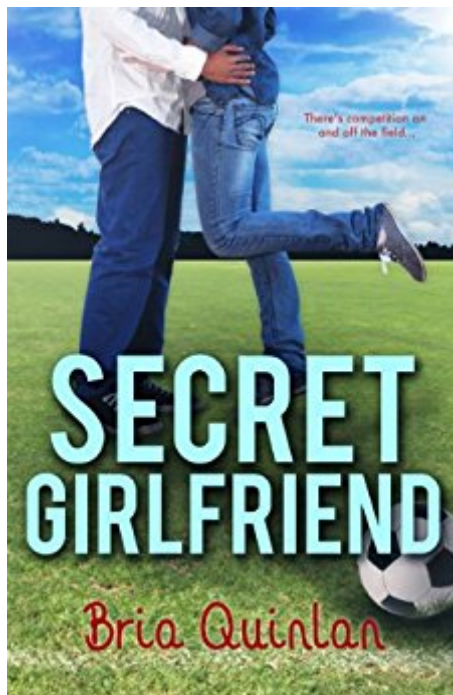


The book was found

Secret Girlfriend (RVHS Secrets #1)



Synopsis

Since her mom died, Amy Whalen has been invisible—but not in the cool, superpower kind of way. Overlooked at school and ignored at home, Amy holds tight to her few constants: running, painting, and her long-held crush on soccer god, Chris Kent. But as senior year nears, Chris doesn't just notice her, he needs her. Amy will agree to almost anything to be with him. Everything is great—sort of—until Luke Parker shows up for soccer tryouts and sees through every one of Amy's defenses. When Luke decides he wants Chris's spot on the team and wouldn't sneeze at the captain's jersey either their rivalry spins out of control. It doesn't help that Luke also wants the girl Chris kept hidden all summer: AMY.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Poor Amy. Though the book never came right out and said it, I got the distinct impression that Amy is one of those girls who, because of a combination of circumstances in middle and early high school, got shuttled into the non-popular, never-noticed-unless-they're-a-freak-in-some-way teens. Her

mom passed away six years ago, she's shy and quiet, and she likes to run - none of the things that earn you a ticket to popularity in high school. Which is why Chris never noticed her until they worked together one summer. Turns out she's different from all the other girls he'd ever been with, and really, really pretty. Amy had been crushing on him since her hormones kicked in, and he's instantly smitten. But Chris says that in order to get into Monroe State, he'll need to look impressive on paper, which means being elected onto Homecoming Court, which means dating the most popular girl in school. Is it stupid that Amy agrees to be Chris's secret girlfriend? Absolutely. Would I have done the same thing? You betcha. When Luke comes along and treats Amy like the amazing girl she is, she has a tough time - Luke's treating her like she's perfect, and he's the perfect boyfriend, but....CHRIS. Who she's loved forever and adores her and is a really good kisser. So what if his fake girlfriend Cheryl is a total bitch? Even though I understand Amy's dilemma, I was happy that Quinlan made Luke into the character he was - not coddling, or all-adoring, but really calling Amy out on her choices and asking her to look at her life without blinders on. Even though that's really scary for Amy, it eventually turns out for the best. And OMG, did I ever swoon at the knight-in-shining-armor act BOTH boys pull for Amy in their own way at the end of the book. Yes, Amy chooses one, but I want to squeeze both of them for being real stand-up guys in the end (let's just brush that little fist fight over Amy on the soccer field under the rug, hmmm?) Not only were they sweet, but for the most part, they were an amazing example of how teen boys SHOULD be treating their girlfriends. SECRET GIRLFRIEND was the perfect romance for me - a wonderful balance of typical teen angst and a sad past, swoon-worthy boys, and tough choices that, in the end, made the heroine stronger. Not to mention, just enough humor and happiness to make the heartbreak totally worth it. Highly recommended for fans of Stephanie Perkins and Miranda Kinnealy.

After falling in love with this author's adult series The Brew Ha Ha I decided to read through her YA collection as well. I enjoy a good YA from time to time. I thought this was a great YA, coming of age story. No matter how old I get I always enjoy a good coming of age story. This book had very tender moments that had me crying, a lot. I found the heroine to be extremely relateable though I wanted to shout at her to wake up and smell the coffee numerous times. I teach teenagers and want to shout that to them in real life as well, so it's not a weakness on the part of the novel. I would recommend it to the YA's in my life. I would recommend it to the adults who enjoy YA reads as well.

This was more of a 3.5 for me. Clean Romance, YA, mild swearing This was such a meld of themes and issues, but it worked for me. 3.5 is actually a good review for me. She really portrayed the

Amy's feelings, so mixed up with all of the uncertainties and issues in her life, trying to come to her own, and see herself for who she really is. Luke and Chris, two different boys, and until she sees who she is, she really isn't able to figure the other part out, who she really cares for, and who really cares for her for who she is, and not for what they want her to be. There are so many myriad themes, but it is really about self awareness, self value, and love of family. Healing, hope, courage, confidence, and getting on the right road to the future. Confidence in the things that are real, the things that matter most. One of my favorite characters was the Coach. Loved that he saw her for who she was, and helped her to find something to build her own talents and escape the cliques. It was wonderful that she was confident enough to run for herself and not for the accolades of others. Her love for running was something she owned for herself, in a way like her painting. If there was any weakness it was her father. I was trying to see how he could not see her needs for 6 years. Maybe because of loving my own children so fiercely, I couldn't imagine it. Loved Luke's family and the 'brother love' that helped move the story along. Wonderful read for me, so enjoyed Amy's character.

When I first started reading Secret Girlfriend, I remember feeling as though I was actually living Amy's life. Amy Whalen, high school track superstar, is pulled in to a battle for soccer captain, college resumes, and ultimately, for her heart. The setting for this story is high school love, as this group of teens seek to find out about their place in life, and in each other's lives. One of Amy's suitors, Chris, is using her to become soccer captain while new guy Luke actually develops feelings for her. What comes next is a hilarious trip back to one's own high school days. Even so, there are some major heart-wrenching moments, such as when Amy misses her mom, who has passed away from cancer, and her struggles with a distant father. Anyone can relate! The conclusion is exactly as you hope it will be, as you root for Amy, Luke, Amy's Dad, the Parker family, etc! All throughout, this is a clean book that I can recommend for everyone, and she is a master wordsmith - you're sucked in to a person's life and start feeling like they're real people. Quinlan has therefore earned my five star rating! ~ Author Jennifer Pitkin

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