



Rae of Sunshine

Micaela Smeltzer

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What I remember the most about that day was that it was completely ordinary. Then with one stupid decision everything fell apart and nothing was ever the same.

Rae Wilder wants nothing but a do over—but life doesn't work that way. She's stuck living out the consequences of her actions. At times the burden feels unbearable.

College is supposed to be her second chance.

New place.

New people.

New life.

No one to know what she did.

Despite that, she has still vowed to avoid everyone and everything at all costs.

Unfortunately for her, an accidental run-in with the campus heartthrob, Cade Montgomery, derails that plan.

He's determined to thaw the ice around her heart and expose the girl she used to be. He wants to show her that life is worth living for and that she really is a *Rae of Sunshine*.

Rae of Sunshine Details

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From Reader Review Rae of Sunshine for online ebook

M A R I G O L D says

This book felt formulaic and predictable. It was actually quite boring and nothing much happens. Half way through I started skimming and it ends neatly wrapped up with happiness and ribbons of sunshine. Very disappointing and contrived.

There are books out there that are just simply better than this attempt. It wasn't for me.

DNF. I wouldn't recommend it unless you're into books that are nonsensical and fluffy.

Jennifer Wyk says

Once in a while you one click a book based only on the recommendation of a friend and your world changes. That happened to me with Rae of Sunshine. I, admittedly, have other Micaela Smeltzer books on my kindle, just happily waiting there for me to devour, which I plan to now, but just hadn't yet. But this is about Rae of Sunshine, an amazing, adorable, sweet and emotionally charged college romance.

Rae is a sad and timid girl who has lived through something all parents fear. Her tragic story is one that is far too real in today's society. Rae is stuck in this holding pattern that she's put herself in, not knowing how to deal with the consequences of her past actions. She's secluded herself from everyone, until Cade enters her life. Cade is a force to be reckoned with, for sure. He's charming and determined but patient and kind in his pursuit of Rae. He sees her for more than what she is presenting to the rest of the world and through his perseverance, slowly breaks down the tall and thick walls Rae has built around herself. Rae headed off to college planning to seclude herself from the world, but what she ended up doing was allowing friends in and reminding herself that she wasn't always the quiet and shy loner that she is today.

I absolutely loved everything about Rae of Sunshine by Micaela Smeltzer. It was lovely and heart warming but beyond that, it is exactly what college romance should be about. Two lost souls finding each other and in return, finding themselves in the process. It displays the sweetness of young love but includes the heat and passion that we all love. I adored Rae of Sunshine and can't wait to read the rest of Micaela's work.

Nicla says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

A says

I absolutely loved every single part of this book... I can't complain on anything... *sighs dreamily* it was sweet and emotional and vulnerable and hilarious... with fantastic writing style I can highly recommend it :) give me some time to gather all my thoughts and feelings and you'll get a full review soon enough ;)

edited to add my full review :)

I actually read the two books available as of now in this series out of order... ;) and by now I mean the moment when I'm actually writing this review, because the third one will be out in a few days ;) so by the time you'll be reading this, there will be three in total ;) so even though they work perfectly well as standalones, I would actually recommend you guys reading them in order... that way, because the core characters appear in both of them, you'll get something a little more extra special, seeing them change over time... of course you can do whatever you want, but I wanted to put it out there, so you'll have all the details, to make an informed decision... ;) now that we have this little explanation out of the way, let me jump straight into telling you all about how amazing this book was :)

I will start with our main couple... Rae is in a very dark place at the beginning of this book... which was quite a shock to me, cause I knew her (from that second book I read before this one) as a totally different person... but I will get to that in a second ;) it's been a little bit over a year since something very horrible happened... unfortunately for you guys, I cannot tell you anything specific about that event, because it's not known from the start, we discover all of the details along the way... but what I can say is that Rae is being crushed by guilt... she's withdrawn, distant and closed off... we meet her on her first day on campus, when she moves into her dorm... my heart was really breaking for her... the whole situation is much too complicated to explain to you guys in just a few sentences, especially since I have to keep it spoilers-free, but Micalea Smeltzer did an amazing job in portraying her... all the emotions running around in her head, influencing her behaviour... it was done just amazingly... ;) and Cade... *swoons* I just... I don't have words good enough to describe how much I loved him... ;) he definitely wasn't your typical football-college-star-player... oh definitely not... ;) yes, he was confident, but because he hated all the attention and the kind of people it kept bringing to him, there were actually very few people with whom he could act naturally and feel comfortable... and since Rae didn't care about any sports related stuff, she caught his attention from the start... and who says that crashing into someone is a bad way to meet...? ;) and I do mean it in a literal sense, since he literally knocked her to the ground ;) I really adored about him the fact, that even though not many people knew that about him, but he had a much more vulnerable side and he also had to deal with some hard stuff... but since we get to know about that waaaaayyy into the book, no spoilers from me :)

Theirs is a very slow building romance... and I LOVED it :) they actually start as friends :) well, if were being completely honest, Rae is not interested in starting any kind of a relationship, romantic or even a freindship with anyone, but it's hard to really say no to someone named Montgomery... ;) I will explain that in a second :) but he is very persistent, and patient, and with time she realizes that somehow, he got under her skin :) so they begin a friendship... that slowly evolves into something more... and even though I would have not been able to resist Cade for as long as she did, I loved that it took them that much time to get together... I felt it was an honest description of someone who really needs to work through stuff on her own, before opening up to another person... they helped each other come to terms with certain stuff in their lives, and what I love the most, is that they confessed to each other about those dark moments before there was more between them... *sighs happily* this book was just sooooo wonderful :) I was rooting for both of them from the start, and it was extremely rewarding to see them change over the course of the months this book takes place... to observe how good they are for each other... and how diferent they both are at the end of this story... :)

When it comes to secondary characters, well... there are definitely some subtle, and then not so subtle suggestions about some future couples... ;) but I don't want to get into that too much, instead I will let you discover all those little things by yourselves... who I want to concentrate on, is Thea... :) this is the moment when I explain that whole it-is-hard-to-say-no-to-someone-named-Montgomery ;) because Thea is not only Rae's roommate in the dorm, she is also Cade's younger sister :) and oh how I adored her :) she's this bubble, open and talkative person :) she and Rae are nothing alike... but somehow, and by that I mean that she kept reaching out to her, Thea and Rae became friends...and she was another person who helped Rae become a person she is at the end of this story ;) I won't say more, only how happy I am that I already had the pleasure

of reading her book.. :)

I loved every minute of reading this story... even more so because I actually read the paper edition :) a quick explanation, why that got me all excited... :) the majority of the books I read are e-books... because I get stories in that format from PR companies, publishers and authors... don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining :) I love reading in general, but I just adore the feel of an actual book in my hands :) so ever since I got a steady income, I am slowly building my library of books, and this one was very high on my wishlist... ever since I read and loved Thea's story, I knew I would have to go back and read this one as well... so why not buy it in paperback? :) now it's on my shelf and I can pet it any time I want ;) but make no mistakes... I would adore this story as much as I did even if I would read it on my kindle :) the amazing writing style that made me care soooo much about the characters, an emotional and honest story... slow building romance, and all sorts of friendships along the way... *sighs dreamily* this book has no flaws :) I highly recommend it to you guys... go and one click this perfection right now if you haven't already... and if you already bought it, but it's been waiting on your shelf / e-reader... what are you waiting for?!? go read it NOW ;) especially since it's currently FREE on Amazon :)

XOXO

A

for more book-ish stuff visit:

my blog -> <https://bookworm8619.blogspot.com/>

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Paige says

4 "Sunny" Stars

Rae is a girl with demons. Even after leaving her old life behind and trying to start over in a new place at college, she's still trying to outrun her past. Quiet, broody and purposely pushing people away, she literally runs into her future. She just doesn't realize it at first. Cade seems to be the exact opposite of Rae. He's happy, popular, and has everything at his finger tips. But as Rae learns, some scars are clearly visible while others hide below the surface. With help both can be overcome and Rae is about to learn that the life she's been living isn't necessarily the one meant for her.

With a quiet intensity, Rae of Sunshine is a powerful story of overcoming mistakes and living the life you've been given when friendship and love are given freely. Cade and Rae's story was a slow building friendship that was never just quite friendship. Watching Cade quietly love and hold on to Rae even when she didn't want him to was so sweet. He was exactly what she needed in her life that she didn't think she deserved. When her secrets were revealed, the truth is a punch to the gut because her story could be my story. Watching the aftermath of something so tragic was hard to read at times but so important. Cade was the catalyst for her healing but Rae was also the catalyst for his. Cade had a life riddled with unfortunate events and people that left him hurt, but hid his pain differently than Rae.

I appreciated was that Micalea told their stories exactly as they were without any embellishments or unnecessary drama or angst. Together they worked through their own issues and came out stronger. While the beginning of the book had a YA feel to it, as Cade and Rae's relationship progressed, it began to transition to a more NA feel. While I wasn't exacting the slow build up, it was the perfect way to show real growth and healing within the characters and their story arc. By the end I was as head over heels for Rae and

Cade as they were to each other and finished with a smile on my face.

ARC provided to A is for Alpha B is for Books for honest review.

Deserie williams says

May Contain Spoilers!

4.5 Cade stars. great, sweet, heartbreaking read! Cade was so patient and perfect! I love him so much! Rae at first was a little hard to like (understandable) as to why she pushed people away but she was great. Loved Thea too. I would like to read about her. This was a pretty clean romance. A little making out and sex scenes weren't really detailed.

safety : both had one relationship in high school. h is a virgin and H had very few hooks up (no mention of oral skills) .he wasn't a manwhore at all. h did love her ex but it wasn't nothing compared to her feelings for H in fact I felt it was more of a friend /puppy love (for her and H 's high school gf)! She does have memories of her ex. this deals with death .

Katie Lemieux says

I absolutely loved this book I wish there was a second one. I read this in 3 hours I couldn't put it down. Great read <3

Selly - Leggere Romanticamente says

Se amate i new adult universitari, vi consiglio questa dolce ed emozionante lettura!

Haley says

:) what an amazing story. You are not going to want to miss this book!!!

Sammy says

First off, I did really love this story! On that note, I would have given this story more stars, but I was unable to get over the multiple grammer errors that were repeated. But happily I can say over all I did enjoy this book! Plus, I absolutely loved Cade Montgomery!!

Amy says

I really like the world created in this series. I started with book 2 so going back to the beginning was interesting. I enjoyed this relationship and it's unique challenges. I think it was handled well. Looking forward to the 3rd book in the series.

Genesis Sheli (Latte Nights Reviews) says

Rae of Sunshine shows the side of a villain/victim that goes through the consequences of texting and driving.

Rae arrives as a freshman to college. She is not there to make friends, she wants to be alone but her roommate Thea doesn't give up on Rae and tries to befriend her.

One day, Rae gets literally knocked down and Cade is there to help her up since it was his fault she ended up on the floor in the first place. Cade and Thea are siblings and once having met Rae, they make it their own personal goal to befriend Rae and get her out of her shell.

Cade is a very gentle, caring and sweet human being and he is so hot! I mean, he is the quarterback of his college's football team! Cade doesn't like the limelight, he doesn't like being popular. He loves football as a hobby, not for a career like his father wants. He is the one that gives Rae her nickname: Rae of Sunshine. I kept thinking "why is this the title?" Once you keep reading, you find out why :)

Rae is dealing with the consequences of her actions and it has been very hard for her to accept. She blames herself a lot and doesn't want to open up to anybody, not even Cade.

Thea is a young teenager and sweet girl. She is a fun y character and I love that she's always there for Rae even when Rae doesn't want her to be there. Thea is also very hyper and obsessed when it comes to football. I didn't people got that excited...

Novalee is the bad-ass chick that I hope gets her own story because I love her! She has purple hair, drives a motorcycle, wears bad-ass clothes and I love her. Nova is Rae's partner for their photography class' project.

Reading this story has made me think about when I text and drive and how close I have been to getting in an accident. This is a very serious matter and unfortunately, not many people take it seriously.

I loved each character from this story! I already messaged the author to write the stories about the other two "couples" in the series because I really want more. Micaela has a way of writing a very sad, tragic and serious story but balancing it with jokes and happiness. I was in a very sour mood before reading RoS and this book turned my mood around and I was thoroughly enjoying every aspect of this book.

J. Haney says

Amazingly Sweet and Emotional Read!

"Cade Montgomery crashed into my life, literally, and now I never wanted him to leave. He was my salvation."

I sit here and I'm still in awe after finishing this book, not even sure where to start. Before I start let me just say my review won't matter as your reading this amazing story. Everyone and I mean everyone will take this story differently. If you are in a hard place this is the best book for you hands down. Everyone needs a little Rae of Sunshine. Trust me grab your copy today and I can promise you won't be disappointed. This story told for Rae "Rachel" Wilder's point of view. It's written amazingly well. Michalea has a new reader in me.

"You're my Rae of Sunshine, and I mean that. Before you, I was a ghost in my own life. You woke something up in me."

Rae Wilder is a broken girl who has never dealt with a horrible tragedy. She's now running from her past. She moves to a new town, 3 hours away to a new college. All she wants is to be left alone, no friends. Just her camera and classes. What she wasn't ready for was her roommate Thea. Can Thea bring Rae out of her funk?

"I hadn't been looking for love.

Or friendship.

Or a lot of things.

But the things you think you don't need can turn out to be exactly what you didn't know you were searching for."

Cade Montgomery is the college football star. Though he isn't your natural football star. He's sweet and caring, very much determined but patient in his pursuit of Rae. Did I mention Cade is Thea's (Rae's roommate) older brother? Well he is! Makes for a crazy time. Hee Hee. Cade know his fair share of tragedy and is living through the pain.

"My skin was warm despite the cool temperature and I felt almost drunk—drunk on life, maybe, because for the first time in a long time I was happy to be alive."

Will Cade be Rae's strength when she has none? Will he give her the loves she needs? What will she do? Is there anything he can do? Will they get their happily ever after? I guess you will just have to read and found out!

"Memories have a way of haunting you for the rest of your life. They don't just go away. They become a part of you—an essential element of your make up."

Oh hell I forgot to add there are a few major twists that you will not be expecting. Well I know I wasn't. Also be prepared you will get brought into the story while reading as if it is you going through this. With that being said I want to thank Micalca for writing such an amazing story. Now after all this I have to sit and wait for the next one. I do wonder if we will get any more Rae and Cade. Oh Maybe Thea and Xander or even Nova and Jace. Hmm I suppose I will have to wait and see.

"I mean, I did lay on top of you, so I figured I should at least know your name."

Anna Doe says

*** 3 sunshine stars ***

I've been thinking a lot how many stars to give this book and in general how I feel about it. Some parts I loved some, not so much. I've read two other series by this author - *Willow Creek* and *Trace + Olivia* - and *Willow Creek* made it to my best reads of 2016.

If you follow Micaela on Facebook you probably saw that *Rae of Sunshine*, book #1 in *Light in the Dark* series, was one of the hardest books she has ever written and I get why. If you are interested in full post you can find it here.

Rachel "Rae" Wilder would do everything to redo her past. Unfortunately, life doesn't work that way so she takes the next best option - she runs away from it and starts from zero. New name. New place. New experiences. New people. Although she isn't really interested in the last one. If you let people in your life, eventually you'll start to feel something for them and if you start feeling you'll be broken once they are no longer there. From the moment she stepped her foot on the campus ground, and run into Cade Montgomery, college's football player and heartthrob, nothing goes how she planned it. Cade will let her run, but not so far so that he couldn't catch her, and he'll do it in the end. Catch his Rae of Sunshine.

The thing about starting over is it isn't as easy as people say.
It's impossible to become completely different person.
You can change your hair.
Your makeup.
Even your name.
But at the end of each and every day you're still the same person you were yesterday, and the day before that.

I'll start with the things I liked:

1. Cade Montgomery

He's cute and sweet and caring. He plays football because he likes the game and because his dad makes him, and not to go pro or win the women. He has dreams of his own, but he also has secrets and his own dark past. What I like about him the best is that he tries and he is so, so good.

"Everyone has scars. Everyone. Sometimes, you can't see them and those can be the worst."

2. The way Rae's past was shown.

We get glimpses and pieces through the whole story. Memories and dreams of what happened and what makes Rachel turn into Rae. Why did she run, who is she running from, who was she and who is she now.

3. Supporting characters

Xander, Thea, Novalee, and Jacen - they all are amazing and it's clear that although there is a big gap between book #1 and book #2 this is meant to be series.

4. The whole idea for the story

Although we see a lot of news with accidents happening everywhere around the world because drivers aren't careful enough and they use phones while driving, those things keep happening. Are people really that dumb that they have to learn from their own mistakes and not from someone else's? I think it's really important to address this subject. This book is for younger people so maybe if they read it, they'll learn from character's mistakes and not use the phone while driving.

What I didn't like:

1. One POV

I'm 2 or more POV kind of girl. I was missing Cade's POV and I think he's really one of the most underrated characters in the series (everybody else has POV). I wanted to see more of him. Who he was, what did he see in Rae, how did he cope with his own dark past, the battle between who he wanted to be vs. who his father wanted him to be. If Micalea ever decides to rewrite this book I would love it to have Cade's POV.

2. Rae

I wasn't too happy with her. She wants this new life, but what does she do when she comes to campus and has to introduce herself? "Hey, I'm Rachel... ohh, but I like to be called Rae." It was kind of like an afterthought. If I decided to start a new and pick new name/nickname I would introduce myself as such. She also doesn't want friends, but she doesn't put real effort into running away when she meets Thea, Nova, Cade and others. She just gives in. I wanted to see more of a struggle between her old and new life. She also has moments where she is really bitchy (poor Thea) and when she leaves Cade in that fight and runs away? So not good!

So, yeah, I think this book is solid 3 stars.

Some questions that are not answered in *Rae of Sunshine* will be answered later on in *When Stars Collide*, so don't worry.

Even if you aren't biggest of fans of *Rae of Sunshine*, don't give up. I assure you books that are coming are really interesting. I waited to finish *When Stars Collide* to write this review and try to be objective about it all.

BookHookup says

4.5 Stars! *Rae of Sunshine* is a powerful story. For Rae, a strong yet timid young woman who's lived through a terrible tragedy, it's about overcoming the past and self-forgiveness. For Cade, a gentle and caring guy, it's about dealing with a difficult family situation. Both of these characters are damaged by what they've seen and what they've experienced and this story is about how fate can bring you the right person at the right time and help you move forward.

So much about this story is heartbreaking. The feelings of sadness and guilt that both Rae and Cade dealt with felt so real that I could feel the heaviness in my own heart as well. Yet, there was hope here too. When Cade, quite literally, came barreling into Rae's life, things changed. They saw in each other the shoulder to lean on that each needed...and they saw the light at the end of the tunnel. I absolutely adored Cade's tenacity. The fact that he never gave up on Rae, and was patient and so kind with her, just softened my heart. Every person needs a Cade in their life – someone with equal amounts of tenderness, strength, humor, and love to spare. Even as he deals with his own demons, he still focuses on Rae's needs. Their progression from friendship to more was heart-warming.

This story touched me deeply and I really liked that there weren't many unnecessary plots just to add drama. The story moved at what some might feel is a slow pace but I don't think the author could have done justice to Rae and Cade's story in any other fashion. They needed to come to terms with their lives and make decisions about the future...and couldn't do that without time. I should also say that I loved the secondary characters, especially Thea and Nova, and I'm looking forward to reading their stories. The friendship between all of these characters can only get stronger and will undoubtedly help them all heal. This is a book that makes you think, that makes you feel and that gives you hope that it's possible to move forward from your own tragedies. It's definitely a book you should consider reading!

