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The One Real Thing (Hart's Boardwalk)



Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling author of *On Dublin Street* is back with the first in a sexy new romance series set in a small town on the Delaware coastline. Welcome to Hartwell, a quiet seaside escape where uncovering old secrets could lead one woman to discover the meaning of a love that lasts. While Doctor Jessica Huntington engages with the inmates at the women's correctional facility where she works, she's always careful to avoid emotional attachments in her personal life. Loss and betrayal taught her that lesson long ago. But when she comes across a set of old love letters in the prison's library and visits the picturesque town of Hartwell to deliver them to their intended recipient, she finds herself unable to resist the town's charm and her attraction to the sexy owner of a local bar proves equally hard to deny. Since his divorce from his unfaithful ex-wife, Cooper Lawson has focused on what really matters: his family and the boardwalk pub they've owned for generations. But the first time Jessica steps into his bar, Cooper is beyond tempted to risk his heart on her. Yet as their attraction grows hotter and Jessica remains stubbornly closed off, he begins to realize it will take more than just passion to convince her there's only one real thing in life worth fighting for. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I hate writing this review. Because Samantha Young is one of my favorite authors. I love the On Dublin Street series -- even the books in the series that I don't love, I like better than most books I buy off . Why? Because the way Samantha Young writes about relationships between characters is beautiful. Her characters feel like real people with real problems, even if you don't relate to them. I knew going in that this was a completely different genre than ODS. I get it -- it's a lighthearted novel about a woman who moves to a coastal town and falls in love. Which is not really something I would normally read. So this review isn't about the plot -- which admittedly, is not my cup of tea. This review is about the writing. What happened? Anyone familiar with Samantha Young knows that this book is completely missing the wit, charm, and lovable characters found in her other writing. I didn't care about anyone in this dumb town. The masculine voices are too feminine (ex "...he knew she was sexy, cute, smart, and nice to spend time with." Yeah, that doesn't sound like a masculine bar owner's inner dialogue to me). And the switching between first person and third person narrative is jarring (maybe I would have liked the book better if the whole story was from Jessica's perspective?). And what's more, the language was so flowery and juvenile, and difficult for me to get through. It reads like a first attempt novel, not a novel written after several successful series have been published. I even thought the first sentence of the book was oddly worded. It only took one page before I started wondering who actually wrote this book -- not my Samantha Young!

Samantha Young has a great start in her new Hart's Boardwalk Series with *The One Real Thing*. It's a compelling small town series with unique characters from all walks of life. They are either natives to Hartwell, Delaware or transplants drawn to this small peaceful seaside community. Life in Hartwell revolves around the boardwalk. Dr. Jessica Huntington didn't know she was stuck in her own life. As the head doctor of the Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, she's seen everything. She chose this job over more prestigious jobs because she wanted to be a real doctor and help those in need with compassion, integrity, and equality. Her personal life is void. She has a friends with benefits relationship with a busy prestigious surgeon. Their relationship is anything but a real relationship. Their encounters are scheduled. There are no surprises. Jessica likes it that way. She doesn't want the commitment and involvement that comes with a true relationship. When Jessica finds three letters in the binder of a discarded prison library book, it is a life changing event. These three letters date back to 1972. They are from an inmate that died shortly after the letters

were written. The content of these letters is compelling. Jessica was touched by the heartfelt sincerity in those written words. A woman's quest for forgiveness and declaration of love. Jessica knows she must find the recipient of these undelivered letters. Jessica's quest to deliver the letters leads her to Hart's Boardwalk and Cooper Lawson in Hartwell, Delaware. One spontaneous moment in the rain leads her to finding everything she was missing in life. Staying at the local inn introduces her to real heart of the town. A three week vacation changes her life.

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