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Amber Lin

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Dane lives for the salty breeze and a sweet wave, because that's all he has. He's been on the streets since he was fourteen. A drifter. Homeless. Then he meets Amy. Smart and accomplished, she's everything he's not. He wants to be the sort of man who deserves her.

Except that means facing down his past—and that past might very well swallow them both.

How to Say Goodbye Details

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From Reader Review How to Say Goodbye for online ebook

Julie says

How to Say Goodbye by Amber Lin is a 2014 publication. I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

As Amy begins her internship she once again finds herself feeling like an outsider. A chance meeting with Dane, an ordinary surfer dude changes both of them forever.

Amy's parents immigrated to the States believing they would be providing their child with the best opportunities available. But, Amy's father died and her mother, always feeling unhappy in America, heads home to Japan, leaving Amy with her Uncle. Her mother has placed an incredible amount of pressure on Amy through her life to not only succeed, but to be the best of the best at everything. Her mother wants Amy to land a job in Silicon Valley and live a posh lifestyle. Amy has never had much of a say in any of these plans. Now that she is nearing the completion of her college education, Amy is beginning to think for herself and isn't so sure that she wants the same thing her mother does.

Dane is a beach dweller that opens up a new world for Amy. For the first time in a long while Dane has met a person that may have had a sadder life than his own, or at least just as sad. He is now living on the streets and has managed, at least he thinks he has, to hide that from Amy. He does whatever he has to do in order to survive. This is a very ugly life compared to the one Amy has lived. Dane feels for Amy and the isolated life she has lived, never having experienced affection, even the simple act of holding hands.

Amy feels for Dane living hand to mouth out on the streets. She knows compared to his life, hers was not all that bad. She never worried about a roof over her head or food or clothes.

As unlikely as it may seem, the two of them forge a bond that turns into something more. Dane's current lifestyle and his dark past will slowly reveal itself making a long lasting relationship between him and Amy seem nearly impossible. They are just from two different worlds and have so many issues to work on in a personal way that it appears it would be for the best if they went their separate ways.

Well, goodness! What a story! My heart ached for both of these characters. Amy had the basics in life and was well provided for. But, she had no bond with her mother or other family members and because of her IQ and ambition she was always a straight A student striving to be at the top of her class. This took all her time and the other students didn't relate to her. She never had friends, much less dated, held hands, kissed, hugged and so on. By comparison, Dane was really touchy feely. He was very affectionate by nature and was stunned by Amy's confession that she had never had her hand held.

Dane's life on the street was depicted with realism, although not overly graphic. You get the idea without the real gritty stuff descriptions. Dane has a reason for living the way he does, but it isn't until well into the book that his troubled past comes to light. Dane has a lot to overcome and it will be a long time before he is back to being a productive citizen, but with Amy and her new found independence, the two of them just might set the world on fire.

The story is heartwrenching but watching the two main characters learn from one another and grow emotionally strong as a result was very satisfying. As a person that has begun to burn out on the New Adult genre, this one rises up above all the rest and gives me a little more faith in this category. Contemporary Romance lovers and even Women's fiction readers could enjoy this one, even if the characters are college aged. The characters act their age, but these are not spoiled college brats complaining and full of angst. This is a much more serious novel and I hope people will sit up and take notice of it.

There were a few weak points involving the relationship with Dane's father. This part was not explored enough for me and I was a little mixed up about some of this part of the story.

So, I will grade this one with an A and go with 4.5 stars- rounded to five.

Luli says

Primero decir que tengo debilidad por las historias de gente sin techo, sin hogar, no sé explicar porqué, pero este tipo de historias me conmueven como pocas y por este motivo, no sé si esta crítica va a ser muy objetiva.

Me ha gustado la historia, me ha parecido realista sin profundizar en exceso en el tema de vivir en la calle siendo adolescente, es un tema duro y complicado y si se le da demasiada cobertura, evidentemente, ensombrece el romance y lo convierte en una frivolidad, con lo cual, los aspectos desagradables de la situación se dejan entrever, pero no se les da protagonismo.

Me ha parecido una historia valiente, que no convierte en santos a sus protagonistas y que los trata como lo que son, adolescentes, con problemas, egoístas a veces y sin saber muy bien lo que quieren o cómo conseguirlo... no puedo explicarlo mejor sin dar pistas sobre la historia...y no quiero darlas...

Hay drama, pero es predecible, al fin y al cabo se trata de una historia de amor entre un sin techo y una chica que no sabe lo que es un abrazo...pero es un drama justificado...

Los personajes son sólidos, están muy bien descritos y son fieles a sí mismos, no cambian de la noche a la mañana y no hacen tonterías y para ser justa, a lo mejor los secundarios sí han sido un poco planos y predecibles, pero imagino que era necesario para equilibrar la balanza.

Me ha parecido una historia dura (podría haberlo sido más), tierna, conmovedora y me ha encantado...

Le ha faltado un epílogo para poder recuperar el aliento...para cerrar capítulo...y también zanjar el tema de ella con su familia. Por lo demás, me ha encantado.

?lleskelle - teamSøren? ?I like big b00ks? says

???? **2.5 stars** ????

A sweet read brilliantly written by Amber Lin, an author I just discovered.

I can't say I really enjoyed the story, but the writing alone made me read this flawlessly.

Part on my disinterest in the story was that I never connected with the heroine, Amy. She is shy, quiet, a virgin, and she grew up in a rather harsh environment, deprived from any emotions.

At first, I thought I was in for a treat, the writing style, so unique, almost like poetry -very unusual-, and the awkward heroine's behavior, I was really intrigued to see how she would evolve. She meets someone who's although being her opposite, is as broken as her.

Somewhere along the way, I felt like everything that was happening to Dane and Amy was a little too convenient, not necessarily rushed, but there were gaps or things I would have preferred to be told rather than left to wonder.

Danielle (Love at First Page) says

Thanks to Xpresso Book Tours for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

He was the star with his music and his laughter. "I think I have more in common with empty space."

"You hold up the stars," he whispered. "And the planets. And everything."

How to Say Goodbye stands out within the New Adult genre for its maturity - in terms of more polished writing and its characters. Amber Lin's prose completely captivates. Her words are things of beauty, sucking you in and lulling you into quiet wonder. They capture her characters' emotions so precisely that you can't help but feel everything right along with them. It's a lyrical, sensual writing style, reminiscent of Mary Ann Rivers, and all you have to do is let yourself be swept away. Her characters, too, are intriguing; you want to know who they are and what has made them this way, and they seem older than their teenage years. However, *How to Say Goodbye* is not without its flaws. Whereas I found *Chance of Rain*, the other Amber Lin book I've read, utterly lovely, *How to Say Goodbye* has excessive internal drama and not enough lightness or sexiness to balance it out. The last half of the book begins to feel repetitive, the romance having enough stopping and starting to give me whiplash.

Amy has been interning at the Kennedy Space Center, and we learn right away that she feels isolated from everyone around her. She was raised by her uncle after her father passed away and her mother returned to Japan. She follows a very strict schedule and life plan, determined almost completely by her mother. Although she desires to pursue a researching career with the company she's currently with, her mom wants her to join a more lucrative company, even if that means she'll be filing paperwork all day. Because of the cold environment she grew up in - she hasn't experienced much affection and doesn't know the joys of simple touches like holding hands or being kissed - she is now more than socially awkward. But it's Amy's intelligence and her thirst for life that ultimately shines through and makes her relatable.

Dane, on the other hand, comes from an entirely different walk of life. Whereas Amy feels abandoned, Dane chose to leave his home at the age of fourteen because of something that was happening to him that his parents didn't notice. He's been a homeless wanderer ever since, making sure not to have close ties to anyone. His situation broke my heart, and Amber Lin does not skirt the issue. The instincts he's had to learn and the things he's had to do to survive are presented with gritty realism. Yet through it all Dane still has this easygoing charm about him; he's gentle and compassionate rather than bitter and mean.

When Dane and Amy first meet, there is an attraction right away, but there are so many problems standing in their way. She'll be leaving for school soon, with a bright future ahead of her, while Dane's options are limited at best. He doesn't think he has anything to offer her, and they both fear rejection. On the inside, though, where it counts, they are so much alike. They are old souls, but broken and lost souls as well. There is this yearning, almost painful at times, that binds them together. Amy and Dane long for companionship and to feel rooted to someone. It did feel as if their love came on too strong too soon, but I can understand why they latched onto each other and fell so quickly. They're each other's firsts, in terms of being truly seen for the first time.

Like the title suggests, saying goodbye is a steady theme throughout, and it does get tiring towards the end. Amy and Dane constantly doubt how they can make their relationship work, and one of the two either

messes up or gives up while the other tries to salvage things. As a result the story becomes somewhat choppy, a victim of rinsing and repeating. Even when it seems like they have everything worked out, there are only fleeting moments of happiness until the next heartache. I would have liked them to have more time together as a couple, especially at the end, to make their romance fully convincing.

I definitely recommend reading *How to Say Goodbye* if you're looking for a different type of New Adult read. The writing alone is something to be savored, as is the more thoughtful approach to its characters. I wasn't exactly swooning, but it was enough to be rooting for Dane and Amy to make it work, because they both deserved it so much.

This review is part of the *How To Say Goodbye* Blog Tour hosted by Xpresso Book Tours and can also be found at Love at First Page.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

This wonderful story is on sale for just \$0.99!!!! <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00J...>

4 "Be near me so that I can be near you" stars!

I adore the worlds Amber Lin creates with their complex, damaged characters who often struggle with the same things I struggle with. People I'm seldom instantly drawn to, but who always win me over. *How to Say Goodbye* is this kind of story.

Description...

Amy has a secret: no one's ever held her hand. She doesn't even know how to hug. Everyone thinks she's smart, but straight A's are way easier than making friends. Then she meets Dane, a golden-haired surfer whose easy charm and hot touch teach her what she longs to know.

Dane lives for the salty breeze and a sweet wave, because that's all he has. He's been on the streets since he was fourteen. A drifter. Homeless. Then he meets Amy. Smart and accomplished, she's everything he's not. He wants to be the sort of man who deserves her.

Except that means facing down his past—and that past might very well swallow them both.

My review...

If you've read Amber Lin's stories you already know that she has an amazing talent for showing us the very best in people, but also the very worse in people and doing it in a way that no matter their past, no matter their crimes, we can't help but end up loving them. Amy and Dane are such provocative, emotionally complicated people and I truly wasn't sure, until the very end, if I'd be able to care what was to become of them - either apart or together. From childhood, they'd both been emotionally abandoned and didn't quite know how to feel for another person in a healthy relationship. To say I enjoyed watching them grow is true, and yet, I didn't enjoy watching their pain. My heart ached at how wounded and broken they had become over time, but they found in each other what they had lost. What they needed to be whole again.

The bottom line...

If you enjoy the 'coming of age' angsty feel of the New Adult genre but want a storyline that hasn't been done to death, I'll say to you... Stop reading reviews and buy this book. Amber Lin's stories will haunt you, uplift you, and make you want more.

An eARC was generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Sharon ∞🐼 is an emotional book junkie 🐼∞ says

kindle freebie 6/1/16

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyrarkyker says

3.5 stars

How to Say Goodbye was a New Adult story that vastly differed from the majority flooding the market right now. There is angst but it stemmed from Amy's emotionally sterile childhood and feelings of abandonment while Dane's involved childhood trauma and the issues that come with living on the streets.

Amy was dismayingly shy in the beginning, which fit in with how she was raised, but with every interaction with Dane, the reader saw and felt as she began to gain more confidence and come into her own.

Dane was our bad boy who fantastically didn't even come close to the word "bad" in all the ways that matter. He was kind, gentle, respectful, and always asking Amy how soon and how far; no pushy man whore here.

If you like New Adult genre reads, then you will definitely want to give this one a try. Amy and Dane's separate and together story had real heart to it and Amy's personal growth will invigorate your sense of hope.

Read full review at: Reading Between the Wines book club

Sandra says

REVIEW COPY HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE AUTHOR FOR AN HONEST REVIEW

If you've been following my reviews then you would probably be aware how much I love books with drama, real life issues and complex characters. This book has all of those.

New Adult/Young Adult books right now seem to be following a certain pattern. Characters name change. Settings change. But the flow of the story remains the same.

Innocent Girl meets Bad Boy.

Both experience INSTA-LOVE/INSTA-ATTRACTION whatever.

Bad Boy changes for Innocent Girl.

Innocent Girl loses her virginity.

Bad Boy does something stupid.

Innocent Girl tries to leave.

Bad Boy wins Innocent Girl back.

*And they live happily ever after.
Blah. Blah. Blah,*

You guys all know what I'm talking about right?! Most of the NA/YA love story now a days have that that specific pattern and it makes the story old, dull and boring. Fortunately, **How to Say Goodbye** is not like that. Well it does have its share of cliches that I guess could not be avoided but all in all, the uniqueness of the story overpowered it.

The story revolves around Amy and Dane who both have their own demons to face.

Amy was smart but socially awkward. Her mother returned to Japan after her father died which caused her to learned how to live on her own. She's never been close to anyone. She never really had a person who would be able to tell her or advise her about stuff as she was growing up. Her mother only cares about her academic performance. She never really asks her if she was fitting in well or if she made any friends. Amy was curious but afraid to get close to people. *Did I forget to mention she was Japanese?*

"Every other time in her life, she'd pretended not to want this. Friends and laughter. Easy camaraderie. Touch. Standing on the cooling sand, her stomach grumbling with hunger, she could no longer pretend."

Dane was not the type of guy you'd expect to be a homeless person. When you see him, he wasn't the type of person you'll think to have such a huge secret. When he was 14, something happened and he was never the same. That experience made him run away from home and chose to live alone, away from the people who love him. He stayed under the radar. He didn't work regular jobs just so that his parents wouldn't be able to find him. *Did I forget to mention he was a surfer??? A hot surfer??*

Amy and Dane's story started out pretty generic but then evolved into something beautiful. I thought Amy depended too much on Dane too soon. But then I guess it's just because she never really had anyone until Dane. What happened to Dane breaks my heart. I seriously feel for this guy. He is such a sweetheart and he doesn't deserve living a life he doesn't deserve.

Dane has so many secrets that he doesn't want Amy to know. He felt embarrassed about his past which was something he had no control over. He constantly felt that he wasn't good for Amy. Amy has a bright future ahead of her and he felt that he wasn't going to be good enough no matter what he does for Amy. It really breaks my heart everytime he talks like that. It really tears me apart.

THUMBS UP

- * I didn't feel it was like any other NA book. It didn't follow that pattern I just earlier on this review
- * I liked the interracial love story. It was a first for me.
- * Writing style was impeccable.
- * I LOVE the characters. There was just so many facets of them I was able to see.
- * It made my heart ache. I just love that feeling. When books bring out emotions in me.. I just love that.

THUMBS DOWN

* I felt that the ending was a bit rushed. I liked that the story built up pretty well. The pace of the story was slow but became really fast and hurried for my taste towards the end.

* There were tini-tiny bits of cliché. Mainly though on Amy's character. (Example. She was a virgin who hasn't have any experience.)

FINAL RAMBLING

The story won't be as effective if the writing isn't good so I have to give kudos to Ms. Lin for writing such a moving story.

The pace was something I fell in love with. The words that were used seems to have been chosen perfectly. I think the story wouldn't be as effective if the wrong words were used.

What else??

Okay. I just have to say it again. **I just love Dane. :)**

Glass says

Something usual and something unusual for new adult. This is first new adult romance by Amber Lin. Her previous books, The Lost Girls series are more appropriate for adult audience. To be honest, I was a little bit surprised when I found out that she will publish new adult novel this month. How To Say Goodbye did not disappoint, there were few fresh turns, but also standard clichés of genre.

What did I like?

- Main character, Amy is half American, half Japanese so there is whole cultural issues. Different from what you'd expect.
- Dual point of view. It doesn't follow usual his chapter/her chapter one after the another scheme.
- Writing. Amber Lin has a way with words. She reminds me a little bit of Megan Hart.
- No alpha males. Dane is has his own quirks but being an typical alpha male of new adult genre is not one of them. He is musician, but not a rock star. He has his own secrets and darkness, but he's now troubled bad boy who finds release in violence and womanizing.
- Amy is smart girl who doesn't throw her whole future away because of the boy. And Dane is kind of the guy who would never let her do that.

What I didn't like that much?

- I didn't get captivated by story from the very beginning. It goes slow and you need to be patient to figure out few key points that will make you understand characters better.
- Main female character has a lot of usual issues - introvert, virgin, too shy... Painfully annoying.
- Convenient solutions for their problems. I'll leave it at that because I don't want to spoil the book for anyone interested in reading. I still loved How To Say Goodbye, I was happy for them and I swooned, but it's pretty much fluffy read.

Rating: 3.7 stars

Review posted at Ja ?itam, a ti?

****Copy of the was provided by author, Amber Lin, in exchange for and honest review.****

Lisa Aiello says

I spent 90% of this book fighting back tears. Not gasping, ugly cry tears. Just tears of pure and utter emotion. This is the story of Amy, who has never known the expression of love in any physical form. She only knows how to bend herself to her mother's will. She doesn't know how to recognize or even ask for anything she wants. And she meets Dane, a young homeless, beautiful beach bum, who has lived the last few years of his life on his own, doing what is necessary to fend for himself, always ready to pick up and move one when it needs to be done to keep himself safe. Their worlds collide in the most haunting and moving way possible. Amy is so brave. Even when Dane is trying to keep her at a distance, she just loves and accepts. Her love never fails. Dane is so achingly vulnerable, but he has such a beautiful and open heart, especially for Amy. And he wants so much to be better for her. To be what she needs and deserves. They make plenty of mistakes and plenty of assumptions based on their own pasts and insecurities. It was just a incredibly stunning story that I will think about for a long long time.

Jessica says

4.5 stars

I really enjoyed this book! I couldn't put it down. I had to know what happens with these two characters, both lonely in desperate need of love and acceptance. It was a beautiful, emotional, and at times heartbreaking story...

Amy, grew up without being hugged or even having her hand held. Dane, had to runaway at an early age to escape a very tragic situation that his father had unknowingly placed him in. He was so sweet to Amy and she was so strong for him. You could feel the love and complete acceptance they had for one another. Their love didn't come easy. They both had a lot to work through, Dane, especially.

The ending was very sweet. It was good to see them together and happy at last. I do wish that there was an epilogue. It would have been nice to see them together after some time had passed.

Amber Lin, has a real talent for drawing you in and keeping you captivated. One of the best books I have read all year.

Jill says

Two misfits make a perfect whole

Amy is nineteen, clever and educated. She's never been hugged, nor touched lovingly, never held hands. She's shy, lonely, and alone. Brought up by her uncle after her father died and her mother returned to Japan, she's been looked after, but never really loved.

On the streets since he was fourteen, dumpster diving and homelessness is now Dane's life. Intrigued by the young blonde surfer dude building a sandcastle on the beach, Amy's charmed by his easy-going confidence. In turn Amy's innocence and seriousness grab eighteen year-old Dane's interest.

Amber Lin has written such a beautiful story of two lonely, young people, finding each other. Two halves making a whole is a really apt description for this story.

Both Amy and Dane's parents have let them down. Amy's awkward naivete obviously stems from her upbringing, although I did have to wonder if it was also in part Autism Spectrum Disorder; she does exhibit some of the classic symptoms. Dane's genuine affability masks pain from his past, and embarrassment at his present homeless, jobless state.

I've read most of Amber Lin's titles and enjoyed them all. She often deals with the gritty side-of-life, and always writes something that little bit different. She writes such powerful characterisations. *How to Say Goodbye* is a serious story without contrivances.

A shining New Adult novel, recommended to those who like more depth and realism in their romances.

Steam: 3

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

FREE today at Amazon US, 3/20/18!

Oh I REALLY liked this. Attention all fans of Pushing the Limits, here is another book for you to sink your angst-loving teeth into!

I usually have a really hard time with M/F new adult books. Frankly, they usually suck. This book sort of rides the line between YA and NA (there is sex on page but they are 18/19 year olds) and it was surprisingly, shockingly good.

It is easy to compare this book to Katie McGarry's series because they are so stinking similar. There are a lot of psychological issues due to parental shortcomings as well as the homeless factor (which is mentioned in the blurb, it isn't a spoiler). It has the same theme of an "against-all-odds" romance, and I was cheering *hard* for Amy and Dane, like I usually do for McGarry's couples. When I make these comparisons I mean it in the

best way. I found this book to be strikingly addictive, and though it wasn't without it's flaws, I tend to go with my gut with rating these types of books and I enjoyed the bejesus out of this one.

Dane was a really interesting character. It isn't often that we see (view spoiler) and I love that Amber Lin took a chance and included that in her book. I also liked that Dane acted age appropriate when it came to sex. There was no bizarre chastity oath or superhuman sexual resistance, like I just read in Shiver. He was a *man*, and though he was careful and respectful, he acted just like a guy that age would. I felt like I really understood Dane as a character.

Amy was also surprisingly unique. In a world where so many NA books have female MCs that are stunning but *are too insecure to realize they are beeeeaauutiful and they need a man to show them*, Amy was decidedly more accessible. I loved that she was Japanese (three cheers for non-white MCs!) and wore plain speedos on her "skinny and flat-chested" body. I liked that she didn't have a so-called perfect body and she seemed okay with that. Socially awkward and painfully shy, Amy was very different from the cookie-cutter MCs that I have come to hate. I got a sense of quiet self-assurance from her. When she started feeling more sensual and experimenting sexually, I never felt like she was ashamed of herself or what she desired. It was refreshing and wonderful.

Overall, this book was really well done. Just thoughtful, angsty, well-written NA that stands out from among the crowd.

****Copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review****

Tessamari ♥Many Waters...♥ ~ Sweet Spot Book Blog says

3.5-3.75 Stars

She wouldn't see him again, because she didn't know how to be close to another human being. No textbook had ever taught her.

The premise of this story was very intriguing to me. This sounded different and the H/h were definitely *out of the box*: A heroine who has never neither hugged nor held hands paired with a homeless Hero. I wanted to know exactly why these characters were the way they were, like what made them this way and what exactly brought them together. How will their relationship work?

"No," she said and then kissed him back, firmer now. This was falling and floundering, gasping for air and finding nothing but him. Only him. She never wanted to be okay again.

Amy was abandoned by her mother and was raised by her Uncle. Physical interaction was very lacking in her life - at home, at school – even her interaction with her mother was only through the phone. It's no wonder all her focus was in succeeding academically.

As mysterious as Amy was, she was nothing compared to Dane. First off, I loved Dane. I didn't care if he was homeless – he was such a great guy. He was sweet, caring and unbelievably tender. Though he struggled to come to terms with what a man like him in his situation can really offer a girl like Amy, he still treated her delicately and respectfully; he made me melt.

He groaned, his eyes closing. "Why do you put up with me?"

She could turn him away and find someone more stable to be with. But she'd always preferred the mysterious beauty of the sky to the ground she walked every day. If there was ever anyone prepared to wait for him, she was. She'd waited her whole life for someone to love her. She could wait for him too. "Because there's nothing else I'd rather do."

I couldn't really give this story a full four stars simply because it took a while for the story to get going. Not only that, but I wanted more development of Amy and Dane's relationship. Not that it was rushed or anything, but I think it needed a little more *something*. However, I cannot stress how much I loved Dane. I understood his hesitance and his reluctance, but I admired at how much he respected her enough to want to become more for her.

*** Complimentary Copy provided by author in exchange for honest review ***

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Heather in FL says

This was a very different story. I guess you'd call it New Adult, but it was barely that. We have Amy, who is 19. She's a genius who is about to graduate college, on an internship at a Cape Canaveral aerospace research company. Her mother went back to Japan when Amy was very young, and Amy stayed with her uncle, but she's received very little affection over the years. As a result, her social interactions are very stilted. No real physical interaction with anyone, ever. And we have Dane, who is 18. He seems to be very outgoing, and he's a musician. Something about him calls to Amy, and they forge this really odd, tentative relationship that grows over time. Amy has no idea that Dane is homeless, nor the circumstances that brought him to where he is today. It's interesting to me that, even once Amy realizes Dane is homeless, neither feels they are worthy of the other. Dane worries about becoming a mooch or Amy taking him in out of pity or hanging her making the money over him. Amy worries that Dane has so much potential and she's so reserved, he should probably be with someone more outgoing. Miraculously, they end up together.

I will say that while things happened, nothing was super momentous. Still, it was a very interesting story of two people with very different backgrounds destined to find one another. They may seem like a mismatched pair, but they each filled a need within the other. It was a really sweet story.
