



Ditched: A Love Story

Robin Mellom

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There's a girl.

Justina Griffith was never the girl who dreamed of going to prom. Designer dresses and strappy heels? Not her thing. That said, she never expected her best friend, Ian Clark, to ask her.

And there's a boy.

Ian, who always passed her the baseball bat, handle first.

Ian, who knew exactly when she needed red licorice.

Ian, who promised her the most amazing night at prom.

Then there's a ditch.

But when Justina is ditched, figuratively *and* literally, she must piece together--stain-by-stain on her thrift store dress--exactly how she ended up dateless...with only the help of some opinionated ladies at the 7-Eleven.

To get the whole store, Justina will have to face the boy who ditched her. Can losing out at her prom ultimately lead to finding true love?

Ditched: A Love Story Details

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From Reader Review Ditched: A Love Story for online ebook

Melissa says

OMG! I was laughing so hard throughout this whole book! There is SO much going on in this book and it will keep you reading, laughing and in some parts crying.

I will start with Justina WOW! She is the true definition of "hot mess". She is freaking crazy and I love her! She is a real character, someone to relate to and what happens to her in this book could have or could happen to us in the future. I about died throughout this whole book. So Justina is going to prom with Ian her best guy friend, add in some jealousy * Justina* a blue wardrobe, mean girls, the stains, the dogs, tattoo parlor and jumping from cars and she is going to find out what happened and spill it to the lady at the Seven -11 where she is stranded! This is one of my most favorite YA books yet, because the plot hasn't been used it is kind of like One Night That Changes Everything but not really.

Now add in Ian who is a mystery. You can tell right away that Justina is into him but he is hard for me. He is totally 100% awesome. He does ditch prom but not for the reasons Justina is coming up with and all her assumptions she is making. He is panicking because he has no idea where she is and what is going on. But all in all he is another awesome character who is real that you can relate too, we girls have all fallen for our best guy friend at one point or another or at least thought he was hot.

This book was just plain amazing!!! I loved every page and it will steal your heart just from the description, you will buy it just to see if it is as funny and the description and if funny isn't the word then interesting because how can you say no to a night that has all that listed in it!

Jodi Papazian says

Prom is the last thing Justina would ever plan on attending. However, when her best friend Ian asks her to be his date, she finds it impossible to resist. She can't deny her overwhelming feelings for Ian and decides that prom will provide the perfect opportunity to go from good friends to boy/girl friend - not to mention provide the right ambiance for a long awaited kiss. Rather than consult with friends or teen magazines, Justina allows her mother to plan her outfit - resulting in a horrifyingly, one-note, blue ensemble.

Justina can't even get out the door with Ian without her prom experience taking a hit - a spilled curry on her dress. From there, her evening only gets worse. While at the prom, Ian mysteriously disappears leaving Justina to believe that she has been ditched. Before she knows it, Justina is on a wild goose chase trying to track Ian down all while trying to figure out if her feelings for him could ever amount to something more after this horrible mistreatment.

The story has a great hook - Justina finds herself thrown from a moving vehicle and ambles her way up to the local 7-11 for some free food and a pay phone. While at the 7-11, she earns the sympathy of the clerk and one of the customers. They lend an ear, and some advice, while she relays the events of her evening in flashback form.

Ditched was a cute story - very reminiscent of the movie Serendipity with all those missed-meetings with Ian. I think that it will definitely find an audience with the older YA readers.

Lisa says

3 and a half stars

I really enjoyed this. I thought that it was a funny, cute story and it kept my interest. It's nice to read a cute romantic comedy now and then. It wasn't as good as "Anna and the french kiss" by Stephanie Perkins or "Amy and Roger's epic detour" by Morgan Matson(for example) but it was quite sweet.

Some people might not like the main character but I did. She's just a girl trying to get rid of a "reputation", basically a girl trying to find out who she is and not be known for her past mistakes. She's not always perfect but I liked her character. She was funny and genuine.

The plot was fast paced and entertaining. It follows Justina on her prom night. She wants to take her friendship with her friend Ian to the next level and thinks prom night is the perfect night to do it. This leads to a funny night of mishaps. If this book is nothing else, it's amusing. Just the fact that she is wearing a blue dress with matching shoes, nail polish and corsage is enough to make me giggle. Especially when she describes herself as a blueberry.

And the daisy ring. Both sweet and funny. As well as the idea of the "Robin Hounds".

I like that the story is told in flashbacks to a couple of people at a convenience store. My only complaint(and its not huge) is that I wish I had gotten to see more of Ian and Justina together. Or even just Ian in general. He wasn't present in much of the book so there was no real sexual tension really. Because he was MIA most of the story.

However, from flashbacks and such, I got to see what a caring, sweet guy he was.

Yeah. This book has personality. It would make an entertaining movie.

Tiff at Mostly YA Lit says

A sweet prom story that takes a sort of "Hangover" like approach to the protagonist's prom night. Very cute, very lovable. I really liked how the author portrayed Justina as a sort of reformed party girl - she illuminated the thought process behind girls who are often seen as sluts and gave us a bit more insight into how and why girls do the things they do.

Also, Ian? Totally crush-worthy.

My only wish was for a bit more interaction between Ian and Justina - other than that, the book was well-written and the voice never faltered. Very enjoyable.

Jennifer says

Justina was just thrown out of a car the morning after prom by someone who was not her prom date. She bumped her head, looks a mess and can't remember what happened. Oh wait it all just came back but she

sure wish it hadn't. What was supposed to be the perfect night to take things to the next level with her best friend Ian turned into the worst night of her life. Heading to the nearest 7 Eleven to call for a ride, Justina ends up telling her story to a lady that works there. Maybe she can figure out where everything went wrong.

The book is told through flashbacks. While at 7 Eleven Justina goes through the story of every stain and bruise on her. And we actually find out about that hideous dress on the cover! LOL There is actually a reason behind that (I was totally wondering that too ever since I first saw the cover) and it sort of began the epic prom disaster. Everything went downhill from there. Like most books (and real life) the main problem throughout the story was just a lack of communication. I read reviews where others were annoyed by Justina jumping to conclusions but I felt like Ian was just as much to blame. They were both scared of ruining their friendship so they both held back on letting everything out. Poor Justina suffered a stream of epic disasters, and yes some were a bit much, but then again honestly I've had nights where everything just goes wrong!

As I followed Justina's story I definitely got angry along with her and was confused by Ian's behavior. I admit the scenes in the 7 Eleven store were a bit boring and I mostly wanted to skip through them to get to the good stuff but they didn't overly annoy me. There were some hilarious after prom scenes such as when they head to In-N-Out. I laughed because when I was in high school that was totally the place to meet up before and after parties. I was in desperate need of an easy going fun read and that was exactly what I got. Lots of laughs, cute moments and an inevitable HEA which makes you go awwwwwww. Sometimes you just need that.

Go to prom with me? Please?

We could totally carpool.

Check the correct box

Yes

"Dude. It's In-N-Out. Toasted buns. Natural cut fries. I'm not going anywhere."

Jasprit says

3.5 stars

Reading Ditched felt like I was unravelling an onion with so many intricate layers incorporated into the story. The book at times felt highly like a mystery novel rather than a contemporary YA (not that I'm complaining). I enjoyed uncovering the story behind what was meant to be Justina's biggest night in high school and discovering why it ended up going disastrously wrong instead.

Justina had finally decided to take the plunge with her date Ian on prom night, they had been good friends for the last couple of months and although unsure of his feelings Justina decided to make the first move. But before she knew it her plans started going horribly wrong. Maybe it was a bad idea to get her mum to pick out her prom dress and dye her matching shoes, so she looked like a blueberry compared to everyone else who was glammed up. And from then it just got worse and worse.

I liked the mystery aspect of this book; how the beginning of each chapter started off with Justina noticing another stain on her dress, which would lead to unravelling a story behind the meaningful mark. Poor Justina had it all to deal with; all she wanted was a few quick moments with Ian, but something always ended up getting in the way. My relationship with her in this book was a topsy-turvy one, with the little clues were

given along the way, I was hoping that she hadn't gone back to the way she was before; the reputation that everyone expected of her, but she always made me assume the worst about her. And as the book progressed she didn't become the easiest person to like, she was quick to jump to assumptions about people before really knowing what they were like based on snippets of information she had overheard. The decision she made at the end was the best possible one she could make and it did show greater character progression, but part of me wished she'd opened her eyes and realised what was before her a lot sooner. But I guess without the stumbling around in the dark there would have been a huge chunk of fun missing out of this book.

Ditched was a lot different to what I had been expecting, I enjoyed how each character sucked you in with a different story of Justina's eventful prom night. There were some cute and unexpected road bumps along the way which made *Ditched* quite an addictive read. But I wish we had the chance to get to know some of the characters a lot more especially Ian. But overall *Ditched* was a fun book which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Carina says

My Rating: 4.0 / 5

First thoughts:

This is a very cute and refreshing novel that I could finish reading very fast. It's chaotic, full of misunderstandings and a romance that will make your heart beat faster. As a story that is told in two different time periods - the present and (long) flashbacks to the past, it is easy to follow and no questions are left at the end. Lovers of light-hearted contemporary YA romance will definitely enjoy this.

More detailed:

When seeing the cover of *Ditched, A Love Story*, I actually expected it to end up being more Middle Grade, but I loved finding out that it's definitely a Young Adult novel. Justina, who has a very unique name, which I love, is telling the story of her prom. A prom, which should have been the best night of her life but turned out to be a horrible disaster.

The narration is split in two different time periods: the present, in which Justina tells her story to a couple of quite awesome people, and the past, in which we can witness how her prom night turned into an exciting but disappointing event. Justina is a wonderful main character who is slightly paranoid, sarcastic but just wants to be loved.

All of the other character we meet in *Ditched, A Love Story* are just as amazing. Some of them are the cliché-high-school-students that need to be in almost every light-hearted YA story, others are perfect friends who I just wanted to hug all the time. Characters of the latter category are The Mikes, Serenity, Bliss, Hailey and, of course, Ian.

All in all, *Ditched, A Love Story* is a cute story about love and a girl's journey to finally find it. I would recommend it for everyone who is looking for a fun novel to distract them from heavier topics. It's a fast read and will definitely not fail to make you smile. Actually I'm sure that it will make you laugh out loud at certain points, as it did with me.

I received an eARC of this novel via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Savannah (Books With Bite) says

This is such a cute story that left me laughing and smiling so much! I adored that characters and her story-telling of what happened that night. It's so crazy and exciting that it totally leaves you smiling!

This story starts off with a girl crazy in love, swirling into a turn of events that will have you laughing. One thing I enjoyed about this book is the main character Justina. After fighting her feelings about Ian, things have turned out not what she expected. I enjoyed reading about Justina and see her crazy roller coaster emotions. I remember being a teen and realize now that the things I thought were so important that if they didn't get fixed right away that I would die, were petty things. Justina has bouts of her emotions going everywhere. And like her, I did the same thing too. Always crying, whining over dumb things. It was good to see a teenage girl act the way I acted when I was young.

The love interest in this story is nice. I like how both were scared after what was done to both of them and seeing them enjoy each other's company is a nice touch to the story. Seeing them around like chickens with no head and the crazy things they did is even funnier. I admit that some of the things done may seem overboard, but it did come together nicely at the end of the story.

With that said, this book reminded me of the movie The Hangover. Dog swapping, late night burger stops, and plenty of drama, Justina night is filled with stories I'm sure the reader will never forget. Have a crazy dress you mom made you wear to prom? Well then, read this story. It will give you a prom night you will never forget.

Katy says

I'm usually a sucker for cute, fun reads, and I thought this would be what I was looking for, but I was wrong. I gave it a two rating for being "okay."

I mean the concept of falling for your best friend is cute, and her crazy adventures were funny, but I thought the MC was super annoying with her personality and the constant interruptions. And I don't like it when books are narrated in this ditzy tone a lot of chick-lits tend to do. The story was told in flashbacks (like the Hangover movie), but I found it to be too chaotic.

Like I said, focused more on Justina's crazy adventures than the romance. Mellom shows enough of Ian for me to like him, but most of the story was more about Justina's "everything is going wrong" night. So I didn't have the connection to Ian or the relationship that I thought I would.

As for the telling of the story. It was all over the place. I'm sure Mellom wanted to imitate the movie Hangover, where they character goes back through to the story to figure out what happened that night. But it's not like Justina got drunk or anything to forget what happened. She was just telling the story to the store clerk and visitors.

And I was very annoyed the way the story was told. Justina's narration kind of annoyed me. I'm not sure exactly how to explain it but she almost talks about it in a ditzy way with all these interruptions. You know exactly what I was picturing? Reese Witherspoon in Legally Blonde as she was talking to her nail technician.

The story was still cute, but unfortunately, I was just disappointed the way the story was told.

Miranda Kenneally says

My favorite book so far this year! It made me LOL and I <3 the love interest.

Bella Lettore says

3.5 out of 5 Stars

This is a SPOILER-FREE review. Full review (WITH SPOILERS) is on my blog <http://bookilyeverafter.weebly.com> Check it out if you're interested!

This book is just light and cute. The problems encountered weren't that much of a deal. But it was hella annoying though. I loved how each stain and wound she got that night has a story to tell. Each leading to the possible answer of why Ian Clark, the handle-first guy, would ditch Justina, when he promised her that this would be the best night of their lives! But what I just don't get is why a girl who used to kiss a lot of boys suddenly become timid and paranoid. Everything could've been perfect if how the main character reacted to the series of events happening fit to personality that has been built to the character.

Anyway, I still loved how the problem has been resolved. I loved the way the events turned out. I'm gonna be talking more detailed about this book on my website. Check it out if you're interested!

Cara says

ARC provided by netgalley(dot)com.

Ditched is the story of Justina and Ian. They have been 'just friends' for nine months, and then Ian asks Justina to prom. Something will finally happen between them. This is it. Only.... Justina ends up in a ditch, ditched. She picks herself up and walks to the 7 eleven, hungry, hurt, and with her prom dress full of stains. The stains really tell the story of how her night went so wrong. Justina eventually befriends the clerk at the 7 eleven and starts to tell her how she ended up ditched on prom night by her perfect guy. It all starts with a yellow stain on the hem of her dress.

This was a fast, fun read that I think teens will really enjoy. Justina makes some mistakes, makes new friends, has a run in with the police, and is *very* hungry by the time she ends up in the ditch.

Alissa says

I know why Ditched was ditched. When it comes down to it all - the story, the purpose... it's all rather lacking. I went into Ditched thinking it'd be a cute, fun read. And while it's a bit cute (the latter half of the story), it's not very fun. The story has no feel-good emotions. It's mostly a downer. Justina being ditched at prom turns into one exhausted exaggeration after the next.

As a character, Justina makes little sense. She's strong, she's weak, she's flirty, she's reserved, she's a slut, she's not a slut. See a pattern? Ultimately, she adds up to one big contradiction. The other characters get maybe a word to describe them. Otherwise, they're just names. I like a little more substance than this, even for a quick read. Even a bit of background info would've been nice.

The plot is frustrating, to say the least. It drags and drags. You know when you're watching a really bad horror movie and you end up shouting at the characters on screen, calling them out for their stupidity? That's the reaction I had to the plot of Ditched.

Needless to say, it just wasn't for me.

Highlight of the book? I really liked that the progression of the story depended on the back stories of every stain on Justina's dress. It's a concept I've seen before, yet still neat and kept me wondering.

(www.thegrammariansreviews.blogspot.com)

Indya says

I finally finished it took some time because of stuff getting in the way but I found some time and read!! So this book was good I liked it very much it gave me a lot of feels and made me laugh from time to time. This is the type of book u can read when your sad or just need so laughs or your just getting over a book hangover I highly recommend u read this! The writing was amazing I was kind of if'y about the book at first but I'm glad I gave it a chance it put a smile on my face:)

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I saw others describe this book as worthy of being a John Hughes' movie and honestly, that is so true. It is like the Breakfast Club, Pretty in Pink and Sixteen Candles all rolled into one.

It is hilarious, heartwarming, full of antics (anything that can go wrong does), romance, jealousy, pranks, teenage angst (but in a good way!), a horrible prom dress, a hot leading guy, four outrageous friends that bond in an unlikely way and a night from nightmares and an ending that will blow you away.

This book was amazing, truly. It was so funny, the characters were completely loveable and real and the things that went wrong, well they were classic.

This book is brilliant.
