The Truth About Happily Ever After

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College sophomore Alyssa is so excited for her summer - she gets to work as Cinderella at Enchanted Dominion, and her long-distance boyfriend Jake will finally live in the same city as her and work at the park too! Then all of her dreams come crashing down when Jake breaks up with her for someone else. This was not a part of Alyssa’s plan, and she is faced with the fact that plans don’t always pan out. Luckily, she finds an empathetic friend in Miller, another theme park worker she’s known for ages. He, unlike Jake, is willing to listen to her, make her laugh, and help her suck it up and get back to her old self. Alyssa finds herself falling for Miller quickly when he shows his true friendship, but then worries that her feelings are nothing more than a rebound after Jake’s betrayal. Through some soul-searching, good friends, and a magical night at the park, Alyssa recognizes that she’s more than just a pretty blonde with a happily-ever-after wish - she’s strong and sensitive and good.

This novel is a fun read, even if it is fluffy. Alyssa as a character can be self-centered, but she’s introspective enough to recognize when she’s being shallow and grows a bit throughout the novel. The other characters are more one-dimensional, excluding Miller, but they serve their purposes in this story. However, after Alyssa discovers Jake has feelings for another princess who works at the park, Alyssa is really rude to her at every opportunity after the fall-out, which the reader may feel is uncalled for and not a good example to have in a character. The author never shows Alyssa reconciling with Jake and this girl, or even saying she would eventually come around to them. Other than that, this book is a lighthearted read - entertaining, if not substantial.

*Contains mild language and moderate sexual content.