



## Something like Normal

*Monica James*

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# Something like Normal

Monica James

## Something like Normal Monica James

Mia Lee has a secret...

A secret she's kept hidden since she was eight years old, however, Mia will no longer allow that secret to define her.

An irrevocable decision has left Mia Lee a fugitive and on the run—a circumstance that should leave her weak and scared, yet Mia has never felt so alive.

Under the pseudonym of Paige Cassidy, Mia is ready to live the life she's never had, and she's determined not to allow her tainted past dictate her promising future.

Paige is on a Greyhound bus heading from L.A. to South Boston, Virginia, to start a new life.

A life that includes finding her mother, who abandoned her at age three. But what she finds, is four people, who will change her life forever.

Yet no one can outrun their past...

Especially one filled with bitter memories, which refuse to remain hidden.

## Something like Normal Details

Date : Published May 8th 2014 by Limitless Publishing LLC

ISBN :

Author : Monica James

Format : Kindle Edition 340 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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# From Reader Review Something like Normal for online ebook

**Djezelle says**

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♥ Jx PinkLady Reviews ♥ says

**Something Like Normal** has been RELEASED, it's available on Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk

**Something like Normal** is a story about the bitter secrets of a tainted past.

Mia is a girl on the run. She's seen things no-one should be exposed to, lived a life that would be abhorred by most, a life that for 8 years was out of her control. Then one day she takes things into her own hands.

She wants to be a survivor.

With a new name, and a fresh start as Paige Cassidy, she's ready to survive and find her mother. What she doesn't anticipate is the people who come into her life and rock her plans.

Despite her circumstances, Mia shows great strength of character and personality, she doesn't take crap from anyone and is certainly not afraid to stand up for herself. She also displays her vulnerable and emotive side; the way she undervalues herself is *so sad*. Because of her past, she doesn't believe she deserves, or that it's

even possible, to have *a normal life*.

Quinn, our sexy hero, has his own secrets, depth of character and reasons for thinking he should stay away from Paige. She's drawn to him physically and emotionally but she fights her desires. And so does he... *I so LOVED how their relationship developed throughout*

**Will they open up to each other and reveal their secrets?**

**What happens when *her* past catches up to her?**

There's drama and angst involving our H/h and other characters. Hank, Tabitha and Tristan are great additions to the mix... Paige has friends and people who care about *her* for the first time in her life.

**Something Like Normal** is a slow burn kind-of-book, it captured my attention in the first chapter with Mia's character and the 'events,' but then it took a little breather on the pace and slowed right down. Maybe sometimes *all of the detail* didn't feel absolutely necessary to me, but I believe this is the type of story that needs to be built and built, layer by layer. The result, in the end, was that it connected me to the story and the characters; I felt invested in them emotionally and wanted good things for them.

The theme and subject matter is on the darker side but I didn't find it to be a dark read, it was more suspenseful, especially towards the end. The last 20-30 ish% was absolutely gripping, heartfelt and turbulent, in the action and emotions. I had no clue what was going to happen and where it would all lead, the author didn't take any easy options and the story is wide open to possibilities. Yes there is a cliffhanger, I need the next book NOW. But I'm so glad I started the journey.

Something Like Normal is the **first book in a four book series**. At the heart of it is a lovely romance that made my heart flutter. There's some HOT steam value towards the end which was just divine and I'm sure this will increase as the story and characters develop together. This series is one that I believe will continue to grow and, I'm hoping, may take me on a darker path, it certainly has the potential to do so.

If you enjoy honest characters and writing with suspenseful drama, emotion and heavy themes you should give this book a read and **enjoy! That's what I did!**

Can't wait for more.....

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\*\* Complimentary copy provided by the author for an honest review.

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A love less ordinary.

Not sweet, nor romantic in the conventional way. Their love is difficult, but it's real. A gritty, raw, flawed and honest kind of real. They all feel they're undeserving, when together they just - fit. This story was everything I could want, and more. It was just, perfect. Seriously, seriously can't wait for more.

And I can't thank Monica enough for the arc, you seriously rock, my friend ;)

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### Alexis \*Reality Bites\* says

REVIEW -mature content reader discretion is advised.

4 STARS out of 5

Genre: New Adult-Romantic Suspense

HOLY MOLEY! This book had me from the very first page to the very last one. And I cried...TWICE.

#### 'The victim. Something I refuse to ever be again.'

Runner. Mia Lee had no choice. She had to do it.

Mia once lived in a happy two parent home but that ended the day her mother left. On that day her father turned in to someone else completely. She spent years doing his bidding and now she's had ENOUGH.

Mia leaves California planning to get as far away from her old life as possible in hopes of finding a place to regroup so that she can search for her mother. Now assuming the new identity of Paige Cassidy, she buys a bus ticket and it takes her to a small town in Virginia where she rooms at a local motel. Hank the motel owner does more than just kindly take her in, he also offers her a job which she gladly accepts.

***"I don't know what I did to deserve such kindness from Hank, as God knows I've done a lot of bad things."***

On her night off Mia/Paige ventures in to a local diner and grabs a cup of coffee. It's there that she meets Tabitha and Tristan and is eventually offered a second job. Totally unaware that she is about to get one thing she never experienced nor expected. Friendship.

Paige is a tough egg to crack. And who can blame her with the secrets she holds. The girl is on the run for Christ sakes so of course she guards the important info along with her identity **and** her heart the best she knows, by keeping her distance. It doesn't really matter though because slowly these 4 people in South Boston, Virginia worm their way in and carve paths to her soul. She soon feels something that she has not felt in a long, long time. *Something like normal.*

And to think..She was only supposed to be passing through.  
**NOT** making friends **OR** falling in love.

***“Tell me your secrets and I’ll tell you mine,” he whispers, his eyes searching my face for a response to his accurate presumption.*** -Quinn to Paige

Quinn works as a handy man for Hank. That is pretty much how Paige meets him in all her naked glory... Yeah well you'll have to read to get all the details but I will say this...There is an undeniable connection between Paige and Quinn. There is a whole lot of will they or won't they and I enjoyed the ride.

While reading one starts to think that they may interconnect on a deeper level then we actually see play out on the pages. There are a lot of things unspoken between the two.

***“We’re both broken, attempting to become unbroken, but somehow, together, we fit.”***

One question changes EVERYTHING. Mia can't run forever. Can she?

**Fave line** in the book is also one of the saddest lines because it holds the heavy weight of truth. ***‘We live in a sad, sad world, where the universal language of money is everybody’s first spokenlanguage.’***

#### My Thoughts

Definite page turner! I was glued to my kindle curious as to how Mia would accomplish her goal of finding her mother plus cover her tracks after what she left behind in California. Monica James did a great job with the chemistry between Quinn and Mia. James gave the right amount of angst to leave a girl like me just a bit thirsty for more.

#### My Rating and Why

Something Like Normal gets 4 STARS for the great array of characters, the clever yet seemly favorable writing and its jaw dropping-tear inducing twist and turns.

#### My Ratings

**Characters-** Witty, Strong willed and lovable

**Writing Style-** My preferred cup of tea

**Plot/Storyline-** Girl on the run, goes to small town in order to regroup only to receive more than she bargained for.

**Steam Factor-** Lo to Med/Moderately Steamy on a scale of 1-10 I say 5

**Entertainment Level-** From Lo-Med- Hi I say High I read page one and my interest shot up

**Overall-** I enjoyed it!

**My Recommendation:** You enjoy New Adult? Read the Book!!!

**Now go forth and read. Then come tell us about it on Goodreads!**

**For more reviews got to:** [www.realitybites-letsgetlost.blogspot...](http://www.realitybites-letsgetlost.blogspot...)

**Like us on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/realitybitesletsgetlost](http://www.facebook.com/realitybitesletsgetlost)

*\*Copy kindly provided by the author for an honest review\**

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**Patrycja says**

[ Not yet (hide spoiler)]

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**Monica James says**

**SOMETHING LIKE NORMAL IS NOW AN AUDIOBOOK!!**

Make sure you grab your copy! You can now HEAR Mia and Quinn! And let me tell you, it's effing amazing!!!

[amzn.to/1kWY1t1](http://amzn.to/1kWY1t1)

**SWEET BABY JESUS!!!**

**SOMETHING LIKE NORMAL IS A BEST SELLER!!**

Guys, I cannot thank you enough!! This Aussie loves you!!

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**AMAZON CA:**

<http://www.amazon.ca/Something-Like-N...>

**AMAZON UK:**

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**AMAZON AUST:**

<http://www.amazon.com.au/Something-Li...>

**BARNES AND NOBLE:**

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/somet...>

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## Jen says

"I'd rather die fighting, than die for nothing at all."

Phew, holy heck where to begin with this one! This story started out quite slow for me, and at one point I had considered not finishing it. I am so glad that I kept going! At a little over halfway through the story it began to pick up in a huge way! By the end, I was sitting on the edge of my seat at four in the morning wishing that it wouldn't end! My biggest complaint would be that it ended on a cliffy. Anyone who knows me, knows that I don't like cliffy's and I usually do anything to avoid them! Well, I wasn't able to avoid this one, and now I have to wait holding my breath until the next book. And believe me, I will be waiting very IM-patiently for the next book! Monica James is an author I have not heard of before; but I was lucky that she reached out and offered me an ARC! Well, thank you Monica..I am so very glad I took a chance and read your book as Mia/ Paige, Quinn, Tristan, and Tabitha;AKA, "the group of Misfits," will be etched into my heart for good now! I truly hope that each one of them find a HEA. Will they? I have no clue? There are some major things that go down in this story, and when I say major...I mean Major with a capital M!

This story begins with a young lady named Mia who is on the run from something she has done. She changes her name to Paige and takes off to a town where no one knows who she is or where she comes from. Mia has a horrible past, and she has been through very heavy duty events from the time she was 8 years old. This is a girl that has done many hard core things all in the name of survival.

She settles into a new town/new life and quickly meets some people who become very important to her, and teach her the definition of what love and family is all about.

Quinn and Tristan are the local hotties who have a bunch of piercings, and some very sexy smiles! Both of them develop an interest in Paige (Mia), but there is no question in Paige's mind that her main attraction is to Quinn! Sparks fly whenever they are together; but both are hesitant to act on it because they are scared to hurt Tristan. Most of the time though, when an attraction is that explosive, there is just no way to stay away from one another. Will Tristan be the one to break things off with Paige, or will they give in to their desire?

This story is quite unpredictable at times, and just when you think that you know what is going to happen; a wrench is thrown into it and something changes. There were things that happened in the book that got my blood pumping and my emotions on high. Once the slow parts were over with, this story held me captivated. Do I recommend it? Hell yeah, just make sure to be patient with it! I promise it gets better and I can't wait until the second book! A great read, and an author who I will be watching closely to see what else Monica James brings to the table!

I Received an ARC from author in exchange for an honest review..Thank you  
Book due to come out on May 13/14...

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## C-Money says

OK. I am done. As you can see by my status updates, it has been a very fun filled ride. Here is how I am left:

First I have **BLUE BALLS** . Yes my nonexistent balls are blue. I need a hand job or a blow job and some

fucking ball fondling to get over this book.

Second I am left mouth hanging open, heart beating so fucking fast and I'm pulling my hair out screaming  
**AAAHHHHHHH**

Third I want to hunt Ms. Monica James down, punch her in the throat and then thank her for giving me a chance to read this book.

Blown away. I am blown away by this book. I honestly can't even tell you what I am feeling right now because I am all over the place. I am feeling way to many emotions. **FUCK ME** the emotions are just **WAY TO FUCKING MUCH**. I need a fucking drink.

**RAGE.** Yes I am feeling rage towards Monica James. I want more. I need more. I need to dig a tunnel to her side of the planet, weed myself into her brain and take up residence. Forward all my mail to Monica Jame's Head.

This was an amazingly written book about a story that is hard to read. It's a misfit love story. **FUC YES.** That is what this is. A **MISFIT LOVE STORY.**

**#CLAIMED** I have laid my claim to Quinn. Back off bitches he is mine. **SWEET BABY Jesus.** From the lip ring to the hair. The green eyes to the fucking tongue ring. **SWOON.** **FUCK ME** I swooned and had to clean up the down town. I would never leave him. I would let this man do what ever he wanted. I would lay down in front of him and beg him to devour me.

All I wanted, what would have made this more for me was if there was more sex. **YES I WANT MORE** of naked Quinn in every position possible. On his knees, over and under, up down and all the fucking round. I want hot and wet and clean and sticky. **LE SIGH** I want it fucking all.

But I can see why she didn't give to me. I understand it, I don't like it, but I understand. But you know what she did? She as drawn me in and I will not stop reading. I will continue on the path of blue balls until I get more. She has made me a Quinn Addict.

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## **Mallory says**

### **DNF at 79%**

I'm literally shaking with anger at this book. I can't believe I read for 72% or so for something so ridiculous to mess it all up. I actually continued to read because I was going to see where it was going. But something Quinn says to Paige/Mia completely ruined this for me... and this is after Quinn did something so STUPID! So now I'm pissed and done with this :(

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## **Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says**

### **4 Something Stars**

*I'd rather die fighting, than die for nothing at all*

*I see bravery...*

It takes guts to break the chains. To stand up for your life. To fight your only living parent. To pull the trigger and run like hell to claim your own future. To trust new friends. To fall in love.

*I see naivete...*

There is a precious naivete in the eyes of a small child. A naivete shattered by a father's betrayal. There is also a degree of naivete in a grown up woman, who thinks that by changing her name and run away, she will leave all her demons behind. But past has a way to always catch up on a person.

*But most of all... I see a survivor.*

And Mia Lee is one. Now, she is Paige Cassidy and on the run. Vulnerable, unable to trust and cautious of new people, she will meet friends and the love of man that might hide more secrets than she does. And the ability to mend her heart and just might break it all over again.

Suspenseful, fast-pacing, surprisingly cute and emotional, this book grabs you from the first WTF? chapter and leaves you breathless in a heartbreakin finale. A strong young heroine with huge emotional baggage

and a hero that takes no bullshit.

I really enjoyed it!

And now I really need more...

*\*ARC, kindly provided by the author, Monica James in exchange for an honest review\**

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### **Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**

#### **4 stars**

[First third of the book: 3.5 stars

Second third of the book: 4.5 stars

Last third of the book: 3.5 stars]

This is the first book I've read from Monica James and it certainly won't be the last! For those who know me and my eccentric reading tastes, I don't do sweet, slow-building romances. Though this story deals with harsh & heavy issues that plague the characters' lives, it was mostly a light-hearted and sweet romance with a side of suspense. The first thing that stood out to me was the push-and-pull dynamic between Quinn and Mia and their UST (unresolved sexual tension) – Monica James writes my kind of angst!

At the age of 8, Mia's innocent and happy childhood came to an end. Her father wins the douchecanoe trophy as he forces Mia to become a drug pusher just to fuel his own junkie needs. Mia continues this bleak and nonexistent life until one day, her father pushes her too far and in a matter of seconds, she makes a life-changing decision.

***"In my world where it's survival of the fittest, I had no choice. It was either him or me."***

***"And for once, I chose me."***

Hiding her real identity, Mia now goes on as Paige Cassidy, a tough-as-nails introverted gal but nevertheless a vulnerable person just looking for a place to belong. This is where she meets the four people "who will change her life forever."

I'm not going to go in-depth about each of these characters because it is ultimately up to you to find out how each of those characters impact her life. I do want to say Monica James, are you trying to give me blue balls?! I normally complain about *how much* sex there is in books but in this book there ~~wasn't~~ *any* wasn't enough. \*grabs BOB\* Moving on now...

Like I said before, I don't do sweet, slow-building romances but this one worked for me. Though it's a bit

unrealistic to how naïve Mia is in the sex department I liked that out of all the tainted, ugly things she had to live through, this was one aspect she kept her innocence in and got to really experience for herself. The plot pace isn't too slow but not too fast either and I liked that the book moved at a very steady pace – it was *exactly* what I needed after a couple of emotional reads.

Despite Mia's attempts to block out everyone and protect herself, she can't help but let those 4 people into her life – inch by inch – and it really is a heartwarming process. Just thinking about it is putting a smile on my face because I could tell she was meant to meet them and despite all the drama and tension that happened, they changed her for the better.

#### OKAY NOW FOR THAT ENDING

Monica James,

I have half a mind to hunt your Australian ass down, sit you in front of a computer, and not let you back up until you finish the next book. September/October for the next book????????? Write lady!! Time's a-ticking!

Yes, there's a killer cliffhanger and to be fair I did know about it ahead of time but come on! *Knowing* about a cliffhanger and then actually reading and *experiencing* it yourself are two different things – I was up pacing in my room at 5 in the morning, thank you very much.

Aside from the ending and a few minor annoyances, this book was a winner for me. Exactly what I needed after multiple angst and emotional reads! I would definitely recommend this book but in all honesty, I would've preferred to wait until the next book released before starting this one. Then again (knowing how hot-headed and impatient I am) this blurb was too enticing for me to pass up and I just *had* to read it now.

*ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.*

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#### **Christy says**

#### **4 Stars!!!**

‘I’d rather die fighting than die for nothing at all.’

*Something Like Normal* was a fast paced, well written story filled with suspense, sexual tension and romance. A story about two flawed characters with secrets they are trying to get away from. Most of all, it's a story about survival.

Mia Lee was a victim. But Paige Cassidy is a survivor.

Mia Lee is no more. She is now Paige Cassidy. Paige is on the run. She made a choice that will change the course of her life forever. A choice she can never regret. For once in her life, she fought to survive. She chose herself.

Chance takes Paige to a small town in Virginia. Luck brings her to a man named Hank who is affectionally known as 'Grandpa'. Hank grows to care for Paige and as much as she wants to stay guarded, she starts to care for him as well. It's been a long time since someone has trusted her, given her the benefit of the doubt and wanted to help her. Hank owns a hotel and gives her a job and a place to stay. There she meets Quinn. Quinn helps Hank on the side, fixing things here and there. Paige is automatically attracted to this boy with a lip ring and sly smile. As much as she wants to, she knows it isn't possible to let him in.

Paige is doing well. She has her life with Hank, and a second job at the town diner where she becomes fast friends with a girl named Tabitha and Quinn's brother, Tristan. They both make her life better. Tabitha and Tristan are great friends to Paige.

But Quinn is still there. And their chemistry and attraction is something that can't be denied. They both are broken. They both have secrets they can't tell... but they just fit together.

'Tell me your secrets and I'll tell you mine.'

"Can you give me everything, even though you know I will push you until you're ready to break? You see, I would break you."

?“I want you to. Better to feel pain than nothing at all.”

?Now lets talk about the characters. Mia/Paige was a heroine who is rough around the edges and had a hard life. But she's one I absolutely adored. She grew up in a life that no child should have to live, but she survived. No matter what, she was a fighter. She was content with being alone, but when she met Quinn, all things changed.

From the moment I saw him, I knew he was going to create a splash, but I never thought he'd cause a fucking tsunami.

?Quinn was amazing. Was he perfect? Hell no. In fact, there may have been a part (view spoiler) that he broke my little heart. I still loved him. He's been through a lot in his life as well. A lot of the things he did and the distance he kept was only to protect Paige. He wanted to stay way from her, to protect her from himself. But these two worked better together than they ever did apart.

Not only did I really like both MC's, there were three exceptional characters in this story. Hank, Tristan, and Tabitha. There was nothing about these three I didn't love.

This was the first book I've read by this author and one I very much enjoyed. It brought out a lot of different emotions in me (which I love) and the ending left me wanting so much more! Please please please bring out the sequel to this one asap! This book had some darker themes, but it wasn't what I would consider a dark read. I loved the suspense, the relationships Paige developed, and most importantly, the fact that she was able to finally let people in and create her own family. This is one I would recommend!

He is the only light in my forever darkness.

“We both have secrets, things we both wish we could take back, but can’t. And that’s okay, because when I’m with you, those secrets don’t rule me, they don’t define me.”

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### **Brenna says**

*Well, here's to new beginnings.  
'Cause the past fucking sucked.*

Mia has never had a normal life. Being raised completely by her drug-addicted father, she was pulled into his dark world at a very young age. By eight years old she was doing her father's dirty work to support his habit. Now nineteen, she's had enough and it's led her to do something that makes her a fugitive on the run. With pretty much nothing to her name, she hops on a bus heading as far away from her old life as possible.

“I’m Paige. Paige Cassidy,” I reply.  
The pseudonym rolls off my tongue easily.  
But that’s who I am now.  
**Mia Lee was a victim.**  
**But Paige Cassidy is a survivor.**

Landing in small town, Virginia, Paige (Mia) soon makes some unlikely friends. Hank, “Grandpa,” gives her a place to stay and some work at his motel. She meets Tabitha and Tristan at the local diner, then there’s Quinn. This is where things get even more interesting... Quinn is a bit of a mystery to Paige for some time in the book. He shows up at the most random times and they have these intense moments.

I don't say that lightly, this book has quite a few of those *moments*, you know, the ones that give you chills and make you stop reading afterward for a second and just say, “Whoa.” It's not all about sex or pick up

lines either, some of them took me by surprise by how deep they were. Don't get me wrong though; there is some MAJOR SEXUAL TENSION! It was seriously the sweetest torture, exactly what I love about romance. Thank god for no insta-love and hopping straight into the sack!

“We both have secrets, things we both wish we could take back, but can't. And that's okay, because when I'm with you, those secrets don't rule me, they don't define me...”

I loved every moment of Paige learning to have friends and people who cared about her and vice versa. It's one of my favorite misfit made families I've ever read about. It was like she was a baby deer learning to walk for the first time, completely naïve to how friendship works. She has had it so rough and her past is very dark but in so many ways she owns it. I just loved Paige/Mia. She was a refreshing heroine, not all whiney about her past or trying to hide it from the reader. We know the whole time what she's done and *exactly* how she feels about it and that was so nice to see. Just brutally honest and raw.

This is the first time in my entire life I have felt something other than... well, nothing.

The suspense and mystery was balanced really well, we know a lot of what's happening yet there so much we don't know at the time that sneaks up on you. The last 20% or so had me completely glued to my kindle, madly flipping the pages to see what would happen. I was shocked more than once and had to pick my jaw up off the floor at one point. The ending is killer. It hurt, it was exciting, it was shocking, and I think it was exactly how it had to be. Some leading up to the ending did feel slightly rushed, but as far as where it ended all together, it was fitting for the story.

Overall, this was such a pleasant surprise. What started as a completely random, impulse read turned into a book I haven't stopped thinking about since I finished it weeks ago. The writing was strong and everything felt very thought out, flowing really smoothly. I fell in love with the characters and was hooked the entire time. All I can say is, October better come quick because I NEED the next book!

4-4.5 stars.

*ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.*

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*Also 'like' us on Facebook. ♥*

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## **Brandi says**

***Mia Lee was a victim. But Paige Cassidy is a survivor.***

Mia has had rough life. Being pulled into the drug world as a child to help support her father's habit. For years she does whatever he ask. But when that is no longer enough, her father attempts to force her into a more lucrative business. Mia makes a choice that changes everything, and becomes Paige.

On the run, Mia/Paige ends up in a small Virginia town and finds more than she ever imagined. Mia is a tough girl, but vulnerable as well. Meeting Hank, Quinn, Tabitha and Tristan changes everything. She has a job, a home, and friends. As she builds relationships, she finally feels like she belongs, receiving the love and acceptance she has always yearned for. But will her past come back to haunt her?

***"We both have secrets, things we wish we could take back, but can't. And that's okay, because when I'm with you, those secrets don't rule me, they don't define me."***

*Something Like Normal* is an intense, suspenseful read - with just the right amount of romance, humor and sexual tension. It is well written and well paced story. I was on the edge of my seat of this last half of this one. That ending...gah. It killed me. I can't wait to see what happens next.

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*\*Copy kindly provided by the author for an honest review\**

### **Debra says**

**★★★★ 4+ Stars!**

It's LIVE on Amazon !!

***"We both have a past, but let's not let it define out future."***

**Something Like Normal** was an intense, powerful, romance and humor filled NA story that I really enjoyed reading. Once I started it, it kept me on the edge of my seat the entire time I was reading it. The story was filled with suspense, secrets and a quite a bit of angst but the blossoming friendships and romantic aspects of the story provided enough "lighter" scenes so that it didn't become a really dark read.

### ***Mia Lee has a secret...***

It's the kind of secret she's been holding onto since she was eight years old. But it's also the kind of secret that has made her a fugitive, on the run from the authorities and from old powerful enemies. But she won't let her past define her any longer. She's determined to start over with a new identity and that's how **Paige Cassidy** is born.

***"Tell me your secrets and I'll tell you mine."***

Mia just wants a normal life for once, with normal friends, a normal job and all the things a normal girl her age should occupy her time with. But with a secret as big as hers, she knows she'll never be just "normal", so she'll settle for *something like normal* and that's what she gets when she arrives in the small town of South

Boston, Virginia. There she meets "grandpa" Hank, cheerful and welcoming Tabitha, cute "boy next door" Tristan and the alluring "bad boy" Quinn. All these characters play a huge part in the story and they will help Mia in becoming a new version of herself. A version she's never dreamed of becoming...

*"Mia Lee was a victim.  
Paige Cassidy is a survivor."*

From the moment they meet, Quinn and Mia/Paige have a special connection but they both have their own reasons from keeping a distance from each other. Mia because she's afraid to spill her secrets and Quinn because he has a dark past of his own that makes him hesitant to trust people and make himself vulnerable to heartbreak. So, for a long time they skirt around the edge of becoming more than just friends and that leads to a lot of sexual tension before anything ever happens, but in a way I felt it necessary for them to slowly evolve from friends to lovers because it made their connection all the more powerful.

*"From the moment I saw him, I knew he was going to create a splash, but I never thought he'd create a fucking tsunami."*

Mia/Paige was such a strong heroine. She's been through some truly horrible events and she's had to grow up faster than a normal young girl ever should. Throughout the story I kept rooting for her to finally get the peaceful life she so deserves, with a group of supportive friends, a steady income and the boy she's in love with by her side. Hank, Tabitha, Tristan and Quinn all tried to make that happen for her, but sometimes the past comes back to haunt you no matter how hard you try to run from it... The last 10% of the story was full of twists and turns and I was pretty close to biting my nails from all the tension and action that was going on. Then, it ended with a cliffhanger; so now I'm \*really\* curious to find out what will happen next...

All in all, this was a **very well written, thrilling, suspenseful** NA read with hints of romance, humor and a bit of drama. Like I said, the ending ends in a **cliffy** but I wouldn't let it stop you from giving this unique story a try! From now on, I'll be patiently awaiting the release of the sequel though ;)

*\*\*ARC kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review\*\**

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