



The Idea of You: A Novel

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When Solène Marchand, the thirty-nine-year-old owner of a prestigious art gallery in Los Angeles, takes her daughter, Isabelle, to meet her favorite boy band, she does so reluctantly and at her ex-husband's request. The last thing she expects is to make a connection with one of the members of the world-famous August Moon. But Hayes Campbell is clever, winning, confident, and posh, and the attraction is immediate. That he is all of twenty years old further complicates things.

What begins as a series of clandestine trysts quickly evolves into a passionate relationship. It is a journey that spans continents as Solène and Hayes navigate each other's disparate worlds: from stadium tours to international art fairs to secluded hideaways. And for Solène, it is as much a reclaiming of self, as it is a rediscovery of happiness and love. When their romance becomes a viral sensation, and both she and her daughter become the target of rabid fans and an insatiable media, Solène must face how her new status has impacted not only her life, but the lives of those closest to her.

The Idea of You: A Novel Details

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From Reader Review The Idea of You: A Novel for online ebook

KAS says

4 Swagger!! Stars

As per the blurb, this is an older woman/younger man romance, but oh my, so much more! Lust, passion! Trials, tribulations! Heartbreak, consequences! Yep, it is all in here!! Throw into the mix the H is a worldwide sensation pop star who is so darn charming, and you have quite a storyline, quite an engaging read!

? *"What are you thinking?" He smiled that disarming smile.*

? *"I want to know what your intentions are, Hayes Campbell."*

? *"What are your intentions? Did you come here to sell me art?"*

? *"Maybe."*

? *"Hmm..." he said, without breaking eye contact. "Well ... I came to buy whatever you're selling."*

? *In that moment, it didn't matter how old he was or how many fans he amassed. In that moment, he had me. And I realized that in just knowing that I could have a fling was not going to be enough.*

Thank you, Bozica, for recommending this book! I enjoyed and will undoubtedly have a "Hayes" hangover :)

**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince
Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

*******FIVE++++++ STARS*******

{Book Gifted to me by my Bestie Boo}

He leaned into me then, his mouth near my ear, his breath hot on my neck. The thought occurred that I would miss this when he moved on. When he was with someone ten years my junior, and I was somewhere invisible. I was going to miss his hands. This.

I had seen this book starting to generate a buzz on Goodreads and I have to say that my interest was piqued as I'm always in search of a good romance between an older woman and younger man. I want to say a huge

THANK YOU to my Bestie Boo for gifting this book and urging me to drop everything and read it. She was right! This book was captivating! The romance was breathtaking and oh so very heartbreakingly. I know this story is going to haunt me for quite some time. It felt so real! For just a little while it was wonderful to live in the world of these two beautiful characters whose love for each other was beyond magical.

Soléne Marchand is a single mother of a beautiful thirteen-year-old girl. At nearly forty, her life is pretty fulfilling and rewarding. She owns a successful art gallery with her best friend. It brings her great joy but it is one of the reasons why her marriage ended a few years back. Her husband was not supportive of her need to have a career. Her love life has been non-existent since her divorce but that's all about to change drastically when she ends up chaperoning her daughter and a few of her friends to an "August Moon" concert in Las Vegas. The girls all had backstage passes and during a meet and greet Soléne comes face to face with the extremely beautiful lead singer, Hayes Campbell. Sparks fly right from the start between them. Soléne is just a little thrown off kilter when she learns he's twenty—nearly half her age!

The two manage to find time here and there when Hayes is able to be in Los Angeles during breaks in their world tour. Hayes and Soléne have an undeniably intense chemistry but neither of them could have anticipated that what was building between them was like nothing else they had ever experienced before. Their passion for each other was bordering on obsession and out of that came a love that was so overwhelming and ultimately they were consumed by it.

They travel to some of the most beautiful and romantic destinations across the world during August Moon's tour and while they're able to spend some stolen moments enjoying each other's bodies and getting lost in their passionate affair, things are far from perfect. Soléne is constantly reminded of their age difference and having to deal with many obsessed fans, and also the horrible backlash via social media. She's also been keeping her relationship with Hayes a secret from her daughter because her little girl has quite the teenaged crush on Hayes.

While Soléne has been keeping in the back of her mind the knowledge that their time together will ultimately come to an end, Hayes has been falling just as hopelessly in love with her as she has been with him. He sees Soléne as his *FOREVER*. At times I felt that he was so much wiser than his years and then on other occasions, he was very much a young boy with a romanticized view of life.

This story was incredible and I enjoyed the hours I spent getting swept away by this captivating romance. I wished for rainbows and unicorns. I was left in tears. The author did an outstanding job with this book. I love it when a book can make me feel so intensely and I know in my heart that this is one I will read time and time again.

EXQUISITE! I will always love Hayes but I will also always admire Soléne for her extraordinary strength of character and selflessness.

I HIGHLY recommend this one!

Bibi says

I've lost count of the number of times I picked up and set aside this book, ultimately deciding that a DNF was the right course of action.

Seeing as how the older woman-younger man trope is one of my all time favorites, frankly, I was surprised at how much I disliked the plot, including its main protagonist, Solene.

She being a 39 year-old mother who happened to be French-American, who also owned a successful art gallery who fell helplessly in love with a 20 year old pop star. **You know what?** It was all just too much.

And pretentious.

Additionally, it's a premise that has been done before (and done better, IMHO) by Dee Ernst with *A Different Kind of Forever*.

So, yeah, DNF @ 50%.

Christy says

The Idea of You is a fabulous forbidden love story. I listened to this book over a week ago and I still find myself thinking about it. There is something to be said about a story that stays with you like that. Also, the

audio book was fantastic (the author narrated it herself) and I would highly recommend listening if you like audio books.

Solène is a divorcee with a teenage daughter. She is independent and runs her own art gallery. Solène has drive. She always has. I love that about her. One night, she finds her self in Vegas with her teenage daughter, Isabelle, and Isabelle's friends to see the biggest boy band out there. This boy band is a full of charming, twenty something British boys. The very last thing Solène expects to happen is to forge a connection with one of them.

Hayes Campbell is enamored with Solène from the moment he lays eyes on her. Being together seems impossible for this pair, but they can't stay away from one another. They're drawn together. Navigating this relationship has so many obstacles and more consequences than either one of them can imagine.

“You afraid?” he asked. I nodded. “So am I. But I’m all right with that. If I get hurt, I get hurt. It happens, right? Someone always gets hurt. But I don’t want to miss out on us because I was afraid.”

I loved Hayes and Solène together. When they were with each other, you could almost forget that Solène was twice Hayes age, or that there were so many things in their way. I just wanted them to be able to work it out. Overall, I felt that Hayes was much more mature than the average 20 year old male, and I think that helped. This story captivated me from the start. It made me feel, gave me anxiety, and broke my heart. Still, I'm happy I read it. It was a beautiful and emotional experience that I won't be forgetting any time soon!

Danielle ❤? Pretty Mess Reading ❤? says

******4.25 STARS******

This book is not for everyone. It's an either you love it or you hate it type of book.

Unfiltered review... <https://wp.me/p7ZSCH-4cd>

5 Minute Book Review Podcast... <https://wp.me/p7ZSCH-4cj>

Solène is beautiful, smart, and sexy. She is also 39 years old and someone most 20 year old pop stars are quick to look past. Except for Hayes, a sexy British boy band member who finds himself gravitating to Solène.

They say opposites attract and if we are going by age differences here Solène and Hayes are complete opposites. Plus, Solène has a 12 year old daughter who happens to believe she is in love with Hayes herself, as many other young girls around the world.

So, what's a woman to do when she finds herself in that situation? Of course. . . sleep with him – too bad that decision was going to change to course of their lives that no one could have predicted. The real question here was, how much would that decision affect those they loved as well?

“You afraid?” He asked.

I nodded.

“So am I. But I’m all right with that. If I get hurt, I get hurt. It happens, right? Someone always gets hurt. But I don’t want to miss out on us because I was afraid.” – Hayes

I can’t remember the last book I read that made me want to find a way for two people to be together when the odds were stacked against them so much. The author does such an amazing job of creating the world of Solène and Hayes. I honestly felt like I was there with them as they traveled throughout the world getting lost in themselves together – or at the idea of each other.

But sometimes age isn’t just a number, sometimes it’s just a life fact. That same life fact caused a lot of hurt and turmoil for the ones around Solène and Hayes. . . and each other. At times, The Idea Of You was so painful to read. I shed real tears.

“How did we get here? This was only supposed to be lunch, remember? This was only ever supposed to be lunch.”

“You,” he said, his voice frayed, foreign.

“Me?”

“You. You let me unfold you.” – Solène/Hayes”

At some point, this story stopped being cliche or taboo and became a pure love story. The author takes us on the same path as Solène and Hayes as though we were living it right along with them. Their love, their passion, their pain, their heartbreak becomes the readers same love, passion, pain, and heartbreak. This story goes far beyond the stigma of age, it’s a true and pure love story. It just happens to be a love story of an older woman and younger man. When an older man becomes involved with a younger woman, it’s accepted. When an older woman becomes involved with a younger man, it’s frowned upon.

Do I recommend this book? Yes, I do. Just know that this book isn’t for everyone. You have to go into it with an open mind.

Will I read another book by this author? Yes. If she decides to make this one into a duet, I will scream with joy.

Follow all things messy. . .

Subscribe to Pretty Mess Reading Podcast: Where Romance Gets Messy

~IreneOust~ says

Once in a while a book comes along that renders you speechless. Because it tells a story so compelling, so thought provoking, so emotional and so exquisitely written that you are left reeling. For DAYS after you've finished. 'The Idea of You' by Robinne Lee is one of those books.

To say I was blown away by EVERYTHING about this story would be an understatement. It checked off every single box I need for a book to be an exceptional read. Angst. Humor. Amazing dialogue. Unique subject matter. Pop culture. Love story. Depth. Amazing leads and phenomenal supporting cast. But most of all, it brought on the feels. So many feels. I don't think I've even been this anxious reading a book ... ever. And I say this in the most flattering way possible. The story kept me on the edge of my seat till the very last page. A roller-coaster of emotions only added to an already amazing reading experience.

This is one of those stories that offers so much food for thought that one can't simply review it and move on. Or maybe it's just me. I finished this days ago and I am still thinking about. Thinking about how, in this day and age, the doubles standards are alive and well. Thinking about how people will always have an opinion and how everyone is always so quick to judge you without having walked a mile in your shoes. Thinking about how much we, mothers, sacrifice for our kids.

I think it's safe to say I won't be getting over this read any time soon. It's just one of those stories that makes it's way into your heart and stays there. Permanently. Whether you like it or not. I urge everyone, especially everyone in their late 30s and on, to read this book with an open mind. If nothing else, you'll enjoy the scenery.

And in conclusion I want to say that, even though it's only July, '**The Idea of You**' is my pick for **BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017**. That's all.

Till next time ...

Robinne Lee says

So, it appears this is indeed really happening. Just pinching myself. And perhaps freaking out a little. Yikes!!

☆ Bianca ☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆ says

Solène is 39. Mom to 12-year-old Isabelle. Divorced. Art Gallery owner. And right now she's backstage at a Las Vegas concert hall seeing him for the first time: Hayes. Twenty-year-old pop superstar; singer in the boy band AUGUST MOON!

This boy has put his mega-flirt-hat on and Solène can't help but flirt back! She could be his mother!!!

But can an almost 40 year old lady and a world famous superstar half her age have anything real and lasting? Solène's daughter and the rest of the world think NOT - once they find out....

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH SOLÈNE & HAYES?

WILL THE WORLD GIVE THEM A CHANCE AT A HAPPILY EVER AFTER??

READ THE BOOK TO FIND OUT ?

?????????????????

I loved this book!

I knew from the sound of the blurb that I was probably going to like it - because there's nothing I love more than **Rock Star Romances!** BUT - this was sooo much better than I could've ever hoped for. I was a tiny little bit skeptic about Solène being so much older than Hayes, but pfffff, once I met both of them, I didn't care about the age difference at all.

I'm 39 myself and I just jumped right into this book and became Solène for a few hours! I was right in there living this amazing adventure. All those amazingly adorable & sexy & emotional & just beautiful moments in hotel rooms in New York City, at a pool in the South of France. All the ups and downs of such a complicated new love. All those new feelings and fears.

I just loved reading this story. Poor Solène is feeling all those things you would think she is feeling... that she's way too old, that it's going to hurt her daughter, her family, her business, that she'd be ridiculed by friends and the media. But Hayes is so much more mature than that number 20 in his passport might let you think at first. He's so sweet and kind and sincere and British - let's not forget the sexiest things about him: his posh, sexy, British accent! And his young, mega-hot body!! No wonder she couldn't resist, but the longer it goes on, the harder it gets ... this wasn't supposed to last. This was supposed to only be ... lunch. ?

We hope all through the book that there will be a happily ever after, but of course we're also not really sure if Solène and Hayes ending up together would be that HEA for everyone involved. But we sure hope so. But we know what happened with Demi & Ashton! ???

The story has all the amazingness of a rock star romance, but we also have so much more in there. Life as a divorced mom. A business owner. A woman in the Los Angeles business world. The whole fantasy part of it: that this would never in a million years happen to us. But we can still hope that it could ... Thank you for that Robinne! (Not that I plan on seducing a boy half my age any time soon! For my tastes he could've been a bit older ;) or just make me a bit younger!)

There's sooo much in here; if this was a movie you wouldn't know where to look first! I also realllly want this to become a movie one day!!!

It's definitely a book that stays with you for a while. I was up until 3am to finish it - and now - a day later, I still get these images in my head. Scenes from the book. Hayes smiling by the pool in France. Solène and Hayes walking through whatever city they were in at the moment. The phone calls - the texts - the sexy times. ? *sighs* I never wanted this story to end!

Robinne managed to create an amazingly beautiful story! So perfectly written too! And it's her first!!! Jeez - I'm almost afraid to see what will come out of Ms. Lee's typewriter next!!!???

THE IDEA OF YOU was such a beautiful & sunshiney lovestory. About finding yourself again - starting the next chapter of your life - hard decisions - beautiful places and people. Amazing book. Run to your nearest amazon for your own Hayes, because this one is MINE!!!

P.S. I will put a few thoughts into a *Spoiler* thingy - my thoughts about the end - Happy or not? And about a few other little things! Please don't read it if you don't want to be spoiled!(view spoiler)

P.P.S. Yes, I have to admit that I imagined Harry Styles while reading. Only without those weird tattoos. I was never a fan of him and his boyband years, but he's definitely making up for it now with his new amazing song, so it felt totally okay for me to see Harry in Hayes! It's also totally okay for a 39-year-old blogger to fantasize!??

P.P.P.S. Did you know that fictional Hayes and Solène have their own real-life twitters??? Check it out - they're posting real Hayes and Solène-y things! I LOVE IT!

HAYES' TWITTER

SOLÈNE'S TWITTER

P.P.P.P.S. I also LOVE the cover. The colors, the lipstick, the Hayes-in-the-glasses-detail. LOVE IT!

??

???

Jennifer says

"The fact that we continuously equate beauty and desirability with youth. That we beat ourselves up instead of embracing the inevitable."

I really needed to read this book. The messages portrayed were incredibly validating and empowering. I am approaching middle age much too quickly for my liking while simultaneously residing in an area highly populated with university students. I do not recommend the combination. There are times when I feel completely invisible. No, I don't need to turn heads for self-worth, but I think we can all agree that as human beings it's nice to be registered. To be seen. It's been an eye-opening experience about how our world works, about double standards, about undervaluing women, and these are the messages threaded throughout Robinne Lee's debut novel.

In *The Idea of You*, our divorced, almost forty-year-old heroine is romantically pursued by a famous young man many years her junior. Everything's legal, don't worry, but the age difference is on everyone's mind and that is the focal point of this book. It creates internal/external situations that promote self-reflection, and when we acknowledge our own judgments we can start to change them. It teaches that women remain desirable, strong, and sexually viable as they age: there is no end date. It calls out gender-based double standards. It empowers women to block out all the patriarchal noise and build the life they want. When we change our thoughts, we change our world. This. This is what I needed.

With gorgeous settings, soul-soothing art, and a perspective I didn't expect, *The Idea of You* was a surprisingly sophisticated romance that I thoroughly enjoyed. I'm almost sorry I didn't read it sooner but timing is everything, right? Check it out.

My favorite quote:

"I turned forty. And the world did not end. The firmament did not move. Gravity did not suddenly forsake me. My breasts, my ass, my eyelids were all pretty much where I'd left them the night before. As was my lover."

Robin Hill says

I'm going to have to sleep on this...

UPDATE: I slept on it. Some.

This book is pure perfection and I read it every spare second I had, and some I didn't. It's that good. Get over the age thing and go for the ride. The h's insecurities bring her down (age-wise) and the H's life experience elevates him. They meet in the middle and it works, yet there's that underlying "gap" that's always there. But the brilliance of this book is that, at its core, age isn't the issue. Celebrity is. And the question becomes, should two people who are TRULY in love, let something like that get in their way? Yes. When there's an innocent child involved.

And now for my highly spoilery rant. (view spoiler) Rant over. Thanks for listening.

Kindling Micky says

I think that less is going to be more with this review. *THE IDEA OF YOU* blew me away, discomfited me, challenged me and devastated me. And yet, I loved every minute of the ride; I couldn't look away as I devoured it page by page, waiting for the impending car crash.

I don't want to give a thing away beyond the blurb. The characters, Hayes and Solène transfixed me with their story and their pairing.

"So this is what twenty looked like. That sweet spot between adolescence and the moment things began to unravel."

There are other characters in this story but it's very hard not to feel anything but absorbed by Hayes and Solène. The complications and angst were intense so that I don't think I will recover for a while.

The writing in this book is sublime, seamless and this is a writing debut. Robinne Lee is an author to look out for. As many readers of this book will say, I **want** need more, just so that I can keep on breathing.

Reviewed for Jo&IsaLoveBooks Blog.

Gitte **TotallyBookedBlog** says

5 Fabulous stars!

"Don't go falling in love with me, Hayes Campbell."

"I'm not gonna fall in love with you. I'm a rock star. We don't do that."

"You're a boy band member."

"Well...I guess all bets are off then."

Rock stars – we can't help but fall in love with them, and you'd be hard pressed to find a man as soulful and beautiful as Hayes Campbell, the twenty year old singer with boy band, August Moon as he falls for 39 year old divorcee, and mother of a 12 year old daughter, Solène Marchand.

"What is it you want from me, then?" Solène

"Everything." Hayes

As soon as this book hit our radar, we knew we **had** to read it! A tumultuous rock star romance, with an age gap is exactly the type of read we devour and wow! We were completely floored by this story; easily becoming swept up in its honesty and raw emotion and by the striking prose of first time author, Robinne Lee. It's hard to believe this is her first published novel, because Robinne Lee, **delivered it all** in *The Idea of You*. We swooned, we laughed, loved and oh boy did we cry! We **felt everything** and found Solene and Hayes story to be captivating, incredibly heartfelt, moving, candid, unique and sincere. This author writes with a knowledgeable and beautiful prose that encapsulated everything we love, but rarely find in this trope. Impressive to say the least.

"You. Are fucking everything to me, I'm not going anywhere."

The synopsis tells you all you need to know to decide if this books piques your interest, but we promise you, what you'll find between the pages is so much more than a rock star meets girl story. **So much more** and we feel the best way to experience it is spoiler free. We urge you to simply allow Hayes and Solène's love story to unravel before your eyes and experience the truthfulness and emotion as the story slowly builds, holding

you captive until the very last page, as Solène and Hayes' love story climbs to its crescendo.

'The thought crossed my mind that this could be dangerous. Not the ill-advised sex with the just out of his teens pop star, but the cuddling. The lying there, drinking in his scent, watching his chest rise and fall, allowing myself to bask in my own happiness. I could fall in love this way.'

Their initial attraction is physical, a chemistry that ignites when they meet backstage after an August Moon concert, Solène attended with her daughter and 2 of her friends. We did, at first, wonder what so enamoured the sweet, wise beyond his years, Hayes to pursue the somewhat aloof Solène so vigorously, but we trusted the author to slowly reveal all. Of course, Solène oozed beauty, poise and confidence, but what did Hayes see behind Solène's facade that made him so desperate to woo her? Despite the obvious physical connection, **we knew** there was more, and as we delved deeper into Hayes persona, it all became clear. Hayes' emotional maturity belied his cheekiness and his 20 years. Hayes was an old soul and this young man matched Solène emotionally, intellectually and physically. Their building relationship was a thing of beauty setting the foundation of friendship to lovers and beyond. It was quite simply, breathtaking, passionate and heartfelt.

"How did we get here? This was only supposed to be lunch, remember? This was only supposed to be lunch."

"You," he said, his voice frayed, foreign.

"Me?"

"You. You let me unfold you."

Whilst we may not have completely warmed to Solène, we absolutely related to her feelings, and the way in which Robinne Lee identified this character; her struggles, her insecurities, her torment, her sacrifices and the vilification she received because of the age difference between her and Hayes, was exceptional. We understood it all completely and perceived the reason we found her to be aloof was her upbringing and the fact that Hayes was such a beautiful, warm, sensitive and honest character who wore his heart on his sleeve. He was something else, this man!

"This is insane. You realize that, right?"

"Only if someone gets hurt."

"Someone always gets hurt, Hayes."

As the story drew to a close, we reflected on what we'd read wanting to give this author a standing ovation for many reasons. For delivering believable characters, for not succumbing to standard story clichés, for having the ingenuity to deliver this story honestly, warts and all. We really couldn't have asked for more. The banter between Hayes and Solène was witty, naughty and sincere making us grin from ear to ear. The passion was explosive, sensual, hot and thankfully not always over descriptive yet always moving, passionate and sexy as hell; not once did we feel inclined to skim the intimate scenes as we've found ourselves doing recently. And the emotion...oh God **the emotion**, well, tears fell freely that's for sure. At times uplifting, painful and certainly worth every tear. See full review here

"You want to be kissed, Solene? You think you can handle that?"

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Sabrina says

NOW LIVE! *Paperback currently cheaper than Kindle*

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I honestly don't know what it was about this blurb that had me so interested, but I'm really happy that I read this book. I'm usually never eager to pick up a book with an older heroine but something about this called to me and I couldn't stay away.

I loved the emotions that this book brought out in me. A woman nearing her 40's and a Rockstar half her age? You can only imagine the skeptics that were there and ready to criticize them. But I loved how they handled it and the strength that they showed with their relationship.

I really liked reading about both of these characters, no matter their ages, and I'm glad I didn't let the age-gap stop me from picking this one up. My 3 Star rating comes from the ending and I just wasn't satisfied with it so it made my rating go down some. I wish I could have rated it higher since I liked these characters so much, but the overall happy feeling of the book lessened at the end.

Bottom line, this is an emotional and intriguing story that I would not hesitate to recommend.

Melanie A. says

5+++ STARS!! [My FAVORITE book of the last few YEARS!!]

"If I get hurt, I get hurt. It happens, right? Someone always gets hurt. But I don't want to miss out on us because I was afraid."

Before I begin this heartfelt LOVEFEST, let me say that I get that this book is not for everyone . . . but holy cow, was it ever for me! This book made my heart sing. This book made my soul cry. This book pulled me into its depths and didn't let me go – not even when it was over. I loved **EVERY.SINGLE.WORD.**

Honestly, the premise didn't *thrill* me but I wasn't opposed to it . . . Solene takes her 12 year old daughter and her friends to a meet-and-greet for their favorite boy band. The last thing she expects is to attract the attention of one of the members of the band. Hayes Campbell may be beautiful, but at 20, he's nineteen years her junior.

OH HOLY WOW, *The Idea of You* was not what I was expecting. IMO, this was contemporary romance at its absolute best. Its pages were filled with an intelligence, sensuality, and intimacy that I could not get

enough of.

Like every great book, the writing is the core of its beauty. The dialogue between Solene and Hayes was superb; the playfulness, the intensity, the tension . . . their differences and their love all played out within the subtlety of their words.

"It's only been two weeks," I said.

"For you it's been two weeks. For me it's been ten cities." *He reached for my hand then. Suggestive.*

"Well, if that's how you're measuring time -"

"Ten cities . . . What, thirteen shows? Three hundred fifty thousand screaming girls . . . who were not you."

"No. I've never been a screaming girl."

"Well, we'll have to change that, won't we?"

I also loved how the mood of the writing changed to reflect every stage of Solene and Hayes's relationship - from the sweetness of the beginning...

Oh, to have captured the expression on Hayes's face when he glanced up to find me. Joy, surprise, promise, and disbelief all rolled into a singular moment.

...to the high of newfound emotion...

For a moment, he held my gaze and I felt that distinct rush. The realization that this attraction had ceased to be just physical. That somewhere I'd crossed over. That I liked him.

...to the melancholy when things became more complicated...

I drew him, naked, lying on his stomach, a peaceful expression on his boyish face. His beauty was so exquisite it was unnerving. And I knew, even then, that I was capturing something unspoiled and consummate.

And I SO loved that this author had so much to say about being a woman in a society that judges everything from appearances to sexuality, aging, and parenting. Like I said in the beginning, this book had some real depth to it, and I could go on and on about how much I loved that, but I won't bore you with my political views, lol. Because, truly, at its heart, this was a love story between two people who were at very different places in their lives.

The juxtaposition of their ages can be seen throughout the story. It had its wonderful moments...

That was part of the beauty of Hayes being twenty. That occasionally we saw the world completely differently, and at times it was refreshing.

...and its frustrating moments...

I wanted to hit him. For being so fucking stupid. For exposing us like that. But what good

would it have done? It's not as if he were solely to blame.

But in the end, love is still love no matter what age you are . . . which brings us to that ending:

Under no circumstances should you enter this spoiler if you don't want to know. (view spoiler)

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novelgossip.com

4.5/5

When I first read the blurb for this book I have to admit that I did (wrongly) assume that it would be one of those cliched, happily ever after love stories. It was far from it, instead it was a genuine, raw and honest look at a “taboo” relationship that explored some really cool themes and smashed some well known stereotypes, especially ones towards women.

I liked the structure of this, it was divided into sections based on where Hayes and Solene were traveling at the time and they visited some really amazing and exotic locales as he toured with his band and she raced off to meet him whenever she could. This definitely isn’t a typical romance novel, besides the obvious age difference between the two leads, there was more intelligence and sophistication here, both in the authors writing style and in the characters themselves.

Both Solene and Hayes were complicated characters individually and their relationship itself was complex as well. She’s a divorced mother to a teenaged girl and when the media gets wind of their romance, their lives are effected in a deep and profound way. Hayes was a really mature guy for a twenty year old and there was much more substance to him than I was expecting there to be. I can totally see why Solene was charmed by him!

This was definitely an alluring and risqué read, there are some steamy and passionate love scenes and Hayes and Solene’s chemistry was smoking hot. Watching her transformation throughout the book was a beautiful thing to witness, when it starts she’s a strong, independent business woman, but she’s lost a vital piece of herself along the way. By the end, she had embraced her sexuality as a middle aged woman and found a new type of self confidence she was lacking before.

Lee also explored some common stereotypes that most women face at some point in their lives and she really focused on the age old double standard where older men date much younger women and no one bats an eye while an older woman dating a younger man is frowned upon and judged harshly.

This was one of those books that just begs to be made into a movie, I can only imagine that it would be stunning! The ending was really bittersweet and emotional and I’m not sure whether I loved it or hated it to be completely honest. But the book itself was great and I’m extremely impressed this is Lee’s debut, I think she has a juicy, sexy hit on her hands.
