



Familiar Ties

Naya Nikki

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Max West is a widower raising Phoebe, his four-year-old daughter. Phoebe has to live with the fact that the day she was born is also the day of her mother's death. As her fifth year without her mother approaches, Phoebe finds solace in her godmother, Amy Riley, and her daughter, Grace Crawford, another single parent family. Amy Riley is a successful fashion designer who spends most of her days raising her four-year-old daughter, Grace, while her wayward boyfriend is travelling the world making the next best film. As the fifth year without her best friend looms she finds comfort in her ex-boyfriend, Max, and his daughter, Phoebe. These two "broken" families have a tough week to face as the dreaded day approaches. However through their past, present and debatable future will their choices affect the outcome both parents clearly want and are simply denying? Or will Phoebe and Grace lose the only "whole" family they have ever known?

Familiar Ties Details

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From Reader Review Familiar Ties for online ebook

Donna Huber says

It was a good short story. Sometimes I don't like reading ARCs because I'm not sure if the things I pick up on are also discovered during the editing process or not. This was a complicated story and I noted a few inconsistencies in the plot. Read full review at [Girl Who Reads](#) .

Autumn Review says

My Summary:

Max West is a widower and father to four year old Phoebe. Max's wife Anna died giving birth to Phoebe, but Anna's best friend Amy has been there as a support to Max and Phoebe. Amy has her own daughter Grace, who has become best friends with Phoebe. Their lives are so entwined, that they function as a family unit without even realizing it.

One big obstacle in this situation is that Grace's father, Jack, doesn't want to let go of Grace or Amy. Amy has kept up with her relationship with Jack for Grace's sake. With the stress of Jack being gone all the time, their relationship has suffered. Amy has learned to lean on Max more for support.

As the anniversary of Anna's death approaches, Max and Amy come to realize that their feelings for each other go deeper than friendship. They must decide if it's worth the risk of their friendship to take that leap. In the span of seven days, this family's lives change dramatically.

My Take:

What an amazingly sweet story. The story takes you back to the past, so you can see how the bond between Max and Amy has grown. Amy has helped Max cope with the loss of his wife, while Max has been there for Amy during the birth of her daughter. Their bond is so touching. The signs were there from early on that their relationship was more than just friendship.

I loved Max immediately. He's such a sweet dad and that's why I fell for him. I have a soft spot for good dad's. He's completely put his daughter's happiness and well being as his top priority. Even though she's lost her mother, he's made sure that she has been surrounded in love and has had a female influence in her life.

As for Amy, I liked her and could relate to her on many levels. She's stood by Max and has helped parent Phoebe. They just work well together as a unit. The only thing that frustrated me about Amy is that she stood by Jack for too long and ignored her feelings for Max.

I thoroughly did enjoy this book, but I had a few questions regarding their past and events surrounding the death of Anna. It seemed like Max and Amy had a history with each other before Anna and Max were together. We get little snippets of information, but I felt like I was missing something. Also, I never really got a clear understanding of what exactly happened with Anna, what Max and Anna's relationship was really like, or what health issues she had that caused her death. With these questions in my mind, I had to go back and review the book to see if I missed something. Alas, I couldn't find the answers I needed, so I felt like I was left to create a picture in my mind.

Overall, it was a really pleasant, sweet love story about a couple who has come through heartache and loss to find a love that is true. One of my favorite parts of the story was the ending. I absolutely adore seeing where

things are later on in their lives. If you're looking for a more tender love story, this is a great pick for you.

Sannie Hald says

Seven days can change your life, are you ready?

Familiar Ties is a very sweet love story between two best friends, Max and Amy. Both of them have a family of their own, and without realising it themselves they have one together as well. Which will they choose?

This story is so very sweet, and the children seem like the perfect children I have ever encountered. In my opinion this book contains one of the largest childhood dreams we all have ever had. We want our best friend as our sibling!

This was a fun quick read that made me smile.

(same cover picture, more or less,)

Pragya says

3.5 stars

Familiar Ties is a cute little book that welcomes you into its small world – a lovely family with 2 adorable girls and some adults. I really liked the way the book is structured, it is very clever. Firstly, unlike chapters, the book is divided into 7 days. And secondly, I like the way the book moves between the past and present so effortlessly picking up with the same sentence. I am sure a lot of Naya's thoughts and hard work went into making it seem so effortless.

Regarding the plot, it is a sweet romantic book about how destiny plays a role in our life and how so many words are left unsaid.

I am especially in awe of the way Naya depicts the kids and how they think and act and talk. It is spot-on! I personally find it difficult to get into the mind of a kid and bring forward his/her reactions and thoughts that will resemble the thoughts of a kid and not an adult. Naya has completely mastered this!

At times, I got frustrated with how the characters acted though.

The book makes for a simple, quick reading in one sitting (like I read it).

My favorite aspect of the book – the way Naya depicts these little magical moments of our everyday life. Very sweet!

Aubrie Dionne says

Familiar Ties by Naya Nikki

A sentimental journey about second chances and the importance of family and friends.

My favorite line: "Little moments like these when the two broken families became one..."

Amy Riley has a beautiful daughter, a husband that's always away following his dreams, and a devoted best friend that needs her more than he knows.

Max West is a widower raising his daughter, who happens to be best friends with his ex-girlfriend, Amy Riley. He's struggling to come to terms with the death of his wife, and how to explain it to his daughter.

Told in flashbacks and alternating point of views, Familiar Ties is a sweet romance that deals with big issues: Explaining death to kids, following your dreams verses family responsibilities, tense custody battles, and how an unconventional family can pull together in tough times. Past, present, and future converge in a nicely woven tapestry of special, life-changing moments in each character's life. This dreamy, melancholy journey will make you laugh, cry, and jump for joy.

Tana says

Familiar Ties by Naya Nikki

Familiar Ties is what I would like to say is a true romance novel; it's one of those books you pick up and don't put down till you reach the end. I would say it was worth losing a bit of sleep.

Naya Nikki has written a fantastic novel, her writing is excellent, words flowed well; character description were developed so well you truly felt like you knew everyone. The story is told with different points of view and flashbacks looking at their lives together. Naya has done a terrific job and I loved this story.

We meet Amy and Max who are best friends and raising their daughters, who also happen to be best friends. Amy's boyfriend is an actor and never around. Max's wife died in child birth and Max has been raising his daughter with the help of Amy and his family.

Max and Amy also share a history and dated while in college but things changed but they stayed good friends. With Max losing his wife and Amy being alone most of the time, a great friendship is developed between the two of them.

Amy's boyfriend has been gone a long time and on his return he realizes his family is slipping away and wants his family closer to him. Can Amy give him this, can she move away? Can Amy leave Max and his daughter? Life changing decision will happen, mistakes are made.

Can Max and Amy find their way back to each other?

You have to read Familiar Ties to find out the rest.

I have rated this book a 5 star rating as I loved it and will read anything Naya Nikki writes. I love a great

romance novel.

Thank you to Inkspell Publishing for giving me a chance to read and review Familiar Ties by Naya Nikki.

Melissa says

I've thought about what to say about this story and I do agree with most, it is a heartwarming touching story. ... But, yeah sadly, there is a but, and yet, I'm still giving it 4 stars because the details *can* be overlooked.

Please be aware I may give ****SPOILERS****

My issues: The back story on how and why Amy and Max were ex's was very minimal. I know there was a mention of a scare when they were younger. So I think my over imaginative mind decided that's why they split up when they were teens. Yet, somehow remained friends throughout the years.

Then there was Anna. SO many unanswered questions regarding her. Gonna go out on a limb and say she died because of complications during giving birth to Phoebe. Only it's never specified, but something does get mentioned later, but it is so vague. In a particular part of the story it's mentioned about a hasty wedding and the reason behind it was the impending birth of Max and Anna's child, Phoebe. Apparently, she was the one to encourage the marriage so quickly? That confused me. I know they had a rocky relationship, it was mentioned. Yet, they were so in love too... Strange you give details that it was rocky, a quick marriage, then Anna dies and Max falls into depression. CONFUSION!!! I understand mourning someone you love, but I got the impression they weren't IN love, they married because she was pregnant. It was very clear that both Max and Amy were devastated by losing Anna, but it was Amy who pulled him out of his depression. I won't give this spoiler out, but there was one vague comment like I stated earlier that did somewhat clarify why Anna seemed to push for a quick marriage. Forgive me for so many spoilers, but I was confused when I finished. I still loved the story, I just felt it needed so much more.

Another issue that I wasn't so clear on was that they were all friends. (Anna is Amy's best friend but was with Amy's ex, Max) This brings me back to my first issue: Amy and Max's earlier relationship. I should mention that Anna was around as they were teens too. Obviously reading between the lines they settled for friendship or denied their true feelings as teens and moved on to different people later in life. Max with Anna and Amy with Jack. Interesting how the other encourages the other to someone else and it falls apart.

Then there is quite obviously the wayward boyfriend of Amy's, Jack. Nikki goes in detail about them a tad bit more, but at times she would almost make this jerk seem decent even after everything he has done. I'm actually shocked Amy went back to Jack after reading what he put her through during their earlier relationship. AND why she continued it...was she delusional???? At times I thought she strung both guys like she didn't know what she wanted. She was trying to do right by her daughter Grace, but wow, was she going about it really wrong. Good thing she comes to her senses before it was too late. Yeah, she makes a huge mistake because she thinks it's best for Grace. Amy was very blind until it took going with Jack to LA & someone else to clue her in even though deep inside she knew that she was denying herself and her daughter. I think as a mother here this is what agitated me the most about her.

I LOVED Phoebe, Grace, Jayden, Brayden...AND I totally LOVED LOVED Cassidy and Ryan!!!! I wish this story could have evolved into a series to help with the finer details, you know? A lot of potential for a series with this story!

Still overall I would rate this a 4 and recommend it. I'm still scratching my head to understand some details that seem left out or up to the reader to fill in. BUT they can be overlooked because it was a very heartwarming story worthy of 4 stars.

Kathleen says

Can seven days change the course of your life? For widower Max West it did ...

Max West is an author, widower and father to four year old Phoebe. His wife Anna had died in childbirth from complications, and since that time he had been a single father trying to raise his daughter the best he can. His best friend, Amy Riley, a fashion designer, and a single mother to four year old Grace, tries to deal with her absent actor boyfriend Jack. Both Max and Amy had leaned on each other over the years: she helped him through his grief; while he was the shoulder she needed every time her boyfriend left to chase his dream of being an actor; together they raised their little girls like a typical family. Max and Amy have a past history, they went out with each other in college, were best friends and yet he chose Anna to be his wife, leaving Amy brokenhearted, even though she remained best friends since childhood with Anna. What they don't realize is that they really have been in love with each other since their college days. It takes the seven days before the fifth anniversary of Anna's death and Phoebe's fifth birthday for them to realize that they are soul mates and are meant to be together ... will they finally admit it to themselves and to each other? Will two "broken" families become one?

Familiar Ties is a lovely story that will pull at your heartstrings. The author weaves a heartwarming tale of friendship, love and family. The storyline is well written and flows effortlessly, it draws the reader into Max and Amy's story, and you can't help but feel for them as their story unfolds. The story is set in the United Kingdom, and is narrated over a span of seven days in the present time with alternating point of view chapters between Max and Amy, and also includes flashbacks of earlier times in their lives. The characters are realistic and engaging, it is easy for the readers to embrace these warmhearted people, except for Amy's tardy boyfriend Jack, who I did not like at all. Best of all is the relationship between Phoebe and Grace, these two little charmers will keep you laughing and smiling, you can't help but fall in love with these two special little girls.

Familiar Ties is a beautifully written story that not only has a tender romantic side, but also talks about family dynamics and responsibilities; parenting; heartache; death, loss and grieving; and true friendship. Max and Amy's journey will have the reader feeling the gamut of emotions: it will make you smile, laugh, cry and sigh. This story is tissue worthy ... just wait until you read the ending, it is so worth it.

Familiar Ties is a debut novel for author Naya Nikki, and I think she has created a wonderful novel that everyone will enjoy. Kudos and best wishes on your writing career, I look forward to reading many more of your books in the future.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event.

Virtual Book Tour Event: On Saturday, June 2, 2012, in association with Tourz de Codex, author Naya Nikki participated in a virtual book tour event with an Author Guest Post on Jersey Girl Book Reviews.
<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Alicia says

This story had a nice, fairytalish feel to it. Other than a few parts that surprised me, I knew how it would end.

Lisa Markson says

Familiar Ties by Naya Nikki

I was very fortunate to receive a great ARC copy of a book called Familiar Ties by Naya Nikki. This was a wonderful and heartfelt journey that the characters went on and by reading it I was drawn into this storyline. Max is a widower raising his daughter Phoebe after his wife dies during childbirth. He is helped through this tragedy of not only losing his wife but being a single father to a baby by Amy who was best friends with his wife. Soon after Max's wife dies Amy finds out that she is pregnant. From the beginning Max shows that he is a loyal and dear friend to Amy. He is there during her pregnancy and even at the birth of Grace who he even helped name. Where was Amy's good for nothing like boyfriend? Following his all important career. These two families go through everything together as one big family whoever but yet separate known to one another's kids as Aunt Amy and Uncle Max. Many complications threaten this friendship can they overcome this. Can they truly realize what's staring them in the face. I highly recommend this book when it is released. Is there hope in finding love you will get a taste in this wonderful book. Thank you Naya for sharing your story.

Bookish Indulgences with Book Reviews says

This is a story about two people, their lives and their connection to each other.

Max is an author, a widower and also a single father of a 4 year old. He lost his wife to childbirth and has been raising Phoebe singlehandedly ever since. Well, almost singlehandedly. Amy, a successful designer, also almost a single mother - since her wayward boyfriend is always away chasing his own dreams in the tinsel town. They are not only best friends but also a huge lifeline for each other when it comes to raising their kids Grace and Phoebe. They have a history too. They had dated back in college but then Max had ended up marrying Amy's best friend Anna. Amy had been heartbroken but she never really stopped loving him. The plot covers about a week when suddenly things change... What changes, you might ask! Max and Amy finally confront their feelings for each other. But there are the kids to be considered and not to forget Jack, Amy's boyfriend. What happens and how it happens is for you to find out.

This is really a heartwarming story not only about love, but also friendship and family. Max's relationship with his brother & sister-in-law and Amy's relationship with her mother and Jack - are all very different from each other. Also, the different stages of love, friendship and companionship that Amy and Max go through over the time are portrayed beautifully. Also, I liked the way the author has slowly eased us into their lives by alternating between the past & the present.

And of course Grace & Phoebe are so sweet. You can't help but falling in love with them. Especially when Phoebe makes a 'cheese sammitch' for Grace, I couldn't help but go 'awwwww'.

Overall it is a great read so go ahead and get yourself a copy!

Pamela says

After the death of Max's wife, Anna, the day that his daughter was born, his life begins to start spiraling out of control. He isn't sure how he can raise their daughter alone and he misses his wife. But he wasn't really alone; Max had his best friend Amy helping him whether he realized it at the time or not.

Amy knew, more than anything, that she wanted to be a mother, and when her one-time best friend Anna died, she turned to her boyfriend, who was rarely ever home, for comfort. When she found out she was going to be a mother, it was the happiest day of her life. Unfortunately for Amy, Jack didn't feel the same way. For Jack, what was most important to him was following his dreams.

From the moment that Anna died, the tragedy brought Max and Amy closer together for the sake of both of their children. For whatever reasons though, neither one of them would admit how they really felt about the other. For Amy, it was primarily because she wanted what was best for her daughter, even if that was a father that rarely spent time with Grace and was thousands of miles away most of the time. She thought, for Grace's sake, that she needed to try to make things work with Jack.

Everything was going pretty well for both Max and Amy until Jack unexpected shows back up in their lives. When Jack realizes that Amy and Grace have feelings for Max beyond just simple friendship, he puts into motion efforts to win Amy over.

Familiar Ties is such a sweet, heart-warming story. I found myself reading it into the early morning hours in an attempt to get to the end quicker to find out what happens. The story goes back and forth between present and past events but are easy to follow along with. Just when I thought that a past event wouldn't be touched on, it was. I felt like most everything that you could want to know about Max and Amy's history together was told. About the only thing that I find myself still wondering about is what exactly happened to Anna. You know that Anna died on the day of Phoebe's birth, but it's never specifically stated that she died giving birth. They knew that Anna was at risk with the pregnancy but unless I just don't remember, I can't recall what exactly happened to her.

I found myself laughing out loud at times and crying at other times. I really enjoyed the interaction with the kids, and I could see an innocent child saying things like what you'll find in this book.

I have to say that even when things weren't going so well for Max or Amy, I envied their lives. The friendships they have, the loving families. I enjoyed being in their world for all the longer it took me to read the book. I can certainly see myself reading Familiar Ties again at some point.

Although there were some issues, overall it was a well written story, and I look forward to reading more from Naya Nikki.

** I received an eARC copy of the book from InkSpell Publishing for review.**

Amy says

Given a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review

Review From Amy Conley For The Nerd Girl Page

Max West is a widower raising Phoebe, his four-year-old daughter. Phoebe has to live with the fact that the day she was born is also the day of her mother's death. As her fifth year without her mother approaches, Phoebe finds solace in her godmother, Amy Riley, and her daughter, Grace Crawford, another single parent family.

Amy Riley is a successful fashion designer who spends most of her days raising her four-year-old daughter, Grace, while her wayward boyfriend is travelling the world making the next best film. As the fifth year without her best friend looms she finds comfort in her ex-boyfriend, Max, and his daughter, Phoebe. These two "broken" families have a tough week to face as the dreaded day approaches. However through their past, present and debatable future will their choices affect the outcome both parents clearly want and are simply denying? Or will Phoebe and Grace lose the only "whole" family they have ever known?

My Review:

I really loved this book it was a fairly quick read but very promising! When I read the blurb I knew I HAD to read this book and I was not disappointed at all it was everything I was looking for in a book!

The story is absolutely amazing and so beautiful it just pulls at your heartstrings you won't be able to get through it without getting emotional (be sure to have tissues nearby)

It's written very well and I love that the author mixed things up to delve into the past a little bit and showed us flashbacks of what happened to lead the character's where they are and the journey they took to get there. Usually I have a hard time with the whole back and forth past to present thing because things get too confusing or get off track but I didn't find any of that in this book it has perfect flow and the right kind of balance to keep you captivated and wanting more with every page!

It's an amazing story of how two friends come to find what was in front of them all along if only they'd would have realized it sooner and finding the perfect moment to capture the love they have for each other and building the family they always longed for!

I'll definitely be keeping my eye on this author for future books I can't wait to see what she will be writing next!

Review has been written in conjunction with Nerd Girl Official

Shilpa Mudiganti says

There are books that leave an impression on you long after they are finished. Familiar Ties is one of them. It cling to me long after I finished the book. I had read this book couple of months back and I can still feel the warmth between Max and Amy. The whole family practically glowed with love and I found myself basking the glory of their love. The trials and tribulations were heartfelt but so natural that I found myself nodding. I cried, i laughed and rejoiced with the family over their small wins and losses.

Naya has a way with emotions thats hard to describe. I have read her short story "Coming Together" as well and it gave out the same glow to me. She writes from heart and has a bright future in writing. Its unique and quite homey. A must read for anyone who is looking for some cuddling and warm love.

Brooke Moss says

This book was heart-achingly lovely. I adored the alternate views, as I've done that in some of my own books, though not as successfully, and I adore knowing how different characters are feeling. I loved the premise, as I am a HUGE fan of friends-to-lovers stories, and I also felt my heart squeeze with the "defining death to children" subplot. To sad, to tender, to moving not to feel affected by it. Well done, Ms. Nikki, your books will be an auto-buy for me from now on. I'm a fan!
