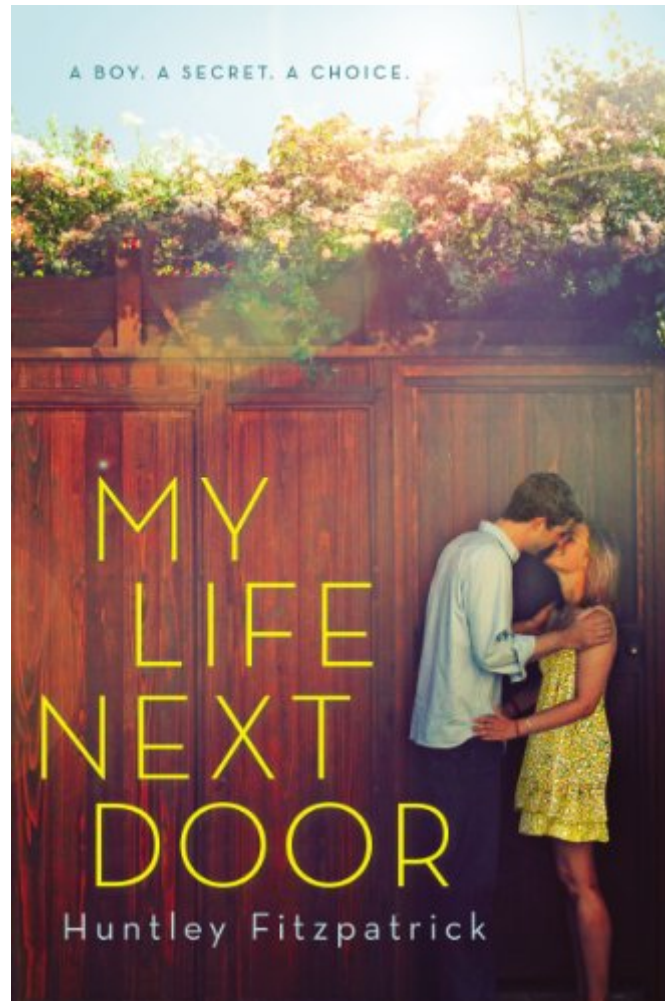




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My Life Next Door



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Synopsis

A gorgeous debut about family, friendship, first romance, and how to be true to one person you love without betraying another—“One thing my mother never knew, and would disapprove of most of all, was that I watched the Garretts. All the time.”—The Garretts are everything the Reeds are not. Loud, numerous, messy, affectionate. And every day from her balcony perch, seventeen-year-old Samantha Reed wishes she was one of them . . . until one summer evening, Jase Garrett climbs her terrace and changes everything. As the two fall fiercely in love, Jase’s family makes Samantha one of their own. Then in an instant, the bottom drops out of her world and she is suddenly faced with an impossible decision. Which perfect family will save her? Or is it time she saved herself? A dreamy summer read, full of characters who stay with you long after the story is over.

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Customer Reviews

I'm generally not big on YA contemps but I wanted to read something "light and fluffy" to kick off my

summer reading. This book had been highly recommended on booklr and I picked it up as a start to a summer traveling book project. I really loved this book. It seems like it follows the typical YA trope of 'boy and girl fall in love, one of them has a devastating secret that tears them apart, will they ever recover??' but the secret in this one is nothing I've ever read in YA, if I'm honest. Generally, I scoff at this teen angst but my heart was breaking for all involved in this tragic turn of events. It does wrap up nicely and a maybe a little too neatly, but I was pretty satisfied with it overall. I loved the Garretts! I've seen many reviews bashing the premise of having so many children (8!) but, and maybe this is a southern thing, I thought it was interesting and I loved seeing all the different personalities in the siblings and the way they took care of each other. Those of you who are complaining about the older children watching out for the little ones must have very small families. It takes a village to raise a child. There is instalove in this but let's be real- the author has x amount of pages to tell the story in a stand alone and there's not time to build a slow burn relationship. While I loved this one, I probably won't be picking up the spin-off involving Tim and Alice. Sorry, I only like Jase! Would recommend for anyone wanting something quick and easy to read. Summer lovin', friends!

First Impression: Extremely well-written, fantastic characterization and setting descriptions.

Fast-paced, with the kind of beautiful language and sentence structure that pulls you right into the story and keeps you there. I absolutely adore this book. *My Life Next Door* by Huntley Fitzpatrick reminds me of my own youth, the hopes and dreams I used to have, the moments I shared with friends and family, the way I used to stargaze and think about this vast world that seemed so much bigger than me. This book was everything I hoped it would be and more, because I related to these characters, and rooted for them to find a way through the confusion and self-doubts they faced. Every once in a while, you run across a book that is just pure, raw magic. Everything in it feels right and true and natural, and the characters are people you know, used to know, or maybe simply wish you knew. This was one of those books for me. I loved Samantha and Jase. I loved Samantha's fascination with the family next door, and her confusion when Jase finally breaks and approaches her one night. It's the best kind of romance, innocent as it is deep, beautiful as it is unique, and unbelievably realistic and true-to-life. This book had depth, and substance, and amazing character insights that made me think on people in my own life, or that were in my life when I was a teenager, some of which changed the very foundation of who I was back then. Not many books can take me there, but this one did, and I love it for that alone, but also for the excellent characterization and the beautiful, well-told story of a wonderful summer romance with a great first-love. If you're looking for an incredible read with the power to consume you, *My Life Next Door*

by Huntley Fitzpatrick is that and more. When you read this book, you aren't thinking of anything else but the characters and that special, innocent time in life when nothing made sense and everything you ever wanted was right there, only a short, quick, handhold away.

What can I say about *My Life Next Door* that hasn't been said 1,000 times before? I love this book. To this day it remains one of my all time favorite YA contemporaries. It's a wonderful book. It's a great portrayal of teenage life and first love. Jase is swoony. Samantha is real and likable. This book took over my life when I read it. Both the first time, years ago, and more recently when I decided to do a reread both in preparation for *The Boy Most Likely To* and just because I LOVED it and wanted more of this world Huntley created. *My Life Next Door* made me wish I'd have grown up next door to a family like the Garretts. How could you not fall in love with ALL of the Garretts? I sure did. Each of their personalities was so unique to them and came through on every single page. Add Sam's "bad boy" friend Tim to the mix and you have pure bookish gold. The characters truly make this book special. Of course, as with any book there are some not-so-nice characters that you'll love to hate, but even they are well-written and play an important part in driving this story. This book was to read the first time and it was every bit as good the second time around. The narrator, Amy Rubinate, did a fantastic job giving life to Sam and the other characters in the story. Her performance was great. I felt like Sam was actually in my ear herself, telling me her story. It's rare that I find a book that has me grinning from ear-to-ear on nearly every page, but that's what *My Life Next Door* did to me. It had loads of humor and heart, but also a depth and underlying message of pursuing what's important to you, no matter the cost. And, you know, that sometimes the best family is the one you've made for yourself. If you're like me, you can expect some feels with this book, but I think you'll find it more heartwarming than anything else. If you're looking for a book to make you smile, this is the one.

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