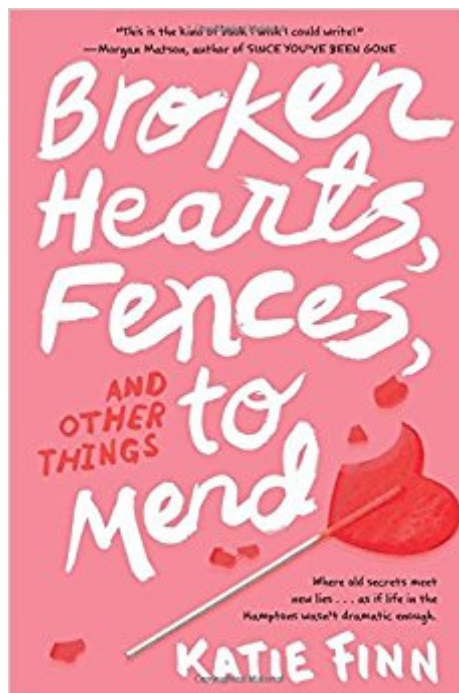




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Broken Hearts, Fences And Other Things To Mend (A Broken Hearts & Revenge Novel)



Synopsis

Gemma had her summer all planned out, but it takes sharp turn when she gets dumped and finds herself back in the Hamptons after a five-year absence. Being there puts her at risk of bumping into Hallie, her former best friend (that is, before Gemma ruined her life). But people don't hold grudges forever. Do they? Gemma intends to make amends, but a small case of mistaken identity causes the people she knew years ago – including Hallie and her dreamy brother Josh – to believe she's someone else. As though the summer wasn't complicated enough already. Can Gemma keep up the charade? Or will she be found out by the very people she's been hiding from?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up •Gemma Tucker, 16, seems to have it all together. She has a gorgeous boyfriend in Teddy, a trusted best friend in Sophie, and excellent grades. As a child of divorced parents, Gemma has dealt with tough issues in the past, but they have been mostly resolved. At the start of the novel, however, the sophomore's life begins to fall apart. Teddy suddenly ends their relationship and her mother "surprises" her with the proposition that she spend the summer with her father in the Hamptons. For most teens, this would be a dream come true, but not for Gemma. Five summers ago, after her parents had separated, she made a much-needed friend in Hallie. All was going well until Gemma made it her mission to break up her father and Hallie's mother's budding relationship, and lost her good friend in the process. The protagonist knows that going back to the Hamptons will

drag up her evil past, but armed with a new makeover, she goes and attempts to win back her old friend. In this first installment of the series, Finn introduces readers to these frenemies, and the intriguing premise of revenge on a longtime foe. The novel reads more like an entry in Sara Shepard's "Pretty Little Liars" series (Little, Brown) than a book running on its own plot course. While there's a large audience of teens looking for light dramas, readers looking for more character-driven fare would be wise to look elsewhere. —Colleen S. Banick, Westport Public Schools, CT --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

—“Intriguing premise of revenge on a longtime foe. —School Library Journal—“Finn offers up plenty of teen angst, awkward situations, pool and beach parties, a bad breakup, a burgeoning romance, revenge, and a hole that keeps getting deeper in Gemma's quest to prove she's a nice person. —Booklist—“There is much for teen readers to like here: snappy and snippy dialogue, embarrassing situations, blossoming romance, pool parties and the constant tension of maintaining a secret. —Kirkus Reviews—“Finn (who also writes for teens as Morgan Matson) presents a mostly lighthearted and playful story of mistaken identity and revenge. —Publishers Weekly

This entire story was full of second hand embarrassment and laughs that made people give me dirty looks when I read in public! It starts out light and fluffy and turns into something crazy with a twist that you'll never see coming! This one will have you laughing out loud with no regard for where you're reading. I can't count on my hands how many times I laughed out loud while I was reading this. Katie Finn definitely has a great sense of humor. But of course, with that laughter came some second hand embarrassment... I also can't count on my hands how many times I had to put the book down for a little because I was so embarrassed by what happened to Sophie/Gemma. (You'll understand if you've read it lol) There were so many things that made even me blush. As far as the writing style, there's no complaints at all for me there. As everyone may now know, Katie Finn is indeed Morgan Matson. And we all know how I feel about her. I once called her the Queen of Realistic Fiction. She's an amazing author and can write realistic fiction as if you're a fly on the wall and you're watching everything play out. But the pacing of the novel in this one was a little weird. It seemed long and drawn out, but I think that was just my anticipation on wanting to get to the part on how they found out about her. But otherwise, there wasn't anything I'd change. The only thing I DID have a problem with, was the freaking main character. Omg she was soooooo selfish. I didn't realize that was it until the end when she started wondering why the real Sophie was being accepted by

other people. She wanted that from the beginning but then when it happened she was really iffy and wanted her all to herself. And then, she was soooo spiteful. I can't believe she did that to that chick and didn't understand the consequences. Did you really think that doing something like this would be ok? Yeah, not even a little bit. But the ending was a killer. It definitely made me flip pages backward and re-read it again just to make sure I had read it right. I was definitely thinking things would go an entirely different way. Now I'm thinking if that's only book one, what will it be like in the rest of the series!

While it was an interesting read, the plot was just a little too predictable for me. Not sure if I can bring myself to read the second in this series, but if I do, I'm hoping for a bit more... (Read on April 4, 2015)

Plot twists were obvious and trite and the absence of any arc in character development or resolution made me regret purchasing the book and spending the time to read it.

A great YA read centered around trying to find redemption for a past wrong.

Excelente!!!!

Broken Hearts, Fences and Other Things to Mend by Katie Finn begins with Gemma and the explanation of how she came to be Teddy's girlfriend, then his ex-girlfriend. To overcome her sadness over the breakup, Gemma gets a hair makeover, courtesy of her friend Sophie, and goes to stay with her father in the Hamptons. Gemma goes through a case of mistaken identity because of her hair change and the fact that she hasn't seen some of these people in five years. She tries to tell them that she is Gemma, but they insist on calling her Sophie since she has her friend Sophie's name written on her cup. The more I read, the more I enjoyed the story and characters and understood the struggle that Gemma was going through because of her guilt from causing the sabotage of her father's relationship with another woman while her parents were separated and the frustration and concern of wanting to make things better. This book is thoroughly enjoyable with no swearing, clean romance and a bit of humor. The story doesn't have complete resolution and will continue in the sequel, *Revenge, Ice Cream and Other Things Best Served Cold*.

I think this book was meant to be really cute, but I simply could not stand it. There's no other way to

put it. I DNFed at page fifty because I simply did not like being inside the main character's head. I couldn't put my finger on it, but I was continuously frustrated by her for an unknown reason. This just made the book a laborious read for me. Furthermore, by page fifty, I had the entire book figured out. See, our main character just got dumped and is no longer attending a trip with her boyfriend to spend the summer building homes. Because of a pre-planned family vacation without her, Gemma ends up going to the Hamptons with her father. She hasn't been back to the Hamptons since she was 11 years old. She did something very bad that summer and ruined someone's life. Of course, the first person she runs into en-route to the Hamptons is the older brother of said person whose life she ruined and then the person whose life she ruined. Immediately after that, I ended the book. Really because a single line made me figure out the entire plot line. I then contacted a friend and asked them to confirm or deny my suspicions since they finished the book. If they said my hunch was incorrect, I would have continued. But, alas, my hunch was correct and I couldn't continue anymore. A book is no fun if you have the entire convoluted plot figured out after fifty pages. It's also a really bad sign if you have the entire plot figured out after fifty pages. However, said person told me to skim certain parts and I was appalled. Mostly because of the huge twist with the person whose life Gemma has ruined. I saw about half of it coming, but the other half of the plot can only be described as pathetic. It is one of those moments where you sit there shaking your head because one of the characters has a little too much free time on their hands. It's the revenge story meant for much younger readers, if you ask me. In other words...this book was not meant to me, but that's in part because I had high hopes. I couldn't find this one at all enjoyable, but alas, enjoyment is dependent on the type of reader you are. Give this one a chance if you wish, but I will not be continuing on with this series.

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