



# I Want It That Way

*Ann Aguirre*

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## **I Want It That Way** Ann Aguirre

Nadia Conrad has big dreams, and she's determined to make them come true—for her parents' sake as well as her own. But between maintaining her college scholarship and working at the local day care to support herself, she barely has time to think, let alone date. Then she moves into a new apartment and meets the taciturn yet irresistible guy in 1B....

Daniel Tyler has grown up too fast. Becoming a single dad at twenty turned his life upside down—and brought him heartache he can't risk again. Now, as he raises his four-year-old son while balancing a full-time construction management job and night classes, a social life is out of the question. The last thing he wants is for four noisy students to move into the apartment upstairs. But one night, Nadia's and Ty's paths cross, and soon they can't stay away from each other.

The timing is all wrong—but love happens when it happens. And you can't know what you truly need until you stand to lose it.

## **I Want It That Way Details**

Date : Published August 26th 2014 by Harlequin HQN (first published 2014)

ISBN : 9780373779833

Author : Ann Aguirre

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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# From Reader Review I Want It That Way for online ebook

## Tandie says

This is a romance trilogy written by Ann Aguirre. EACH OF THE TITLES IS A BACKSTREET BOYS SONG. No April Fool's joke.

I Want it that Way  
As Long As You Love Me  
The Shape of my Heart

I am confused, especially because I'll most likely end up reading them all.

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## AH says

This is truly an example of a New Adult book done right.

This book did not make me roll my eyes, or make me cringe at insta-luv, or have a ridiculous love triangle. Instead, we are treated to a remarkably normal couple who are working hard to put themselves through school. Both have strong goals, and both work so much it's hard to believe that they even have the time and energy to have a romantic relationship. There's Nadia, who lives with three roommates, works in a daycare and goes to school full time studying to become a special ed teacher. Nadia lives upstairs from Ty, nicknamed Hot Ginger by her roommates. Ty is also working full time, attending night school, and is a father to the cutest 4 year old ever. The two are attracted to each other, but there are complications. The buildup is delicious, the couple are perfect for each other, and Nadia does have a life and friends outside of Ty. And did I mention that Sam is the cutest 4 year old ever?

**Christal and I discuss this book as part of Lovin Los Libro's Jumble Your Genres Challenge on Badass Book Reviews.** See what we thought about this book and more on the blog.

Highly recommended.

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## Wendy Darling says

Warning: adding this book to your TBR will result in the BSB running constantly through your head! heeeeee.

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## Alyssa says

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*

I Want It That Way by Ann Aguirre  
Book One of the 2B series

Publisher: Harlequin HQN  
Publication Date: August 26, 2014  
Rating: 4 stars  
Source: eARC from NetGalley

\*\*\*Warning: this book contains mature subject matter, and is for the eyes of mature readers\*\*\*

Summary (from Goodreads):

Nadia Conrad has big dreams, and she's determined to make them come true—for her parents' sake as well as her own. But between maintaining her college scholarship and working at the local day care to support herself, she barely has time to think, let alone date. Then she moves into a new apartment and meets the taciturn yet irresistible guy in 1B....

Daniel Tyler has grown up too fast. Becoming a single dad at twenty turned his life upside down—and brought him heartache he can't risk again. Now, as he raises his four-year-old son while balancing a full-time construction management job and night classes, a social life is out of the question. The last thing he wants is for four noisy students to move into the apartment upstairs. But one night, Nadia's and Ty's paths cross, and soon they can't stay away from each other.

The timing is all wrong—but love happens when it happens. And you can't know what you truly need until you stand to lose it.

What I Liked:

You all KNOW my struggle with New Adult contemporary romance novels. A few years ago, I read a lot of the "originals" - New Adult contemporary romance novels that weren't yet christened "New Adult", that weren't yet bought by large publishing companies. Colleen Hoover, Jamie McGuire, and Tammara Webber were still doing the indie thing. I liked what I read... up until the publishing companies starting buying these indie books, and suddenly, EVERY author was writing New Adult contemporary romance novels, and self-publishing them, probably hoping that the big companies would buy their book's rights.

And the sad thing was/is, these books all started to sound the same. They WERE the same - innocent girl meets "bad" boy, falls in love with him, wants to fix him. Meanwhile, he has a dark, deadly past, he doesn't do emotions, but oh yes, he'd love to do her. It's very possible that she either has experienced or will experience rape or sexual abuse at some point.

Blah. Blah. Blah. I'm telling you right now, if this book followed the same bulls\*\*\* plot as the "older" New Adult contemporary romance novels, I would barf, rage, write a heck of a 0-star review, and forget that I requested and was approved for the next book. Aren't we all happy that's not the case?

Nadia and her friends Max, Lauren, and Angus have just moved into a new apartment. They're juniors, so no more on-campus dorm housing (don't I know this struggle). Nadia isn't expecting to fall into lust (and eventually, love) with the hawt neighbor on the floor below, Ty. Ty is three years older, works during the day and takes night classes, oh, has a four-year-old son (no wife, no girlfriend, no baby momma). Ty doesn't want a serious relationship with anyone, not after what happened with his ex-girlfriend, not with his son so young. But he and Nadia can't seem to stay away...

I don't think this book was too cliché at all. I haven't read a single New Adult contemporary romance novel

that involved the male protagonist having a son - oh wait. Actually, now that I think about it, I remember one of J. Lynn's has that story. Ish. It's not as serious as it is in this book (if you know what I mean). We see so much of Sam, you can't not love him. Nadia is a part-time teacher at a daycare academy, so when Ty enrolls Sam, Nadia is teaching Sam every day.

I really enjoyed this story. I found that I read it really quickly, which was nice. It wasn't \*too\* focused on the angst and heartache and chemistry and blah blah blah. I mean, it was, kind of, but nothing like most New Adult contemporary romance novels (in which the romance is ALWAYS over the top and exaggerated - in my opinion. Don't forget that I'm a "new adult" in college). Ty and Nadia aren't constantly banging or flirting or doing that dance around each other. Their relationship, from the start, is more meaningful. They don't start based on oh-my-gosh-I-want-to-be-in-his/her-pants-ASAP. I mean, they both think that, but they start actually interacting on a deep level first, physical second. Or maybe third. Or tenth.

That being said, I really liked the romance. Ty and Nadia don't have a cookie-cutter fall-in-love story. They don't meet, flirt, hook up, fall in love, break up, fall in love and end up together. No, their journey is much more complicated than that, especially with Sam in the picture.

I love how much else is going on in this book. Nadia has a lot to deal with, with classes and work and her best friend's school crisis and her apartment-mates and Ty. Towards the end, it's like life took a giant dump of Nadia, but it feels very natural. Like there were little cues throughout the book that hinted that something of this or that nature would happen. I like how natural things flowed, instead of how most New Adult contemporary romance novels just throw random plot twists and climaxes at readers.

I didn't hate the female protagonist! Nadia isn't stupid or wishy-washy or straight-up DUMB, like most female protagonists in New Adult contemporary romance novels. And I love in the end, how SHE took charge of things (being vague). Good for her! Nadia doesn't necessarily have demons, but Ty does. His demons, in my opinion, are REAL. Not that I'm saying that the demons of male protagonists of other New Adult contemporary romance novels aren't necessarily real... but they don't seem to matter as much as something like a pregnancy, a child.

You know how most New Adult contemporary romance novels end perfectly? Like, boy and girl FINALLY get together as a real couple, girl faces her demons, boy faces his, boy saves girl from getting raped or run over by cars or beat up or whatever, and everyone sails off into the sunset. Well, in this book, the ending isn't what you would expect in a New Adult contemporary romance novel. Not everyone ends up perfectly happy. But I shan't give anything away!

Overall, I really liked this book. And not just because it's an Ann Aguirre book (though I do love Aguirre's books in general), but because it was a genuinely good book. Also, perhaps it's good that I took such a long break from New Adult contemporary romance novels. But I don't think I would have liked this book less if I still had been reading (and hating) New Adult contemporary romance novels, like before!

What I Did Not Like:

In no way do I promote the practice of day drinking, binge-drinking, post-break-up drinking, blackout drinking - quite frankly, I don't promote or endorse any type of drinking. Contrary to what you'll infer from most authors and their wine, alcohol is bad for you, people. Moderation is good though.

That was more like a disclaimer, not a dislike. Take it as you will!

Would I Recommend It:

If you like New Adult contemporary romance novels, definitely give this book a chance. If you like contemporary or romance novels in general, you will enjoy this book! There is adult content and whatnot, so be warned.

Rating:

4 stars. YAY, a positive rating for a New Adult contemporary romance novel, coming from a "new adult" who has read sooo many New Adult contemporary novels, and disliked a good number of them! That says something, people.

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### **Evelyn Swift (Featherbrained Books) says**

I really loved this!

Nadia Conrad is incredibly busy with college and working at a daycare. When she moves into a new apartment with her friends she meets Ty, an intriguing and handsome guy that lives right below her. Nadia soon finds out Ty is a single dad raising his four year old son, Sam, by himself.

While Nadia's falling for Ty, he is unsure and tries to avoid real commitment. He believes his only commitment can be to Sam and his studies so he can make a life for his family.

I have read Ann Aguirre's Razorland series and started the Sirantha Jax series, this was so different from anything I have read by her but I really enjoyed this! Ty was a little frustrating to read, with how much he resists his attraction to Nadia but he did thankfully come to his senses.

Technically I give this a 4.5 out of five stars because even though I liked it, it did feel forgettable. It was a nice read and I loved the characters but there wasn't anything special or different from the rest of the NA genre. Sam was quite adorable but I don't really love babies/kids in the NA genre. Sam was definitely the least offensive kid I have read to be fair.

I think the BSB titles are quite cute and catchy but they don't have much to do with the plot (as expected).

|Featherbrained Books Blog | Twitter |

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### **Rashika (is tired) says**

*\*\*\*This review has also been posted on **The Social Potato***

It's so hard to describe this book because, while it isn't particularly special and will probably not blow your mind away, **it's also a fantastic read and something that combines youthfulness, young love and the difficulties one faces when you have to grow up, and it is done in such a fresh manner.** There is something great when a book manages to merge those elements together--and *I Want it That Way* is that kind of great.

The new adult demographic has become known for tons of sex and not having enough character development but a lot of the NA books coming out lately are starting to change how we see them and are starting to really explore the potential this demographic holds. *I Want it That Way* is one of those books. It's why I ended up adoring this book in spite of the handful of problems I had.

**For starters, the characters are fantastic. Both the main and secondary characters (Lauren aside) are well developed, are easy to like and have depth to them.** They all have their own sets of problems, yet they aren't really a depressing bunch. Even Ty, which is surprising considering what he's been through. He may come off as somewhat bitter in the beginning, but it's more of a "once bitten, twice shy" kind of thing. He doesn't mope around and whine about how life isn't fair.

**Nadia was such a likeable female lead and was SO relatable.** I loved how in spite of all the heartbreak that was in it for her, she never really gave up on Ty. Even when they had their ups and downs, she wasn't tempted to go run and jump the first guy she came across. **She handled a lot of the situations she found herself in like an adult and was mature,** but at the same time, she also acted like her age. What I loved more about her, though, was how she was around Sam (Ty's kid) and her friends. She is the kind of friend anyone would want and is just all-around likeable. What really sold me on her was, when after hearing Ty's story, she didn't take his side. She didn't take any side, for that matter. She neither condoned nor condemned his actions and just *understood* him instead. **A character who doesn't just butt into everyone's business and just lets people talk, just LISTENS and offers comfort (instead of lies) is bound to be a good character.**

**Ty was just swoon-worthy and he also complemented Nadia perfectly.** He needed someone who could help him get outside the solitary circle he had created for himself--someone who would push him to do things--and in that manner, they worked well together. **That aside, what really made Ty endearing was how much he loved his son.** He never saw him as a burden or someone that stopped him from living more. There were obviously things he missed from "before", but at the same time, he never really blamed his son. **He was also a sweetheart and definitely not a jerk.** He was always straight with Nadia about how far they could take things and never really tried to lead her on. He cared enough about her to know that at that point in life she might not be ready to give everything up and he knew that being with him wouldn't just be about him because he also had Sam to think of.

**Their romance did have the insta-love vibes, and while that should have disturbed me, I wasn't all that bothered since the two complemented each other.** Their relationship wasn't purely sexual and there was so much going on. The two took their time to actually talk to one another. They talked about their favorite things, dreams and aspirations, etc. Plus, there is the fact that we, as readers, weren't privy to all their interactions. In the end, they made a good couple and were very easy to ship--isn't that all that matters?

**What stopped me from absolutely loving this book was Lauren, and then the Lauren-and-Max drama.** I felt like the whole issue between the two was unnecessary, not to mention painful to read about! It would be a great build-up for the third book and would probably add to Max's tortured-ness but... is it really Lauren's fault that she didn't fall head over heels for him (even though I happen to think he is fabulous)? I just feel like, in Max's book, Lauren might be seen in a negative light for "breaking his heart", and I don't like that. All that aside, **I wasn't even a huge fan of Lauren in the first place.** I absolutely hate it when people hide secrets from their best friends. The fact that Lauren spent such a huge chunk of time hiding stuff from Nadia--and ended up only telling her when necessary--didn't really make me like her. They're supposed to be best friends--she shouldn't be scared to tell her things, no matter how Nadia might respond! What are you doing, calling yourself her best friend when you cannot even do that?!?!

**With all that said, this really is a story worth reading. I might have had some problems with the book, but I was thoroughly invested in it and wasn't let down in the least.** It may not have blown my mind but not all novels are meant to. Sometimes, for a novel to be something we can relate to, it doesn't have to be totally amazing. It just needs to be down to Earth. I'd definitely recommend this to anyone looking for a good NA novel to read.

FUN FACT: The first song I listened to after finishing the book was NOT in fact I Want it That Way by Backstreet Boys... it was Bye Bye Bye by 'N Sync.

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## Marla Mei says

### 2 stars? 2.5?

*I Want It That Way.* Oh, what an enticing title. I admit, the title was what made me read the book. But I wouldn't deny that I also got a little bit excited to read this. Come on! Plenty of positive reviews. Add the fact that most of my friends here love Ann Aguirre.

But see.. here's the thing. Looks can be deceiving, eh? Or should I say, titles? Whatever. The main point is that I didn't like this book the way I expected I would. I hate that it was only at about the 80% mark where things got exciting. Pretty much everything before that was Nadia narrating her monotonous everyday life. I don't know anyone who wouldn't get bored with that. And I couldn't for the life of me understand how Nadia can jump from lust into love when she and Ty barely had any conversation before she realized that she was already in love. Add the fact that Ty was also a grumpy ass (his words, not mine) in the beginning. Lust ? Yeah, that I get. But love? When you've only known each other for less than two months and in that span of time you can only count in one hand the number of meaningful encounters and conversations you had? Hehehe. NO. Don't you have to at least have a connection with someone to be in love? I've never been in love but I'm pretty sure about that. (Again, it's the cynic side of me speaking but *come on!*)

The upside of this book was despite the FWB situation being a trope in NA books, Ann Aguirre's characters have depth. Somehow, the characterization escaped the cliché that most NAs fail to get out of. They aren't only some college kids who want to get laid and wasted. They have problems too - as much as any problem a 21-year old can have. And they try as best as they could to if not solve, but manage them. I also appreciate the involvement of the main characters' families. How their families play a big part in their lives. Also, the friendship! Ahhh great friendship in a book = happy me. I'm a firm believer that no man is an island after all.

The book may not be for me but it doesn't mean that you guys wouldn't enjoy it. There are still some good things about it that I'm just too lazy to write about. So might as well read it and see for yourselves. Aaaaannndd.. here's to me still looking forward to the next book. Yeah. Because I'm optimistic like that. I have my moments.

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## Patrycja says

[ Yes (hide spoiler)]



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## Rose says

I might be late to the party, but did Ann Aguirre intentionally name all of the books in this series after boy band songs?

You know how hard it is for me to get songs stuck OUT of my head? Thanks man! =/

"Ain't nothin' but a heartache..."

Dangnabit. >\_\_\_\_<

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## Glass says

3.5 stars

I know that most of you know Ann Aguirre because of her dystopian novels (which I haven't read yet, by the way) and that most of her readers are doubtful about Ann writing contemporary romance, new adult romance - but since I am in the mood for new adult and more realistic stories, this was a great choice for me.

**Let's talk about that title!** I am guessing that younger generation doesn't know or has vague knowledge about very popular boy band from the end of the nineties, Backstreet Boys. Rest of you thought about their song as soon as you saw the title, admit it? I laughed like crazy, but Ann Aguirre gets extra points for being a fellow BSB fan. (Yes, I know - I am so old!)

**Story - interesting idea, but put on a paper...** Girl moves in with her friends into the new apartment. Cute guy lives floor below her. They have connection. He has a kid. Oh, the complications and drama! This was truly brilliant idea for new adult story full of twists and turns and tension and feels. Unfortunately, it failed to deliver sometimes mostly because of writing and few plot holes.

**Characters.** Nadia was constantly on that fine line between acceptable female character and the one that annoys the hell out of you. She could be so selfish and self-centered at times and then do something so awesome that you would scream girl crush to anyone who would listen. Ty is build from a swoon worthy material, but even he can't see further from his own nose at few occasions.

**Final judgement?** Adorable story that will be a perfect fit for warm August evening, especially if you need something sweet and romantic.

\*\*\*Copy of the book was provided by publisher, Harlequin HQN, in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!\*\*\*

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## Thomas says

### 2.5 stars

Not a bad book and not a good one either. *I Want It That Way* felt contrived even though I have not read many books of its genre: I could discern its repetitive nature from the "handsome guy with a mysterious and dark past" and the "playful yet melodramatic relationship" tropes from miles away. I wanted more depth from Nadia and Ty, aside from their instant attraction and the problems given to them by Ann Aguirre. For example, here's a passage on page 44 - one of their first encounters - that made me roll my eyes:

*A muscle flexed in his jaw and he closed his eyes for a few seconds, as if I'd stroked him in an unspeakably intimate place. My fingers curled against the urge to touch him, brush the bright hair away from his brow or test the gold bristles of his jaw. A rush of longing hammered at my composure, a visceral attraction unlike any I'd ever known. He rubbed his palm over his mouth, and I could've sworn he whispered something like, make it stop, I don't have time for this right now, but it was more of a breath or a sigh, and it could've been my imagination.*

As I watch a little bit of television this summer, I keep coming back to the idea of plot coming from the characters vs. plot appearing for plot's sake, an idea that Stephen King mentions in his book *On Writing*. For a story to work, I feel that the plot must manifest from within the characters: external conflicts should also reflect within characters' internal conflicts. In *I Want It That Way*, however, all of Nadia's problems stemmed from forces outside of herself that worked in a disjointed manner. The story did not guide me; rather, I recognized each of Nadia's problems as another predicament to further the plot, removing me from her voice and the story itself.

All of that aside, Ann Aguirre's writing was decent and the book entertained me on a surface level. If the synopsis or this type of NA interests you, I would give *I Want It That Way* a shot. If the blurb does not sound appealing, skip it.

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## Fanny says

*I Want It That Way* es el primer libro de la trilogía llamada 2B escrita por Ann Aguirre, además de ser mi primera lectura de la autora.

Cuando lei la sinopsis de esta novela me recuerdo a uno de mis libros favoritos ( *Shameless* de Lex Martin ), objetivamente se que no tienen demasiadas cosas en comun, solo pequeños detalles que me empujaron a darle una oportunidad e iniciarlo.

La historia esta bien desarrollada y tiene unos personajes bien creados pero por alguna razon durante toda la lectura me senti bastante desconectada, no terminaba de conectar con lo que leia, aun asi tengo que reconocer que la historia de Ty y Nadia me mantuvo entretenida.

Algo que le cambiaria a la historia es su longitud, algunos capitulos no aportaban nada y si los hubieran

suprimido no creo que hubiera afectado al resto del libro.

En resumen, *I Want It That Way* es un libro ideal para quienes disfruten de las lecturas lentas y pausadas, no se lo recomiendo a quien no tenga paciencia, ya que creo que los sacara de quicio xDD.

En unos días comenzare el siguiente!

2.75 Estrellas!

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### **Keertana says**

Aguirre's *I Want it That Way* is a relatively unexceptional piece of literature. It isn't the New Adult Series I'd recommend on a whim but, an important distinction to note is that I also wouldn't warn away from it. For me, it seems to be a new milestone in New Adult literature when I can find a novel that steers clear of slut-shaming, misogyny, rape, or other over-used tropes. Thus, though I hesitate to say it, Aguirre's *I Want it That Way* belongs to that new milestone of New Adult; not remarkable but a far cry from terrible too.

*I Want it That Way* is, at its core, a romance novel. Nadia moves into a two-story apartment complex and finds herself living above Ty, the gorgeously sexy single-father who works by day and studies by night. Nadia and Ty have chemistry--they can feel it, even from the vertical separation of a few feet, but with his son and complicated lifestyle there is no place for Nadia in Ty's life. But as Ty spends more and more time with Nadia he finds it more and more difficult to stay away. Just a brief place-holder relationship until The One came along...it couldn't hurt, right? But what if The One was there all along and Ty just won't open his eyes...?

I hardly feel the need to touch upon the love story within *I Want it That Way*. Just the way I like it it's a slow, tortuous burn and I appreciate the fact that Nadia and Ty get to know one another on an emotional, mental level before they broach a physical relationship with one another. It isn't easy for Ty to let Nadia into his life and, similarly, it isn't easy for Nadia to choose to be with Ty. Ty lives the life of an individual at least another decade older than he really is and for Nadia to adjust to that--and vice versa--is tough. Aguirre leaves no stone unturned, however, in exploring their relationship and its struggles and I found it a delight to read. Moreover, I really enjoyed Nadia's collegiate experiences bleeding into her romance. Whether it be a tiff with her best friend and roommate or lending a shoulder for another friend to cry on, the dynamics of these four roommates and Nadia's role in the midst of it, juggling her school work with her social life with Ty, was not only a balance to have to live through but also to write. Granted, Nadia's experiences as a college student are not the focus of this novel but their presence enhanced the tale and brought Nadia's unique decisions into broader perspective. Perfect for a lazy afternoon or a stormy night, *I Want it That Way* is quick, entertaining, and satisfying. While you can certainly ask--and expect--more from both Aguirre and New Adult, this is likely the best you'll read of them together.

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### **Lola says**

Everything went just fine...before the "let's be friends with benefits" subject came up.

Of course, Nadia, the main character, accepted and thought it was a good idea.

**As if *that* ever works out.**

The real problem here is that I never completely understood why they had to be sex friends in the first place. Yes, *he*, Ty, has a boy and, yes, he has trouble trusting Nadia wouldn't leave him since the mother of his child, Sam, left him and broke his heart but the romance is so predictable. So so so predictable.

Can I add that it's his fault he was left alone with a child? I mean, **he pushed his girlfriend on having the baby.**

Also, they didn't seem to have that of a beautiful chemistry. Basically, all they did, when being together, is having sex and telling each other how they lust one another. Ugh, I kept rolling my eyes.

Another issue I had with this story is that more than 75% of it is set in the building they both live in. It got so boring.

Nadia is actually not that of a bad character since she *is* a good person. If she's so addicted to Ty good for her, but I simply can't believe how she, the inexperienced girl that she obviously is with guys, can agree to casual sex. They could've just dated like normal people and see where *that* goes.

Ty...I thought I was going to like him. He's a good father, he works hard, even takes night classes, and he's always so calm. What's not to like, right? Well that's before I realized that he's boring and, like I said, *they* don't talk much, especially about important things or just...the weather would have been okay too. Just something that would have proven me that they have a good chemistry. I admit they did had some nice talks at the beginning of the story but those didn't last long.

The writing was good but *what* the author wrote about did not appeal to me at all. I can't give it more than one single star since I didn't like it and don't recommend it.

**\*\*ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

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**Ash Wednesday says**

### **2.5 STARS**

Not all love stories end happily. Sometimes they just end.

I'm a little confused right now so bear with me as I try to process this book.

This is my first Ann Aguirre book. I've first heard of her Razorland series and while that seems to be widely loved by my friends, it's not named after a Backstreet Boys song so... New Adult it is and hello Ann Aguirre, it's nice to meet you.

**On the one hand, this book managed to avoid a lot of the tropes and pitfalls I've come to hate about New Adult Contemporary.** The romance was between neighbours Nadia, an aspiring teacher, and Ty, the young father to her student, four year-old Sam. Their issue is that Ty refuses to engage in any form of commitment because of his predicament and Nadia settles for a Friends With Benefits type of relationship with him, with "half a loaf being better than none" at all.

While the plot and premise was rife with potential cliché land mines (view spoiler), Aguirre pulls a surprise by presenting her characters' maturity in situations that have been ruined and recycled in so very few, uncreative ways elsewhere in this genre. I mostly liked how Nadia was portrayed and the smallest details about her father was quite impressive because I found him relatable real to mine.

**On the other hand this story was just so unbelievably boring.** From the moment Ty and Nadia engaged in their non-relationship, it felt chapters and chapters of non-events, a series of scenes that contributed very little to the overall plot and development of either protagonists. It was like:

**Chapter 8:** Nadia and her roommates go to a club.

**Chapter 9:** Nadia and her roommates go watch Project Runway but figured it was too boring and went to the movies instead.

**Chapter 14:** Nadia bakes cookies.

**Chapter 17:** Nadia and Ty stays in Ty's apartment the whole weekend having sex.

**Chapter 19:** Halloween party.

**Chapter 21:** Nadia and Ty go to a ski lodge and have sex doggie-style.

It felt like their story was stuck in this black hole where things are happening but nothing is actually happening, and it was only around the 90% mark when the story resumed some semblance of motion and direction.

The minor storylines on this one were Nadia's family, Sam and Nadia's time together at the Learning Center (I am not quite convinced Sam is as adorable as this book seems to believe him to be, honestly) and her best friend Lauren's on-going drama which I suppose sets the scene up for the next book. I quite liked the conflict in Lauren's character (a little reminiscent of the heroine's depth from Catch a Falling Star) but I'm reluctant to jump back in to this series with Aguirre's vernacular preferences. It swung wildly from quirky fun,

"They stole our pie? Now I'm mad. And pie less. But mostly mad."

to gag-worthy treacly strange

More kisses. I hoarded them like a squirrel chasing nuts around the yard.

to OTT drama-llama

Ridiculously, I touched a fingertip to my phone, as if Ty lived in there because some evil wizard has cast a spell and locked him away from me like a genie in a lamp. But nothing happened apart from the solitary tear trickling down my cheek. I didn't like feeling this way, but I had no

idea how to stop.

The sex scenes and dialogue were awkwardly unerotic and Ty's declarations felt like eye-roll inducing pick-up lines. He truly was a difficult hero to fall for and I couldn't fully understand Nadia's attraction towards him outside him being a young father and a red-head. I wanted a little more complexity for this character, a worthy match to Nadia's maturity and not someone who seems to be pulling a fast one on an unsuspecting, lovelorn girl.

"I just feel you, that's all. If you're anywhere nearby, I know it. I can always tell when you're looking at me, too."

Romance should make me want to fall for the guy and root for a HEA, not feel like he's trying to con the heroine into some elaborate plot. Though I won't deny, this would have been a brilliant thriller had Ty (view spoiler)

When I read Aguirre's dedication to Leigh Bardugo at the beginning of this book, I was almost certain I would fall for this cleverly titled book (capitalising on the collective kitschy 90's music nostalgia of it's reader base was nothing short of marketing genius). And while I appreciate the effort to stand apart from this overly crowded genre, I'm finding everyone else is striving to do exactly that these days. And this book, with its forgettable characters and dull, boring story, will unfortunately be lost among the very crowd it seems to strive to rise above.

*Review Copy courtesy of the publishers. Quotes taken from an uncorrected proof.*

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