avid romance reader, I have incredibly shitty luck with contemporaries, mainly because I expect modern characters to be more enlightened than they ever turn out to be. But here was this new, shiny thing with all kinds of 5-star reviews and a generous amount of buzz. "It can't be that bad," I thought.

Then I read it.

This doesn't end well.

While I know *On Dublin Street* is right up some readers' alleys, almost everything about it is my own personal Kryptonite. The only thing I liked about it was the ending because that meant I was finally *done* with it. So, with no further ado, let's get to the *meat* of this rotting carcass.

Things Rachel Didn't Like About *On Dublin Street*

The Quality

Apparently, this thing had two editors. I couldn't tell. A constant stream of errors kept me detached from the story about 90% of the time. Punctuation is misused (or not used at all), words and phrases are repeated with wild abandon, dialogue tags are left beaten and bloody behind crumbling storage sheds, sentences are mangled, and needless descriptions and characters are rolled out of a clown car even though they bring *nothing* to the story. The narration tested my patience time and time again with its repetitiveness. Joss can't just say "shit" or "fuck" when she feels like using a curse word (which is often). She'll take off on some *Fuckity, shit, shittity, fuckity, fuck, shit* exclamation that makes it look like the prose is suffering from Tourette's. In addition, she uses the annoying curse "Jesus C" all the freaking time. It's Jesus CHRIST, Joss. You can't throw around all those fucks and shits like a politician throwing out candy to little kids at a parade and then act all coy when it comes to Jesus. We all know it's Jesus Christ. "Jesus C" would have been fine if used once (or never), but it wore out its welcome VERY FAST. The whole story needed to be compacted and fine-tuned. Alas, it wasn't and ends up reading like a first draft fan fiction instead.

If you're thinking, "Rachel, it can't be that bad," allow me to present to you the following:

Example 1: As I had been for the last few weeks I was working Saturday's now at Club 39.

Example 2: "Wait," My look castigated, "You didn't pick up every time Adam called?"

Example 3: He seriously hated clubbing which had brought me to ask him the question 'why he owned a nightclub?'

Example 4: He should you have been a therapist.

These are just a few that really made my head splinter. You can find more on just about every page of the book, or you can check out my epic collection of status updates. Near the end, I felt like everyone just stopped trying. "You're" was used instead of "your" multiple times. Run-on sentences ran crazy. The plot just kept going and going for no reason other than to drag out the page count.

Call me a nit-picky bastard. I'm not ashamed. If a book goes out on the market for people to buy and spend their time reading, then it should be properly edited. Isn't it enough that we have to put up with wonky plots and asshole characters? Can't grammar and proper syntax rise above all that? I refuse to give more than one star to a book that uses "My look castigated" as a fucking dialogue tag, or that uses "Saturday's" as the plural for Saturday, or that neglects the use of commas like they're just "special gifts" we give out *every once in a while*.

Joss is a Cow

This narrator has the special honor of reading like both The Most Horrible Person in the World and a generic Mary Sue. Joss comes fresh out of the Tragedy Factory with a dead family, a dead best friend, and a shit-ton of "I've got issues" baggage. In order to facilitate Joss' fucked up persona, Young just has her do everything in the most irrational manner possible. She has all kinds of nice friends but insists that she **can't** let anyone in. She has a hefty inheritance that she "never" uses (which is a fucking lie) and acts like some great martyr because she works in a pub and wants to write for a living. She acts like a total hypocrite with her friends and even makes the problems of her roommate, which are actually serious, ALL ABOUT HER. Joss is such a bullshitter that she'll tell you one thing in the first-person narrative and then completely contradict it in her totally unnecessary inner monologue. That brings me to another complaint: Why the hell do I keep reading first-person narrative stories with frequent inner monologues? They do the same goddamn thing!

Joss makes a good decision when she starts going to therapy, but the therapy sessions annoyed me because it read like Young pulled every aspect of it from what she's seen on TV. If that damn therapist cocked her head like a bird one more time, I was going to scream.

I'll give Joss credit for being a caustic bitch to Braden a majority of the time, though. Sure, her "I don't deserve LOOOOOVVVEE!" reasoning is irrational, but Braden seriously deserves every ounce of difficulty she throws at him.

Braden Carmichael: Alpha-Douche-Bitch

This guy. He's a real piece of work. I hate this New Alpha character we've been seeing in books ever since Edward Cullen made stalking "sexy" again in Twilight. Perhaps my fantasies don't line up with popular opinion these days, but I don't find these guys attractive at all. The alpha male used to be confident, and yes, demanding, but he knew where to draw the line. Now, the alpha male is written as some wangsty, twagicy bitch with more insecurities than a teenager going through puberty and a majority of the characteristics you

find in those lists that tell you if your partner might be abusive. I don't find this sexy. At all. I find it revolting, disappointing, and above all, ANNOYING.

I don't give a shit if Longshacks McGiantWang is a tortured soul with a sad past. That doesn't give him an excuse to shuck all personal responsibility and mistreat the people around him.

Braden Carmichael: Manipulative A-hole is one of these gems. From the beginning, he refuses to respect Joss' boundaries. All of their conversations go something like this:

Joss: Braden, I need space. I am being entirely up-front with you about this.

Braden: I don't give space to women I want to fuck, Jocelyn.

Joss: I can't have sex with you.

Braden: I'm going to fuck you so hard you won't be able to stand straight in the morning, Jocelyn.

Joss: I told you to call me JOSS. I hate it when people call me Jocelyn.

Braden: I'm never going away, Jocelyn.

Joss: You're a dick.

Braden: I am Alpha Male. Hear me roar! (throws her down on bed) Now let's fuck.

Braden has a very foul mouth that never gets sexy, and this is coming from a person who uses liberal profanity in her reviews. He actually made me tired of the word "fuck". His list of sins against Joss (and women in general) is long and well-documented in my reading updates. I'll just tell you the ones that pissed me off the most here: He threatens to beat up just about every guy who flirts with or looks at Joss. He ACTUALLY beats up a guy who flirts with Joss. He tells her what to do with her hair and how to dress because he doesn't want "other men" knowing how sexy she is. He shows up at her apartment unannounced even AFTER she tells him she needs space. He goes on and on in these really creepy exchanges about how he'll never "share" her, like she's a pair of his gym shorts or something. He initiates sexual encounters with her WHILE SHE'S SLEEPING. He manipulates her BIG TIME near the end of the story, telling her that he slept with another woman just to make her break down emotionally so he could discern if she "loved" him.

Frequently, Braden's body language and behavior are described in a way that suggests he's about to murder Joss.

Example 1: "That's it, we're done. This was a complete mistake." I moved to get up but found myself tackled back onto the couch, flat on my back with Braden lying over me.

Example 2: ... and then I strangled a squeal of fright as he lunged upwards, his strong hands gripping my upper arms as he dragged me down onto the floor with him. "Braden!" I yelled, as he rolled me onto my back. And then he did his worst.

After that second quote, he actually tickles her, which may disturb me even more. His moods rapidly fluctuate between "charming Scotsman" and "slasher pic serial killer". It was very hard for me to handle.

Braden is just a walking laugh factory of everything I've never wanted in a boyfriend.

"Because ... I like being the only man who knows how beautiful your hair is. How gorgeous you look with it down."

That seems sweet on the surface, I guess. But then think about it. If Braden could push it that far, I bet he would like to be the **only one** who knows how gorgeous Joss is, PERIOD. What I'm implying is that he would never let her be within seeing distance of another man if he could get away with it.

"You try to leave, I'll tackle you." Even though he wasn't looking at me when he said it, I could tell he was deadly serious.

Deadly serious? She believes that he's DEADLY SERIOUS about threatening to TACKLE her? This is so unromantic that MY vagina has put up a "Closed Until Further Notice" sign so I can recover from this shit.

Things Don't Make Sense

Joss' back story makes very little sense. It seems that Young knows very little about American trust laws and the American foster care system. We're told that after the death of her parents, Joss was funneled into the "awful" foster care system. This requires a great suspension of disbelief on the reader's part. For one, her family had a great deal of friends and neighbors who probably wouldn't want to see Joss end up with strangers. For another, her parents apparently took the time to set up provisions for her to inherit a great deal of money at 18 in the event of their deaths but *neglected* to arrange something major like CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILD? Lawyers and executors would be involved in this type of deal, and they would exhaust every last option before putting an heiress with family friends and a fucking UNCLE in the foster care system. Nothing is explained, though. We're just expected to believe that Joss *obviously* went there because she's a poor little thing. I don't buy it.

The Sex is the Same Thing Over and Over Again

On Dublin Street doesn't really push any erotic boundaries. Most of the sex is missionary and involves Braden basically sexing Joss into submission. While he constantly talks about how much he wants to "fuck" her, Joss has the same physical reactions EVERY DAMN TIME she sees him. "Oh, Braden wore a new shirt! My panties dampened and my nipples pebbled in response." Joss' panties are referred to as "damp" so often that I've started a working theory that her vagina is the Dead Sea. It didn't help that Braden makes all kinds of comments about how "wet" she is during the love scenes. Is there no other description to use? I get it! Joss is in a perpetual state of horny for the possessive bastard.

The Elitism

Basically, rich people like Braden and Joss are totes awesome and principled. The only poor people are described as gold-diggers and drug dealers/users. I read another review that went into this in detail, so I won't rehash it here.

In short (and I know, there's nothing "short" about this review), this book is not my cup of tea. If I could give it ZERO stars, I would. However, GR won't let me, so one star will have to do. Now, if you'll excuse me, there's a truckload of neglected commas in Scotland looking for a good home right now. I think it's my duty to rescue them.

Just for fun, I'll leave you with this randomly plucked-from-the-text quote:

... when a bolt of lust shot between my legs and I looked down to see a gorgeous merman's head there.

>:D

*Edited on 10/19/12 because I woke up in the middle of the night to the realization that I forgot to include a couple of the repetitive phrases that annoyed me. If you've already read the review and really want to know what would wake me up in the middle of the night, the additional material is in the first paragraph under the heading **The Quality**.*
