



Paige's Turn

Jennifer Peel

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With the encouragement of her beloved Aunt Mitzi, plain and overlooked Paige James left her hometown of Bella Port ten years ago and never looked back. But free-spirited Aunt Mitzi had plans for Paige to stop being pushed into the background. Those plans included leaving Paige as sole heir to her fortune and owner of her bookstore, Paige's Turn. Begrudgingly, Paige returns home to fulfill her aunt's last wishes, no longer the girl who'd left in baggy jeans and an ill-fitting t-shirt.

Paige discovers, though, that Mitzi's last wishes include a lot of meddling in her love life. From the grave, and with the help of some friends, Mitzi has set out to make sure Paige and Bella Port's most eligible bachelor, Sam Kennedy, find true love together. What Mitzi didn't foresee is the firestorm and gossip she created that paints Paige as a swindler and liar, leaving Sam to wonder about the grown woman Paige has become. It doesn't help when Paige fires him after their first meeting. But as friendship blossoms between Paige and Sam, they find each other hard to resist.

Was Mitzi right about the two of them? Will Paige finally have her turn?

Paige's Turn Details

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From Reader Review Paige's Turn for online ebook

Valerie Waters says

Sooo cute!!!! Sam. Awww I can't believe her mom! Are there really people like that?!?! Yuck.

Jessie says

Matchmaking from the Other Side

Paige James left Florida right after high school. She thought she would go to college locally with her high school sweetheart, until he came back from his first year and announced that he was in love with someone else. Paige moved across the country, went to a great school, started her career, and didn't look back. Then her Aunt Mitzi died. She had been Paige's anchor and her biggest cheerleader. Aunt Mitzi is still helping Paige even after her death. She leaves Paige her beloved book store, a series of letters, and advice about her love life.

Aunt Mitzi's letters had me cracking up! I have decided that everyone needs an aunt like her. One part meddling, slightly irreverent, and full of your best interests. I loved the relationships in this story. From Sam who seems to hate Paige on sight, to Paige's sister, Maggie, and her father. Once again, Jennifer Peel created real and flawed characters, who I loved watching as they struggled, and found the relationships they should have worked for long ago.

There were so many beautiful moments, where people were finally understood. There were also laugh out loud moments, and sweet moments. Page's Turn is a great read for Valentine's day, and really, any other day of the year!

Katie W says

(4.5 Stars) I feel so blessed to have grown up in the family that I did. My parents love me and my siblings adore me (I think--even though we used to fight). My heart almost broke in two for Paige and her situation. The two people who loved her both died (her brother when she was younger and her beloved aunt just recently) and now she's returning home after ten years, ready to battle her family and the rumors surrounding her sudden wealth.

My opinion of Sam was all over the place in this book. When he's first introduced, I almost swooned over his sweetness, but after ten years? Throw that boy into a puddle of slop! Of course that encounter caused a few sparks and tension to build up over the course of the book, but I expected more out of this Southern boy. Fortunately for him, his charm eventually wins out and he ends up in my good graces.

Paige. Ah, how I envy her! She's beautiful, but doesn't know it; she gets to own and run a book store (Hello! My dream!); and she is as sweet on the inside as cotton candy. I admire her grit, her ability to channel her spunky aunt, Mitzi, and the way she conducts herself. She's not the insecure girl who left anymore, but returning sure brings those feelings back full force. I love Mitzi and loved getting glimpses of her spunk through her letters.

Paige's Turn will make you mad, make you laugh, and make you swoon! So much yummy goodness is wrapped up in these pages and I'm a happy camper. While there are shimmers of romantic feelings, it took awhile for the flames to combust, which makes for a natural progression. There are fantastic characters on both sides of the spectrum (some to love and some to hate), conflict, second chances, and confidence. I could visualize the setting and almost feel those ocean breezes rustling my hair. *sigh* Perfection...

Content: mild romance (kissing, some light innuendo); mild language.

I received an ARC, which didn't affect my review in any way. All thoughts are my own.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I really enjoyed the setting and plot of this one. I mean, what bookworm doesn't love the idea of owning their own bookstore?? Paige inherits her Aunt's bookstore, Paige's Turn, and moves back to her hometown that she left ten years ago. She's out of her element, but determined to make the store her own. She expect there to be some drama, I mean that's why she left in the first place, but doesn't expect all the attention her return has stirred up. She especially doesn't expect her childhood friend, Sam Kennedy, to act so cold to her. Thing's aren't really going as planned, but she is determined to stick to the promise she made to her Aunt.

I liked Pagie's character, she's very strong and determined. I liked that despite her lonely and sad childhood, she was still a caring and forgiving person. Sam Kennedy has eaten up the town gossip and doesn't recognize the beautiful woman Paige has become. So, of course he acts like a jerk and try's pushing her away. Paige hold her own though and pretty soon Sam realizes he can't resist her. (I did think his about-face was a bit too quick, would have liked to see that played out a little longer and was surprised he'd believe the rumors about her). Anyway, their relationship is fun to read and they have a few bumps to get through to get to their happily ever after. It's worth the ride and a fun read.

Overall, I really enjoyed this one. I thought it was a fun read and had great characters and sweet setting and was quickly sucked into the story. Definitely recommend to fans of contemporary romance!

Content: Clean

Source: Kindle Unlimited

Kathy says

Another great book from Jennifer Peel.

Content: Clean (mild language)

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Kindle freebie romance time again! Paige is one of those girls who generally went unnoticed in high school, but blossomed afterwards. Her family was dysfunctional--a rather narcissistic mother, browbeaten father, and

jealous and prettier younger sister. After the death of Paige's brother, her Aunt Mitzi was one of the very few people who really saw her and encouraged her ... and maybe her brother's friend Sam Kennedy.

Ten years later, Aunt Mitzi has died and unexpectedly left her home and a sizable fortune to Paige, along with a request that Paige come back to her Florida home town for a year and run her aunt's bookstore that she named after her, Paige's Turn (cute name!). Her mother and sister are angry and jealous, and rumors start to spread about Paige taking advantage of her aunt. Paige reluctantly returns. It doesn't help that the very hot Sam Kennedy believes the rumors and treats her very rudely. But Paige isn't going to be a doormat any longer.

Jennifer Peel's books are like a box of chocolates, hard to quit once you start. Her writing style is a little bland, too often telling rather than showing and getting caught up in minutiae and mundane details. But she spins a pretty enjoyable if rather cheesy yarn, and every so often there's a great scene (here, the class reunion at the end) that really grabs me.

A lot of my Goodreads friends who are into the clean romance novel genre really love Peel's novels. Even though I can't say they're great literature and I tend to give them middling grades, I still find them hard to resist. So if you like this genre her books are worth a shot ... especially since they fairly often pop up as Kindle freebies.

Jacob Proffitt says

Well suck. Some fat-finger browser restart ate my original review. I hate when that happens because I know I'm not going to do this rewrite justice.

Sigh.

Anyway, this book was nearly pretty good. I don't really buy Paige as a complete package, though. I mean, my sympathies are going to be with the shy girl who figured out what she wants and went and found it. And I love the confidence she found along the way (I cheered when she fired Sam-the-jerk. Twice!). But adding rich (even if newly inherited) and unselfconsciously beautiful and new-media marketing savvy and it gets to be a bit, well, much.

And it doesn't help that Sam is pretty much a dead loss. I mean, I'm going to find competent builder-guy an attractive draw but he's so mean in the beginning and such a monkeybutt in the latter part of the story that I spent much of the book hoping someone decent would show up to sweep Paige off her feet (and off Sam's hands).

Add villains escaped from a cartoon and some plot elements that didn't work very well and you have a story pretty deeply entrenched in three-star land. The ending was sweet enough and I stayed up later than I intended to finish that I get tempted to jump it to four-stars. But then I remember Sam and that feeling slinks away ashamed of itself for its inappropriate behavior...

A note about Chaste: Well, this is apparently going to be a thing for me, now, because if I don't I just know future-me will end up wondering what kind of chaste read this is. So to be clear, this is the kind of "chaste" story with little kissing and zero sex, explicit or even implied.

Mara says

Paige is the middle child and totally overlooked. Her older brother died in a car accident when she was 15, so then it was just Paige and her younger sister Maggie, who was totally adored by their mother. At age 18 Paige's boyfriend, Jansen McClain, one of the few people who've actually made her feel noticed and loved instead of "plain and invisible", dumps her for a girl he met at college. So Paige takes her Aunt Mitzi's advice "Don't let anyone else take your turn. No one else will do it as well as you were meant to." and goes to Whitman College in Washington.

Ten years later Paige finds herself back home in Bella Port--Aunt Mitzi has unexpectedly died and left EVERYTHING (millions in the bank, Hollis Mansion and her bookstore--Paige's Turn) to Paige with a request that she live there a year, and then she can sell the house and/or the bookstore if she wants to. Paige hasn't been home in 5 years and arrives to stares, whispers, and accusations (some coming from her own family!) that she knew what was in the will and that she coerced Aunt Mitzi into cutting the rest of the family out so she could have everything for herself. I don't think Aunt Mitzi knew how much of a hornet's nest she was stirring up when she left everything to Paige. Oh, to top it all off Aunt Mitzi also picked out a love interest for Paige--Sam Kennedy. Yep her older brother's best friend that she had a teenage crush on for so long, and Aunt Mitzi's landscaper!!

I loved Paige. She's come into her own since moving to Washington, but she leaves it all behind to do what her beloved Aunt Mitzi asked--to stay for one year. I loved her response to Sam her first day back in town--he shouldn't have been so stupid to believe the gossip the town and some of her family said about her. I loved how sweet she was to Sam's parents--especially his mom who'd had a stroke. Her family didn't deserve someone as kind as she was. Paige's dysfunctional family was really something else--her mother never had anything nice or kind to say about her, no matter what she accomplished, but gushed over her spoiled younger sister. Her poor father picked the wrong sister when he married, but Paige was lucky out having spunky Aunt Mitzi to love her I was so happy that Paige finally got the relationship with her father and sister she should've had along. I think her mother needs to see a therapist to find out why she's so unhappy and jealous of her daughter.

Sam, Sam, Sam--you were so kind to Paige before she left for college, but stupidly you listened to the gossip of petty, jealous people and got off on the wrong foot with her as soon as she moved back to town. You deserved to be fired (twice) for the way you treated Paige. It took you awhile (a little too long in my opinion) to wise up, but luckily you did.

This book had me on a roller coaster--I was happy, upset, angry, swooning, you name it I probably felt it. I love Jennifer Peel--she's one of my favorite authors.

Kathy Jo says

May 2017:

Yes... I know... I just read this book a few months ago BUT it IS Jennifer Peel month so it's all good! ;) I still absolutely love this book! The feels are definitely real my friend! And guess what?! I LOVE it! <3

January 2017:

Paige has always felt like the odd man out when it came to growing up in her dysfunctional family. When it comes time to head to college, she does the complete opposite of what her family wants her to do. With the help of her beloved Aunt Mitzi, she goes as far away as she can to the college she has always dreamed of going to. She put Bella Port in her rear view mirror and had zero plans to ever return.

That is until her Aunt Mitzi passes away unexpectedly leaving her the sole heir to her millions! Now she must return to Bella Port, face her family for the first time in years, beat down all the rumors the old gossips in town are spreading, find her place in life and finally, FINALLY take her turn. All while running the book store her aunt also left her and trying to figure out how to stop Mitzi from meddling with her love life from the grave.

And who might dear Aunt Mitzi have chosen for her darling Paige? Why Sam Kennedy, the most eligible bachelor in town of course! *dreamy sigh* Sam was one of the very few people who really saw Paige for who she was growing up. He made her not feel so invisible and even made her feel pretty. But what's a girl to do when said man is dating one of the biggest drama queen's and gossips in town? She sticks to her "I'm totally fine with being single. I don't need a man in my life." attitude. But little does she know that Mitzi and fate have something else in store for her.

While Paige and Sam didn't get off to the best of starts, various circumstances have them coming together and gives them a chance to rebuild their friendship. But the closer they become, the more Sam pulls away. Paige doesn't understand why and does her best to distance herself from him. But the harder she tries to stay away, the more she is drawn to him. Could Mitzi be right after all? Or is Paige heading for the ultimate heartache in falling for Sam? With Mitzi in her corner, she shouldn't be thinking of anything else but a HEA. After all, Mitzi has never been wrong before. So why start now?! ;)

Oh how I loved all the letters from Mitzi! They were one of my favorite parts of this book! Everyone needs a Mitzi in their lives! She was there to lift Paige up during the hardest times of her life and letting her know that she is loved, she is beautiful, she is amazing and she deserves all the happiness that life has to offer. <3

This book is definitely a roller coaster ride when it comes to your emotions. Holy. Hannah! You will laugh, you will get angry, you may even growl a time or two, you will get teary eyed, you will want to Gibbs slap AND strangle certain people! But, in the end, you will be letting out little dreamy sighs and be wearing a grin of complete contentment when Paige finally does indeed, take her turn. *le sigh*

Ms. Peel is definitely the queen of sucking me in and not letting me go until the adventure comes to an end. I have to admit that she spoils me. I know I never have to wait too long before reading her next book. She is seriously an AMAZING author! If you haven't read any of her books yet, you are definitely missing out! Really... you are! I can't wait to see what she has in store for us next!

And of course there's my casting! I just have to tell you when I shared this with Jennifer she told me she pictured the same heroine. YAY! I love it when that happens! What do you think?

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are solely my own.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

This is a pretty special book. I loved Paige's character, especially her unique blend of grace and moxie. As confident as we are as adults, there's something about returning to a hometown that makes us remember or relive those feelings of vulnerability associated with our youth. I also feel this way on the rare occasion when I get together with friends from high school. My life now is so separate from my life then, I wonder if people who grow up in the same place and with the same people avoid this experience. Anyway, back to the book! Paige is compelled by the death of her aunt to return and follow Mitzi's wishes that she run the bookstore and reconnect with Sam, her former crush and current landscaper. The notes she leaves Paige are hilarious and heartwarming, making her a definite presence and influence in the book. There are a variety of community and family members that are vividly portrayed and I loved my experience spending time with Paige as she navigates the minefields of gossip, misunderstandings, and jealousy. She has cathartic and healing experiences and even some vindication when her confidence and success is accepted as her true self instead of being seen as the person she once was. A lovely journey with fun, drama, angst, and of course romance! Highly recommend.

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)ing soon...

Denise Baer says

This was my first 1-star rating. I get that romances follow the same kind of formula, but I don't get why they all have to. Why not come up with something a bit more unique than what you'll find in many others. The same dilemmas of ugly duckling turned into a swan, yet doesn't realize it. The flawless, handsome guy who EVERYONE wants, but who only has eyes for the swan. This is chock-full of cliches and it's all tell with little setting or character development.

Noriko says

3.5 out of 5 stars; this is a cute, quick read.

The 'once insignificant ugly duck turns into a beautiful magnificent swan' trope is pretty predictable yet still warms the cockles of my heart. It definitely put a smile on my face. It was a delight to read.

That said though, I wasn't emotionally attracted to Paige that much. She is liberal, independent and mentally strong and darn attractive (her beauty and grace is well showcased), yet her character doesn't possess the 'draw' that pulls me in.

The revealing of her mother's antagonism against Paige wasn't convincing enough, either. I could make some sense out of it if I forced myself, but I didn't find it strong enough to drive a wedge between them. It felt kind of forced, a bit of a stretch.

There's nothing particularly outstanding about the plot nor the characters, yet I did enjoy the shift in dynamics between Paige and her father and most importantly, Maggie.

The reconciliation was, again, too smooth sailing but it is such a joy to read them bonding and forging a strong sisterhood. This is undeniably one of the highlights of this book at least for me.

As for the romance between Paige and Sam... I can't find words to describe this other than to say, 'swoony.' It

starts off really nicely and has got a lot of heart-tingling moments, but develops really slowly which makes me a bit frustrated in a pleasant way. It was almost tantalizing.

Reading this book made me realize what a sucker I am for romance books.

Despite some issues that I have with this book and some flaws that I find for this book being a bit too predictable and stereotypical, I still enjoyed reading this. My gut-feeling wouldn't go so far as to declare my love toward this book, but I liked it.

If you are into this genre, or as big a sucker for being addressed as 'princess' as I am, then this is for you - you'll be sure to enjoy this :)

Christina says

Loved this book!!!!

I have yet to read a book by Jennifer Peel and not fall in love with it. *Page's Turn* was such an exceptional book, with a sweet romance amidst spunky characters. I loved the protagonist, Paige. She is very likeable and down to earth, yet has an inner strength she discovers more and more as the story progresses. Oh, and Sam?! Definitely a hunk and a good guy, with many swoon-worthy moments. Their story was wonderful and will be one I read again and again!!

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Sometimes when I read a book, I just know I'm going to use the word "love" too much when writing a review. It's inevitable. So, this is the forewarning for that type of review.

Paige's Turn had me swirling with emotion which comes as no surprise given Jennifer Peel's knack for writing fantastic characters, rich with personality and feeling. Each character in this book had me feeling something from sympathy and love to I want to wring your neck. It's such a gift as a reader to be able to feel emotionally connected to characters in a book.

I was immersed in Paige's world- her struggles and her triumphs. She leaves home a young and insecure girl but returns a woman with more confidence and determination. I loved seeing Paige overcome the bitter memories and spread her wings instead. She returned angry for kind and was willing to forgive. I loved Paige. And I wanted to be Paige. Because hello? She owns a bookstore! What a fun dream job! Well, at least I think so.

I was hit by emotion more than once over Paige's Aunt Mitzi. Her story and her love for Paige really tugged at my heartstrings. Sam was more of the love, hate, love kind. It made for some fun situations!

Ooh, and the cover! I love it! This one is probably one of my favorite Jennifer Peel book covers. And one more side note- my name appears in this book! That surely made me smile! I hardly ever see my name in a book because of the spelling. Fun!

I have never met a Jennifer Peel book I didn't like. Her writing just settles in my mind and heart and fills me up with yummy. LOVE.

Content: kissing

- I received a copy of this book from the author which in no way influenced my opinions of this book. All opinions expressed are my own.

Donna says

A quick and easy chick lit book. Paige hasn't returned to her hometown since graduation. But her favorite aunt just died and left everything to her. Her mansion, her bookstore and her millions. Shying away from a family that sees her as a disappointment is easy from far away. But going home means she has to face dealing with all of them. And their resentment. Going home also means dealing with old classmates. Can she find true love and fix her dysfunctional family? A good, easy, funny, and quick read!
