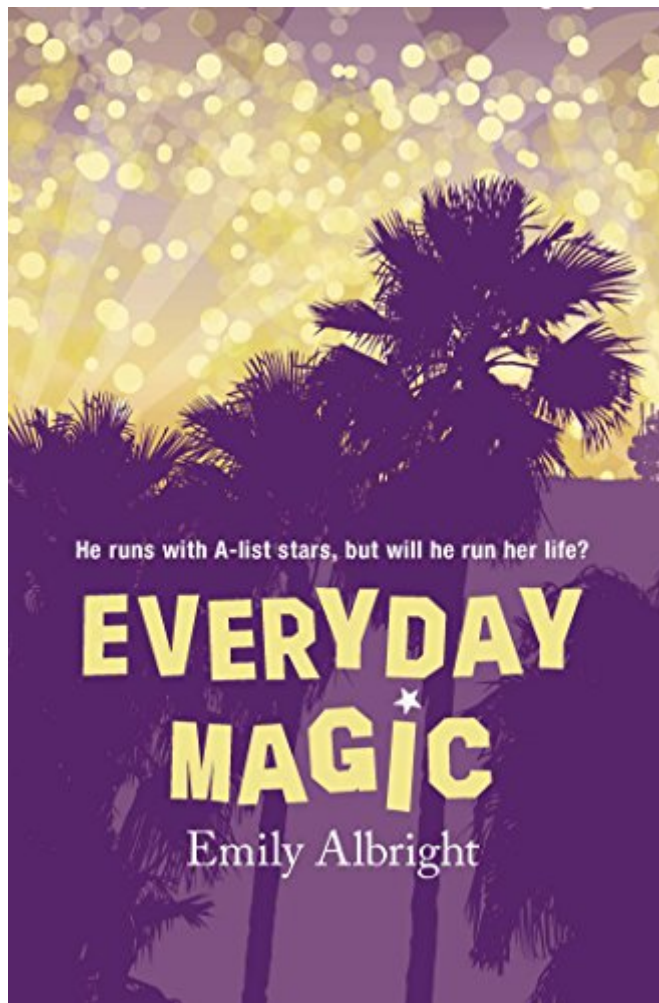


The book was found

Everyday Magic



Synopsis

From the critically acclaimed author of *The Heir and the Spare* comes another enchanting tale of love and fame set in England, among the privileges and pressures of the red-carpet life.

Maggie's dad is a Hollywood director, and he has her whole life planned: Not only will she grow up to be an entertainment lawyer and work for him, he literally blackmails her to date the boy who's starring in his new movie. But Maggie loves Preston, the British boy who stole her heart, and despite the risk that her dad will make her mother miserable if she doesn't give in, Maggie decides to go for it, designing a red-carpet gown for a young duchess that puts her and the duchess in the limelight. Once there, she turns to Preston and issues a challenge: Can a girl who has given up the glamorous life any other girl would want...be the girl for him?

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Customer Reviews

A fan of *The Heir* and *The Spare*, I was thrilled to learn Preston would be in *Everyday Magic*. Maggie struggles to break free from her overbearing father's plan and go her own way.

While she maintains an upbeat attitude, light is shed on deeper issues. Maggie's

personality and obstacles are revealed through her teasing relationship with her brother, budding romance with Preston, and friendship with movie star Ben. Emily Albright has a wonderful writing style and the pages flew by. I thoroughly enjoyed Maggie and Preston's story and am already looking forward to her next book!

I loved *The Heir and the Spare*. This book was even better. I started this as soon as I got the email from that my pre-order came through, and then blew through this in a few hours. So good! While this is a fun read, just like in the first book, the author brings in some serious issues. With Evie, it was grief. Here, it was an abusive relationship. Because Maggie's dad is a monster who would blackmail his own daughter. And yes, parts of that were hard to read at times. It was so great to see the gang again, even though they mostly had cameo appearances, and it made me want to re-read *The Heir and the Spare*. And the new characters were great! I hope this isn't the last we see of them. And I desperately hope there's another book.

Maggie's father is a big Hollywood director. He is domineering and loves to have control. Maggie's father wants her to become an entertainment lawyer. Maggie's dream is to work in the fashion industry. *Everyday Magic* tells of Maggie's struggle to be who she wants to be and break free from her father's grasp. *Everyday Magic* is a companion book to Albright's first book, *The Heir and the Spare*. *Everyday Magic* features Preston, one of the background characters from *THATS*. I did not realize this until I was already finished with *Everyday Magic*. You do not necessarily need to read *THATS* to understand the events in *Everyday Magic*. With that being said, there were elements in the story that left me with questions. For example, how did Evie (an American) become a Duchess *Suo Juro* (in her own right) and why is a British prince living in a flat with friends. An important element of this book is the abuse Maggie and her family have to endure at the hands of her father. Maggie's family dynamics demonstrates that abuse transcends all levels of wealth and status. The character of Maggie was sweet. I found myself rooting for her. She did seem to be very naïve though. For example I found it difficult to believe that someone who was so talented and such a good student in school was so gullible. It didn't make a lot of sense that her father could

blackmail her when it was apparent that he was not going to keep his end of the bargain. I did like the character of Preston. He was really charming (if not a little too good to be true). My main issue with the believability of the storyline was fictional British royalty. This made the story seem more of a fairytale than a YA contemporary (I think we all know who the first few people in line to the British throne are). I did love the fashion elements of the book. This made the story different and gave it a Project Runway type of feel. I loved this book as a fun fairytale type read but I would recommend reading The Heir and the Spare first.

I received a copy of this book through Edelweiss and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.
My Thoughts
Oh dear. Sad to say I just didn't really enjoy this one. Everyday Magic just didn't hold the magic for me. I wanted to like it, I enjoyed the premise and the conflict that the story was based on, but the characters and overall execution had it feeling flat to me. I was excited when I started reading and realized that part of the back story included an abusive parent. Then I was excited because a side character had an extremely interesting "hobby". Both times my excitement turned to disappointment when the actual delivery didn't match up to my expectation. One thing I did really enjoy was the romance side of things. Preston was a super sweet character and I adored him from the start. Maggie pissed me off a little though when she (and her friends) got mad at Preston for a certain "misunderstanding". I guess you could call it. I really could see where Preston was coming from but in the end he was the one that did most of the apologizing. I also really enjoyed the fashion aspect of Maggie. But once again it felt like the idea was touched upon but barely expanded on. Overall the idea of Everyday Magic was something I could get behind but, sadly, it felt like there were quite a few good ideas with not a whole lot of follow through. The story did jump time a lot, some times skipping whole weeks, so maybe that's why it felt so choppy? It just wasn't a great read for me..

I confess it took me a bit to get into this one. I hated Maggie's father. He was so cruel, but I need to see how Maggie made it through. Once I was invested, I couldn't put this book down. I loved Maggie - she didn't always make the best choices, but she had a Huge heart and she tried to make the best of a very bad situation. I love that she took control of her own life and applied to fashion school instead of going to UCLA. I loved her relationship with Preston and how that grew. I love how she

met Evie and Edmund from the previous book (I loved seeing more of them.) I loved Andrew and Daisy and their moments together at school. I love how Maggie grew up and found her independence. I can't imagine living afraid of someone who's supposed to protect you, but I'm glad that she made it through and started living her dream. I can't wait to see what Emily Albright writes next!

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