



Secret Hearts

Radclyffe

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Kip Kensington owes four hundred hours of community service for a joyride gone wrong. Jordan Rice has no time for younger women with trouble written all over them no matter how sexy they might be, even if she is in desperate need of more hands—and more funds—to keep her community garden project alive. Kip's past follows her into Jordan's carefully constructed, and safe, world, disrupting Jordan's orderly life and threatening to uncover all the secrets she'd locked away: secrets she guarded as closely as her heart. Together they discover the only way to build a future is to make peace with the past.

Secret Hearts Details

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Author : Radclyffe

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From Reader Review Secret Hearts for online ebook

Kaylin (The Re-Read Queen) says

3 Stars

I received a copy of this through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review, thanks to the publisher/author for the opportunity!

I wish I had more to say about this? It was very cute. Definitely not instalove and I enjoyed the journey the characters embarked on together. The MC had relationships outside of her romance and they were also developed and explored.

The beginning moved a little fast and I wasn't sure what was going on. There also was a scene that teetered on sexual assist on the SECOND page. The MC discovers her date has disrobed while she was out of the room, said date then makes several advances while naked, despite MC appearing very uncomfortable. Contact does stop as soon as MC definitively says "no" but it was an odd scene and felt a weird way to start the book.

Otherwise I just don't know what to say? This was cute, a little cliché and the writing didn't blow me away. But definitely enjoyable.

Joc says

Nice easy, lazy read with not too much angst. I enjoy reading these because I have to do so little work to get to a pleasing end. Kip (collar-length black hair, blue eyes, lean and sexy) is sentenced to 400 hours of community service. She's place at an inner-city community garden run by Jordan, who is 15 years older than her.

As always, well-written with great chemistry between the characters.

Tiff says

A classic Radclyffe is what Secret Hearts is. A sweet story, with well-developed characters and enough chemistry to keep you 100% committed to the end. You know what you're getting with this author and she doesn't let you down.

Catherine "Kip" Kensington hails from a very prominent, well to do New York family. Her last name and the work she does for the Department of Defense forces her to keep a low profile. Unfortunately her brother, Randy does not follow her lead. Addicted to drugs and "borrowing" cars, lands not only himself but Kip in lockup. A childhood tragedy shaped both Kip's and Randy's life, and the young man has taken refuge in nefarious activities as a way of masking his pain. Kip plays the mother role and tirelessly tries to help Randy out of jams even though the price she pays is a criminal record and a ton of heartache.

Jordan Rice is developing a community garden project in the heart of Manhattan. She works tirelessly to plant her crops and make contacts to supply her produce to the city's restaurant industry. With a heart of

gold, and an iron will to succeed, Jordan doesn't make room for anything else but work in her life. She's given up on meeting anyone and fills her time with making the world a better place.

Jordan and Kip meet in a super awkward way. Kip is assigned by the courts to do 400+ hours of community service for driving a stolen vehicle (thanks Randy!). This caring do-gooder takes her licks and heads over to the community garden, unbeknownst to Jordan that the garden was getting a helper. Tension increases as the office building has just been broken into, which causes Jordan to almost attack Kip, the perceived thief.

This age gap romance has a lot going for it. You have two level-headed, intelligent leading ladies who really work well together. Life throws them some curveballs sure, but these to have a synchronicity and a natural flow. They just work well together in all sense of the word. Even though Kip is used to holding a bit of herself back, Jordan has a way of looking past that and finding out who Kip really is. Through Jordan, Kip learns to let Randy stand for himself, even if it's a painful process, to watch someone you love take the hard road. This is a feel good story that is most definitely worthy of your time.

Amanda says

I almost always enjoy Radclyffe books. I have read nearly every book she has published and will continue to read them in the future. They are all good reads, solidly written but easily forgettable. This book was a good read, and I didn't get bored but it will not go in my favorite Radclyffe books either. Radclyffe's characters are always likeable, and she typically delivers good chemistry. I enjoy Radclyffe's ability to write flawed characters. Kip is just such a character. She isn't perfect, but you still like her and want her to get with Jordan. Jordan I thought was a different character for Radclyffe. I really liked Jordan, and enjoyed the age gap. For me, Jordan made the book. As always solid writing, good secondary characters, and a fun story. Worth buying, because you really can't lose buying a Radclyffe book.

Heidi says

I liked that there wasn't any major conflict between the characters. I get tired of the storyline where everything is going well then someone is misunderstood and they pull away and have to have something bring them back together. That being said, there is a force that interrupts the characters from a totally smooth course. Jordan seems so girl next door and Kip gives the appearance of being very worldly. But I totally see Kip happy on the farm and out of the city life! I got the audio version, the narrator did a good job. Although her voice grated from time to time. I've heard better narrators.

Rosi says

Oh, how I enjoy Radclyffe books! Even 99 percent knowing what I am going to find in them I enjoy them nevertheless. This one is not part of one of her series, this one is a romance with two women keeping their secrets and their hearts in a background of their lives for different reasons. When circumstances of life throw them into each other path, they have an instant attraction that develops in a sweet and romantic love story. I knew beforehand what I would find in this book. And it has not disappointed me at all.

Gaby LezReviewBooks says

This book is 100% typical Radclyffe romance, it delivers exactly what it says on the tin: poignant story, sweet romance, great characters chemistry and hot sex scenes. Radclyffe knows how to pen a good lesbian romance (after all, this is number 14 in the series) and the reader gets an enjoyable experience. Like in many of the previous books in the series, the main characters have a secret in their pasts that threaten their budding relationship but eventually find the strength in their love to overcome their conflicts. Nothing new under the sun but highly effective.

Overall, a very enjoyable read. 4 stars.

ARC provided by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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www.lezreviewbooks.com

Margaret says

Detailed score: 3.5

Another standard Rad. In the stable. Perfectly fine but nothing remarkable enough to boost it to four stars. Rating possibly a bit harsh but quality competition means more of the same, no matter how enjoyable, just is t enough any more

Ian says

I really loved this book.

It's fluff. It's formula. I've read the same book a hundred times before, but I guess the reason I keep reading these books is they're good fun and satisfying.

It's LGBT (Lesbian) fiction that is safe. I mean any heterosexual could read this and they won't be challenged, they might even forget its LGBT.

So it won't win any awards but for what it's worth it gets my 5 satisfying stars.

Kath says

A sweet romance.

Heinerway says

This is a solid book by Radclyffe. Not bad, but not really outstanding either.

Lex Kent says

3 1/2 Stars, I'm a huge Radclyffe fan. I have read all of her books, and the only time I can remember not rating her books a 4 or a 5 stars, was some of her short story collections (with other authors). So I was shocked to find myself considering if this was a 3 or 3 1/2 star book. I finally decided on 3 1/2 since this book is almost there. It is almost everything I look for in a Radclyffe book.

The story is about Jordan, a farmer, who runs a community garden program in NYC. She is busying trying to get this local garden going, and desperately needs more help. One day Kip shows up at the garden. She has hundreds of community service hours to complete, and has been assigned to Jordan. Jordan, does not know if this is the answer to her prayers, or a nightmare. Kip must be some kind of criminal after all. The more they work together, the more an attraction sparks. Is there a chance for a real relationship, or are both these women not really looking for love?

First of all, I liked both characters. I thought the age-gap worked, and I liked their personality especially Jordan. Not sure if it was her being more mature, but she really was a character with good caring qualities.

The romance was believable, and filled with chemistry. There was scenes with them driving in the truck together, that you could see the sparks flying off the pages. And as always, the sex scenes were good and steamy. There should be no doubt how well Radclyffe writes intimate scenes.

Getting to the things that I didn't care for as much, is a little harder. Overall, I thought the book seemed quite quick and a little short. Just when I was really getting into the relationship, the book is over. And a lot of things Radclyffe had talked about in the book, never happened. Like them getting a booth in the fresh market, or Kip finishing the greenhouse. Things they were building up to, that seemed important, just were never talked about again.

My other two gripes are little and sort of comical, I'll admit. I thought there was too much talking about food. I know some people say Radclyffe sometimes skips things like sleeping and eating in her books. I thought this one was the opposite and had a little too much of them talking about eating. I just wanted to yell, forget about that, go back to the passionate scene, ignore the reality of characters actually eating. And last, what is up with Uber? I have never read about Uber being used so much in a book before. It is clear Radclyffe does not use a taxi, but loves Uber.

I would still recommend this book to romance fans. I don't think this is quite classic Rad, but it is very close. The characters are likeable, the chemistry is there, and it is an enjoyable read.

An ARC was given to me by BSB, for a honest review.

Tara says

This was just a lovely, warm hug of a book. It feels like classic Rad, but without seeming like a repeat of her early books. Jordan and Kip are just lovely and I'll be reading their story again.

Rach (Les Rêveur) says

Secret Hearts is an extremely sweet and notable novel by Radclyffe. The writing is, as usual, on point and you have a clear understanding of her protagonist's feelings and turmoil's. I like how Radclyffe never wastes time in her story lines, she throws you straight in at the deep end and into the drama of her tale.

Kip is in trouble with the police after driving a stolen car that she didn't know was stolen. Taking the hit for her idiotic brother, she gets community service at a community garden run by Jordan. Jordan is not looking for love especially from someone that has obviously got secrets however, like with most Radclyffe novels we know that love conquers all, right? After some "what if's" these characters take each other on a journey of self-discovery and love.

I enjoyed reading both these characters and watching them grow in love and respect. The age difference between them is something I enjoy in romances from time to time and Radclyffe has written it well. Kip got under my skin from the beginning because I couldn't understand the secrecy about her involvement with not only the police but also the Government but as you read on it unravels into an a striking tale.

I wouldn't say this is my favourite novel of Radclyffe's but the problem is that I love all of her novels and some are just too hard to top. I would have preferred a longer epilogue that maybe had the characters written a year or even six months later instead of the short last chapter with details that support the happy ever after.

The use of the secondary characters was great and added anguish and distress to the story that really made the main character's actions stand out and give the element of thrill.

As usual the sex scenes where on point and its nothing I ever have to worry about with a Radclyffe novel because one her greatest strengths in writing is that she writes phenomenal love scenes.

4 stars.

Diane Wallace says

This is an amazing book that captures your attention and don't let go til the very end,it's a heartwarming story that reminds us of the pure joy of believing in love again..a fast paced suspenseful very intriguing adventurous story that is filled with few twist and turns..a beautiful poignant storyline about romance,survival and second chance story that is sympathetically and tenderly deals with the aftermath of both leads painful family past tragedies..the love/chemistry is so romantic and sweet it pulls at your heart strings time and time again,nicely written sex scenes and well time dialogue,good supporting cast..the ending is left open a bit,so there's hope that we as readers and fans of this wonderful story get to see more of this dynamic duo maybe??? HIGHLY RECOMMEND to everyone!!!
