



Catching Summer

L.P. Dover

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Hailed by Heidi McLaughlin as a bestselling author who “knows how to create the men who make us swoon,” L. P. Dover returns with an edgy, emotionally gripping Second Chances novel about a beautiful widow who can’t resist a chiseled NFL player.

Former nurse Summer Jacobs has seen her fair share of suffering, but she never expected tragedy to hit so close to home. After watching her husband die in the MMA ring, Summer spends the next two years fighting her way through the darkness. The last thing she needs is another hardheaded athlete turning her life upside down. But that’s exactly what happens when she meets a gridiron star who’s as skilled at stealing hearts as he is at snagging passes.

Carolina Cougars wide receiver Evan Townsend usually has no problem winning fans, so he’s intrigued when Summer shoots down his go-to plays for winning a woman’s attention. Never one to back down from a challenge, Evan turns up the heat, setting off sparks that neither can deny. But as his slow seduction begins to chase away Summer’s pain, he gets the feeling that someone is desperate to keep them apart. Now Evan will do anything to protect her—because he never misses a chance to make a perfect catch.

Catching Summer Details

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Author : L.P. Dover

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From Reader Review Catching Summer for online ebook

Nicola says

3.5 stars

I do love a good sports romance and one with some angst, so when I read the blurb for *Catching Summer* it had *read me* written all over it. And not only have I discovered a new author in L.P Dover, but I discovered an enjoyable story encompassing love, loss, discovery and suspense.

Summer's husband was murdered in front of her, and though time has moved on and she's beginning to see parts of her return that she thought had died along with Austin, she still doubts she can ever open her heart up again. Waiting on the sideline has is her friend's NFL star brother, Evan. He's held a torch for Summer for some time, but is also not daft enough to wade in knowing what's she's been through. Her joining the team's staff though means spending time together and friendship soon becomes more.

Together they were lovely and their story well paced. Despite what she's suffered, Summer is a strong woman and Evan is a patient, gentle, but protective and occasionally jealous guy. But what I wasn't expecting was the suspense element of the story and this was a welcome surprise, and not entirely predictable.

"I want you to know that our memories will always be in my heart."

It wasn't without its flaws though, and the love-triangle involving Summer's twin sister, Evan's best-friend and Summer's brother-in-law/business partner just felt like unnecessary drama to me; there was enough happening in this story without it. On the whole though this is an enjoyable read, I'm certainly looking forward to Derek's story and it's worth mentioning that whilst this is book 6 in the *Second Chances* series, not having read the previous five was of no detriment.

Copy received courtesy of Loveswept via NetGalley for an honest and unbiased opinion.

XxTainaxX says

Honestly, it took me a while to get into this book. The first 64% was kind of boring and pretty standard so I wasn't really feeling it to be honest. At 65% it got interesting. That event seemed to change the book altogether. It honestly read like an entirely different novel. The latter part I enjoyed. Summer experienced tragedy. Evan liked her but was cautious and conscientious of her situation, waiting for the right time. That time comes and we get to see it all play out. I found Evan to be this regular dude despite his "pro football" career. In some ways that was good. Summer was fragile for a while but had a backbone when it counted so I wouldn't discount her altogether. The story had some sad and tragic moments. It had joy. It had an extremely tender bromance moment. It had growth. Complexity. Interesting twists. All of it after 65% lol This is one of the ones that though I considered DNFing, I'm glad I didn't. Safety: No OW though one flirts with the H. No OM though more than one is aggressively interested in h. No sharing. No condoms. Neither are Vs. No pushing away.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

Amy says

Catching Summer is a wonderful second chance romance and it follows the story of Summer and Evan. For the past two years, Summer has been desperately trying to get her life back after tragically losing her husband. Her loss has been a tough one, one that invades her dreams and has completely consumed her. But, now 2 years later, Summer has picked herself up and is living her life the way her husband would have wanted. And although the thought of moving on terrifies her, she knows that her husband would not have wanted her to be alone...Summer wasn't ready or prepared for Evan, but when the two of them are forced together, they can't deny the sparks that fly between them. Only not everyone is thrilled about Evan and Summer being together. Someone is trying to keep them apart and that someone will stop at nothing to achieve that goal....Will Summer get a second chance at love and life?

Catching Summer was well written and a really sweet second chance romance. One of the first things that drew me to this book was the cover. I love, love, love covers! After that, I had to read the synopsis. I really wanted a good, angsty read. And this book more than delivered on the angst and drama factor.

I loved Evan and Summer together. My heart ached for the way that Summer lost her husband and I just wanted her to find some happiness. She definitely deserved it. One of things I really loved and appreciated was how Evan was with Summer. He didn't try to rush her. He was patient and understanding. You could tell that his feelings for Summer were genuine. Yes, he did have some alpha male/protective tendencies, but he was very swoon-worthy. And Summer...I can't even imagine having to go through what she did. And after everything, she came out stronger than ever and determined to live her life. Evan was just what she needed.

Overall, I found Catching Summer to be a really great second chance romance. It was a quick and easy read for me. It was entertaining and definitely held my interest. It had just the right amount of angst, drama, romance and suspense. Yes, there was some suspense and mystery thrown into this love story. I really loved those twists and turns. They were very unexpected and really kept things interesting. This is the sixth book in the Second Chances series, but it can totally be read as a stand-alone.

I was provided an ARC copy of this book, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review

Strider28 says

In the prologue we learn that our heroine, Summer, has suffered through a horrifying tragedy that some may never have recovered from. Her husband, Austin, is killed right in front of her and while her tormentors have her blindfolded she can hear his every bone breaking and his pleas to make these ruthless men let his wife go.

Two years later Summer is still having nightmares despite being treated by Dr. Philip Parker. She has come a long way though and is moving on with her life through her work. Her husband Austin always dreamed of opening a restaurant with Summer and Summer has made that dream come true in Austin's memory with the help of her sister Lara and by partnering with Austin's brother Grayson. But the one place she hasn't moved on is in her personal life.

Summer still loves Austin and can't let him go. Despite encouragement to date from her friends and family Summer still feels guilty. She feels as if she'd be betraying her dead husband by moving on. But then she comes up close and personal with professional football player, Evan Townsend. He's the brother of one of

her best friends but she's never really had any contact with him until that day. It's the first time she's felt anything for a man since the death of her husband.

This is a great love story about a damaged woman and a man that's willing to take things slow and help her move on from her past.

But there's so much more to this story! Someone is targeting Evan and trying to get him hurt or killed. But why? As things become terrifying for Summer she's afraid she'll slip back into her shell because she can't bear to have her heart ripped out again if something were to happen to Evan. Her doctor agrees with her and encourages her to be careful with her heart. He even goes so far to suggest she may be better off without Evan in her life.

But Summer is not about to let go of the one person who has brought her back to life.

After one attempt on Evan's life almost succeeds and has him laid up in a hospital Summer stays by his side while some of their police friends investigate. When the clues start adding, up one man becomes a suspect but he has alibis for the times of the attempts on Evan's life.

This book is a page turner and I couldn't put it down until I had read the last page.

I loved Summer and Evan and all of the secondary characters. The only reason I didn't give this book 5 stars was because the storyline with the football team and how it operates was so unrealistic it was laughable. I understand authors need to take some creative license but this went far beyond what is acceptable. At the same time I read books to escape real life so even though the football parts of the book upset me the characters and the other story lines were strong enough for me to enjoy the book.

I believe this story may be part of a series but it can be read as a stand alone. (I have not read any other books that may be a part of this series but I didn't feel like I was missing anything.) It also has a HEA.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Kahea says

*****3.5 Stars*****

I try very hard to not pick up a book in the middle of a series, even when it has been noted that said book can be read as a standalone, but sometimes the blurb to a book just causes a spike in my curiosity and I just have to go for it and that's exactly what happened with Catching Summer. It is the sixth book in the Second Chances series, but I didn't feel as if I was missing out on anything by not reading the previous books in the series, and I found it to be a sweet, sexy and somewhat heartbreaking story with a great cast of characters and good dose of suspense tossed into the mix.

My heart broke for Summer for having to experience her husband's death and the emotional hell she went through after, but I admired how she took the steps get her life back on track and learn to live once more without the guilt and pain holding her back. She is sweet, sassy and has a generous heart, though there were times when she was a bit clueless as to what was going on around her. Evan is the type of guy that makes me happy sigh. He's handsome, charming and exudes confidence without it coming across as arrogant. He's protective and will push when he has the advantage but knows when to back off and let things play out.

Summer and Evan's budding relationship was fun to watch. There were some really sweet moments and I really liked how Evan would push Summer but still let her be in control of just how fast and far they went. Of course it helps that Evan knew what Summer had been through and watched as she healed, but that just shows how into her he really is. One of the biggest pro's for me with them was that they actually communicated like adults. They had their moments of doubt, of course, but they didn't play the 'you need to read my mind' game. My one issue was the speed that they went from getting to know more about each other to the I love you's. I know it can happen and considering what they were dealing with I can see how it could

push things along, but I'd've liked a little more build up before they declared their love for each other.

This was my first read by L.P. Dover and I really enjoy it. I was hooked from the start, enjoyed the first person dual POV. I thought that the mystery surrounding who was trying to keep Evan and Summer apart was done well. The twists and turns kept me guessing for most of the book and when I finally figured it out I mentally kicked my own butt for not figuring it out sooner. I liked the supporting cast of characters and while I'm looking forward to see what happens in the next book in the series with Derek, it's actually Jaxon who I find I'm the most curious about. I don't particularly like him since he acts like he's still in highschool, but I want to know why he felt the need to do the things that he did and will therefore be crossing my toes that he gets his own book sooner rather than later.

~ ARC provided by Random House Publishing House - Loveswept via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review ~

Misty (Red's Romance Review's) says

Watching her husband lose his life in front of her, and not being able to do anything about it completely devastated Summer Jacobs and left her permanently scarred and doubtful that she would ever experience love again. Going through all that pain left her a shell of the woman she use to be, but after some much needed therapy and support from her family she started to see glimpses of her old stuff return. With her life somewhat returning to normal, she decides to open a restaurant with her husband's brother, hoping it will give her something to focus her energy on, and also accomplish a life long dream that her late husband had. With the new business adventure excelling, and everything else in her life falling back into place, she begins to consider the possibility of dating again. But the idea of opening her heart up to love again scares her beyond belief...

NFL star Evan Townsend, has been waiting in the wings for some time now hoping for a chance to date his sister's best friend Summer Jacobs, and now that she is finally ready to return to the dating world he wants to be the man that takes her on her first date. With her working alongside his sister at the teams facility, he figures it's the perfect way to get to know her better, and also slowly work his way into getting that first date. The problem is she has another interested suitor, one who isn't too fond of him being in the picture, one who will stop at nothing to get the girl...

It has been a while since I have read a story that completely captured my attention, and consumed me the way this one did, I was barely a paragraph into this one and I immediately felt myself being pulled into Evan and Summer's world and completely entranced by every written word. These two uniquely characters were definitely a match made in literary heaven, the chemistry they shared could be felt from their first encounter, and continued to burn brightly until the very end. This was my first time reading something from this author, and I have to say that her writing totally took me by surprise, and instantly made me regret not reading something by her before now... she completely won me over with this beautifully written story, and I look forward to reading more of her books in the VERY near future!! I highly recommend you give this read a try, it is one of those stories that will invade your thoughts, steal the breath from your lungs, move you to tears, and linger with you long after the last page has been turned!

ARC requested through NetGalley and kindly provided by Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept in exchange for a honest and unbiased review.

Laura says

ARC Provided by the Publisher and NetGalley

I wanted to like this one more than I did. The story was good, for the most part, and held my mild curiosity (hence the 2 stars which may be more than it actually deserves). The characters had potential, but unfortunately, there were some issues both with the plot and the actual construction of the novel that kept me from being able to fully engage.

1. The dialog- it was stiff and unnatural and I could not see real people making the statements. The locker room scenes especially...I did not believe 2 men were talking to one another.
2. The writing- choppy and unclear in some places. The POV was from both Evan and Summer, but written almost in the 3rd person, so it was sometimes hard to tell who was speaking. There was also no discernible difference in the 2, so it felt like one book with one narrator, which makes the POV awkward.
3. The plot with Jax and Lindsay- this was not believable to me...maybe that a cheerleader would behave in this manner, as most cheerleaders are part-time. However, I did not believe a player who had made it to the NFL would behave in the manner he did and risk his career. I know it happens with players, but not for the flimsy reason given in this.
4. The entire plot with the therapist Summer was seeing was not only unnecessary, but would have actually made her question her entire recovery and therapy process...which was somehow not addressed. You don't find out something like this about the therapist you were seeing for 2 years without it shaking who you are and the recovery you have made...yet this was not even really addressed.
5. The whole nurse thing...you don't just "pop" back into nursing, no matter who you know, after you have left the profession. The idea that an NFL team would let her work with them (although not actually sure what she ever did other than take some classes) to keep her nursing license current was ridiculous. I may have been more bothered than others by this because I work in a healthcare field, but still.

I think this book gets bogged down under the lack of totally believable plot and choppy writing. I think better writing would have carried the plot in a more convincing manner...and a less shaky plot would have made the writing issues less glaring.

L.P. Dover says

Evan's story ~ More info to come soon :)

Irene says

3.5 stars

Catching Summer was a good read.

I enjoyed watching the relationship develop between Evan and summer, they had great chemistry and both were likable/entertaining characters.

Some of the drama I didn't care for but it didn't take away from my overall enjoyment.

Overall a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon, I highly recommend this book.

Thank you Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept via NetGalley for the advance copy.

Nadine Bookaholic says

This was a sweet friends to lovers story that has the makings of a great Hallmark channel movie (just enough angst).

Summer's husband was killed in an underground MMA fight two years ago and it left her in a very bad place emotionally, her sister never thought she would recover from Austin's death especially since she had witnessed it. Since his passing Summer opened a restaurant, it was something he had always dreamed of doing it and it was a way to keep his memory alive. With the help of her sister and her brother-in-law they make the restaurant a success now the only thing standing in her way of moving on is herself. With this in mind Summer decides to return to nursing but first she needs to take some classes, and she gains some hands on experience that comes in the form of Football players. Yes, Summer has agreed to help her friend Kate with working as a nurse for the football team during the summer and she would get lots of practice in to regain her nursing career.

Evan Townsend (a star NFL player) is Kate's brother and also a friend of Summer's, he has desperately wanted her for a while now but he knew the devastation that she had gone through with the loss of her husband. Now that Summer was working with his football team he needed to keep the other players away from her and somehow convince her that he was the person she should be moving on with.

Although this was the sixth book in the series it is easily read as a standalone, the previous books set up some of the other couples in this book so if you would like everyone's background I would suggest you start with book one, otherwise you can jump in at this point and (like me) eventually go back to the previous books.

I am off to read Defending Hayden which is Derek's story.

I have received this book from Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept through netgalley in exchange for my honest review <https://www.netgalley.com/>

I have also purchased a copy of this book from Amazon

Elle's Book Blog says

Published: April 5, 2016

Genre: Contemporary Romance (Sports & Suspense)

:: 4.5 Pretty Little Stars ::

I really loved this novel. In all honesty, I have been skirting around it for awhile because I am not too familiar with the author and, after trying to read like 5 books, I finally decided to give this one a chance. Woah. I am so glad I did! It's a great mix of emotions, angst, sweetness, and suspense. It's also a love after loss novel (which always tugs at my heart). I loved the characters, I loved the hero, and I loved the story. This book really has a lot going for it and I definitely plan to read the other ones in the series (especially the sports ones as I am becoming familiar with the characters who appear though each of them). Anyway, I definitely recommend this book. It was more than I hoped for and it got me out of my book funk!

Christie«SHBBlogger» says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

A. Cook says

Catching Summer by LP Dover is the sixth entry in the Second Chances Series and it was absolutely fabulous. Sometimes, the contemporary romance genre can become saturated with so many similar works and the reader starts to expect the predictability. Though I started the series at book six I quickly caught on to who was who and once I started reading, I absolutely did not want to put it down. Of course the book was romantic but it was those other suspenseful elements that made the story hard to put down. For those who pick this up thinking it's going to be one of those humdrum reads ... well you would be mistaken.

In Catching Summer we find the heroine (who happens to be Summer) recovering from loss of her husband and it is taking her everything she has to get over one last hurdle and reenter the world fully. For Summer reentry is a little scary but she's lucky because she has a strong family base and good friends who will help her when she struggles. On the sidelines, we have the sexy and caring hothead of a football player Evan. He's been keeping a respectful distance from Summer but if given the chance he'll gladly become the second part of her life. This couple made such a neat match for one another, with him ready to throw down with anyone messing with his Sunshine and her ability to calm him down makes for romantic gold.

Please don't get the idea that everything is sugar and roses because it isn't. What's a good romance without a couple of whack-nuts? Believe me, they have to run an obstacle course full of nut jobs. I love a romance with ex-lovers behaving badly and spurned suitors who just can't take NO for an answer. The authors skillfully wove all of these elements into her tale and made it thoroughly entertaining. So, those who are fans of jaw dropping angst (which I am) and leading males and females who get the job done, then this is the read for you.

~~*~~ Thank you to Netgalley, the publisher and the author for providing this ARC in exchange for an honest review.~~*~~

Emma says

There's not much I can really say about this, I couldn't connect to the writing or the characters..something just felt off for me but I'm not sure why. I think the chemistry between Summer and Evan felt forced, and I thought a lot of the action parts were ridiculously dramatic.

I haven't read any of the others in this series so maybe I'm better starting from book 1 because there was a ton of side characters that I felt disconnected from because I didn't know their full story...

An arc was provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

I enjoy a book that involves a different twist than what you normally see in a romance novel. This one involves some dark activities and a little bit of suspense.

I was a little worried when this book started out. I was actually somewhat taken aback with the darkness and in-depth description of a murder. Where I can understand the author setting it up the plot, some of the description is a bit harsh for a romance.

However, the first part of the book was the best part of the book in my opinion. While I love the story and the development of the plot, it seemed that halfway through the book something changed and maybe the author was just in a hurry to get it done. I'm not sure what it is but I never really felt overly connected with the two main characters. I enjoyed the feelings that Evan felt for Summer and he treated her right. Plus there was so delicious scenes too! He was a sweetheart and totally swoon worthy, but Summer was a different thing for me. I just never connected with her for some reason.

I had never read any of the other books in the series, although this is the sixth book in the Second Chances series so I don't have anything to compare it to. But I hope in future publications the author may take a little bit longer in developing and expanding the story so that the reader has a better buy in.

This is the first book I have read by this author and with the fact that she has over 50 works out there, I am surprised! While this one did not hit it out of the park for me, I still enjoyed the storyline and will definitely check out other books by her.
