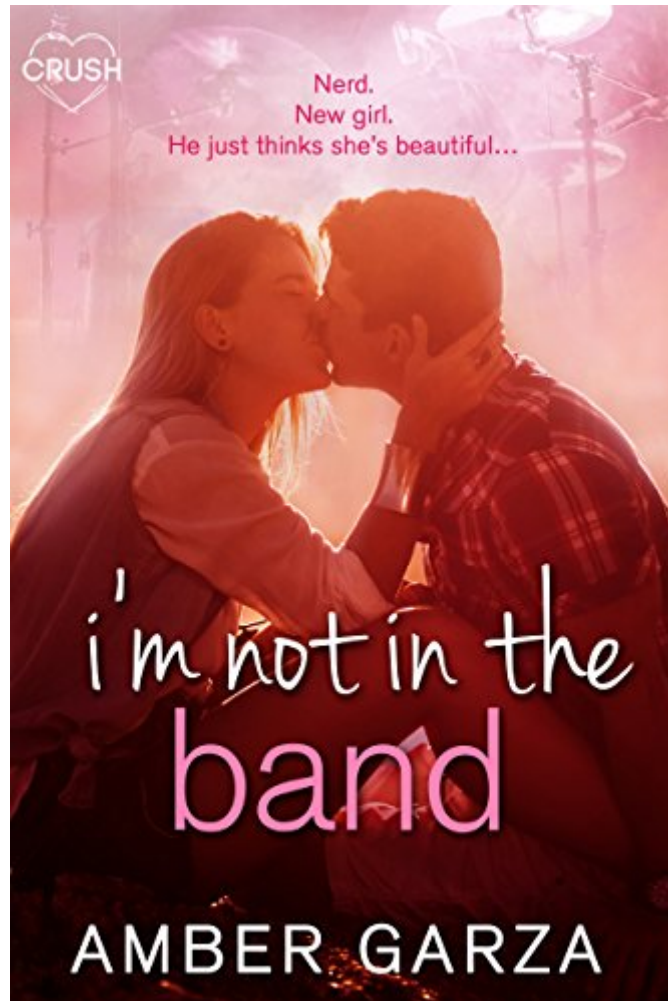




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I'm Not In The Band



Synopsis

I like Kassidy Milton. There, I said it. She's funny, beautiful—even though she doesn't know it—and my favorite kind of weird. But I can't tell if she's into me or just trying to get close to me for a chance with my famous twin brother instead. I mean, it has to be me. I am the better-looking one. But Kassidy has some demons, and she's not good at letting people in. That happens when you've been hurt by someone close to you. I can relate. Trust is a funny thing; it's hard to gain but easy to lose. I might just learn that the hard way. Disclaimer: This Entangled Teen Crush book includes a snarky heroine, a swoon-worthy hero, crazy best friends, your favorite music, and lots of feels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's sad the she had to go through so much when her friend that ruled her and didn't like to do he things she likes. Love the story had me crying

I'm Not in the Band is cute but not as fluffy as I initially expected. This is my first book by Garza and I

really like her writing style. The story is told from Kass and Archer's POV. While Kass's POV is told in the first narrative, Archer's is narrated through social media posts and messages. At first, I was kinda worried that I wouldn't like Archer's POV... but very quickly I realized I totally adore it. It's a very interesting and quirky way to tell a story. Not an easy choice, but Garza nailed it. One of the things I loved most about Garza story telling was the sense of humor. Going back to the fluffy part. As I said this is cute. It has its fair share of melodramas. It's packed with teenage insecurities, but it also does touch on some heavier subjects. I did enjoy the story line and kept wondering at the "mystery" though by the time we got the "reveal", I had figured it out. I like the subject and I genuinely got where Kass was coming from. I experienced the same with a friend, so I know the shock when it happens. I could totally relate to many of Kass feelings. There is no deep analyses or great solution in this book. Which was fine by me, it is after all a cute romance novel. I do however feel that there was this huge build up to the reveal and then things were "sorted", the end. It felt a bit rushed and retrospectively I'm not even sure if the situation was actually "handled". The character building is great. I love- nay ADORE - Archer. I liked Kass. They both a bit melodramatic, there is plenty of dramas between them, yet while Garza pushed the melodramatics, she didn't push them too far IMO. We talking teenagers after all. I quite like the siblings' tensions. They are relatable. I mean we all have some sort of odd rivalry/ insecurities when it comes to our siblings/ families during our teens, thankfully most of us do resolve them then as well... It gives the book the unexpected depth I was talking about right in the beginning. My biggest issue, however? The female support cast. With the exception of a couple, they are all horrible. Even Kass sister is kinda superficial, or at least she seems like it in the beginning. It's like all the teen girls in this novel are super good looking and manipulative, opportunistic and quite underhanded. Like every other girl is only interested in Archer because of his brother? Really?? That's just sad. Well written novel, that made me smile and laugh quite a bit. Great male lead, totally swoon worthy and some interesting subjects. In three words: Cute, funny and quirky.

Not in the Band is a cute YA romance about Kassidy and Archer. Archer has been forced into the shadow of his identical twin brother, who is the lead singer for a popular boy band, and resents (although he loves his brother) the unwanted attention- as girls only want him as far as it takes to get to his brother. Kassidy has some issues of her own to work through- we know there was some kind of event at her old school that really changed her life, and she was transferred from private to public school as a result; we don't learn more about the event until about 80% of the way through the book. She

also appears to have some undiagnosed psychiatric disorder(s), potentially anxiety, which manifests primarily as fear of illness/germs, and maybe also an eating disorder (not entirely clear, but extremely strict about eating and exercise, so maybe/maybe not). Anyway, cue the meet-cute, where Cassidy is at Archer's concert with her sister, who is a big fan, and they literally run into each other. At hearing Cassidy doesn't even know who his brother is, Archer is all about her and gets her phone number right away. Cassidy is loving the attention she's getting from the attractive stranger. This doesn't feel like insta-love, just lust, as the obsession is not immediate and they don't go crazy. They exchange numbers, he thinks about asking her out, and they text- but not too much, as Archer is coached by his friend Mac, a self-professed ladies' man (and seeming jerk/womanizer). The plot alternates between Cassidy's point-of-view in first person traditional prose and Archer's point-of-view told entirely through texts, tweets, facebook posts, and the occasional script-like conversation. The differences in the types of writing were really interesting and add something unique to your typical boy-meets-girl story. They both have their hang-ups, and these were set as main plot points, and I think they may have been over-exaggerated for some teenage-style drama- particularly on Archer's side, so much lead up to the issue and then minimal resolution (but could be the limited POV from his side of just conversations). My biggest concern here is for Cassidy's psychological well-being. It's pretty clear she's not coping extremely well with the event (that we learn about at the end), and the care is fairly minimal- it's mentioned that she's seen a psychologist but not much more- seems like she would need more consistent care. I feel that this is a little overlooked in the plot and maybe should have been a bigger point, but on the other hand, we only get small amounts, so a diagnosis (if necessary) is unclear. However, since her family is all clearly concerned and pointing out she's not coping well, this leads me to believe that it is a big issue/should be addressed. I think it would have been helpful to hear about her going to regular therapy, as this sets a good example for younger readers of someone getting the help they need. The romance was cute, and they spend a decent amount of time getting to know one another. I liked their relationship and the overall fast pace of the book- it's a very fast read! I have some reservations overall, but I would be curious to see more from this author/world (if they do a Playlusters series). Please note that I received an ARC from the publisher through netgalley. All opinions are my own.

I'm Not in the Band was a sweet, entertaining read and I'm glad I read it. Archer and Cassidy's path to a relationship was pretty adorable most of the time and Cassidy's grief over the loss of her friend tugged at my heart. I also enjoyed the mixed methods of storytelling; Cassidy's side was told through prose and Archer's side was told through text messages, tweets and Facebook posts. It was a little different than the normal alternating POVs and therefore an interesting novelty. My interest was piqued by the potential for other companion stories through the secondary characters. In fact, I was even a little more interested in Mac's story than Archer's and was hoping for a bit more of him in the book. His extreme self-confidence felt like over compensation to mask loneliness. But he was obviously a good guy by how loyal he was to Archer and nice he was to Kass. I'd like to see him truly happy. I'd like the same for Sophie, John, Ross and Miranda. Maybe even Tiffany or Ella if the author can pull off a redemption story for one or both of them. In any case, I will keep my eye out for new books by Amber Garza.

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