



Across the Creek

Jeremy Asher

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Life only gives you one first kiss.

And when Jesse Malone kissed Sarah Ramsey, he thought his life would change, but not in the way that it did. An unlikely childhood romance between a poor boy and a wealthy girl began the day Jesse decided to do the impossible and cross the creek. A love was born, one that would become their shelter, protecting them from the storms of their lives, until the day Jesse witnessed his mother's murder, forcing him to leave his childhood home...and first love.

Ten years later, life has finally gotten better for Jesse. He has a loving family, a charming pet shop to run, and one semester left before graduating with a degree in architecture. Everything is great, until the day fate intervenes and his long-lost love walks into his shop and back into his life.

Sarah, engaged to a budding attorney, is struggling to keep everything together. Her father, diagnosed with terminal cancer, is running out of time. Sarah races to build their dream business while planning her wedding in time for her father to walk her down the aisle.

Their brief encounter starts a series of events that neither Jesse nor Sarah expects. After a decade of running, Jesse is now forced to face the demons from his past, while Sarah has to choose between her handsome attorney and her first love.

Just when they think love has given them a second chance, Jesse is faced with an impossible decision, one that will change their lives forever.

Across the Creek is the first in a 2-book series. Beneath the Willow is the second.

Across the Creek Details

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Author : Jeremy Asher

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From Reader Review Across the Creek for online ebook

Joan says

After a long, rather dull story in which nothing much happened, the book ended on a cliff-hanger. I don't care enough about any of the characters to want to buy the next book in the series.

Elizabeth (Liz) says

11/26/12.....Amazon freebie

Anne OK says

Very seldom do I find a book in the romance genre by a male author that completely overwhelms. Jeremy Asher did just that in *Across the Creek*. I highly recommend this story to readers looking for something a little different and a whole lot unique. The plot is endearing as well as frustrating. Relationships between the characters are well-crafted with emotion, believability, and realism. A bittersweet sentiment runs throughout the tender and enchanting storyline that will keep a reader's instincts on alert each step of the journey. Oh how I love a book that keeps me dangling and totally within its grips from beginning to ending.

Jesse Malone and Sarah Ramsey had a special childhood friendship. They even shared a first kiss. But something beyond their control rips them apart. Ten years later, completely by accident, they once again meet. Both are now ensconced in their own lives – Sarah, whose father is dying of cancer, is engaged to be married and starting a new business of her own while Jesse is studying architecture and helping run his aunt's pet shop. But seeing one another again reintroduces feelings that were never fulfilled. What once was simple is now complicated. Is this a second chance for a happily ever after love story between Sarah and Jesse?

An unexpected twist at the end was a bit of surprise but actually a realistic and acceptable one for this reader. Jeremy Asher's next book, "Beneath the Willow" will continue this saga and there's no question I'll be reading it.

This would have been a 5-star book for me except for a rather blazing timeline error that could have easily been corrected with a good edit. Otherwise, the story appeals on so many levels that I discounted the infraction as a small annoyance.

Carmen Marie says

I took a chance on a free book on Kindle. *Across the Creek* is a generic story of the innocence of first love. Despite lacking real character depth and my overall ho-hum attitude, I finished the book expecting it to resolve nicely. Instead, I was left with a cliffhanger. I didn't realize until the end that I was reading the first book in a series. I'm not sure I will invest the time to read the second installment. I'm sure that the next book will end how I expected this book to end.

Ravioli Rachel says

3 out of 5 Stars

Mainly because there was no HEA, I'm assuming it will occur in the next book but, I really hate endings like that. Leaves me feeling unfulfilled by the end of the book. Blah!!!

Pat Allen says

Wrong side of the track

He fell in love aged 12. She did too. The same day he murdered his dad. He had no alternative. Years passed. They met again but she was about to marry someone else. He was not the guy she imagined him to be. Her childhood sweetheart had to walk away. A painful ending.

Jenn says

The only reason I didn't give this one five stars is because of the conflicting age(s) of Sarah and her mother's leaving. The discrepancy threw me off. However, it did not deter me from finishing the book or wanting to read the next book. I'm actually looking forward to when it comes out. This book has a "real" feel to it, which I adored. It was another that once I started, I couldn't stop reading.

Erika says

Be warned - this book doesn't end!!

From the beginning, this book was different. It is written from the perspective of three different characters, each chapter from one of their viewpoints (3rd person). It was hard to adjust at first, but somehow it ended up working well! Usually you can't care that deeply about multiple characters, but in this one I did. This story is a real tear-jerker dealing with pain, death, loss, and really hard decisions. Not a spoiler alert per say, but this book ends in a cliff-hanger! Disappointing for sure, but designed to entice you to read the next one. And I'm enticed!

Caprice says

Emotional Story

This story was very good. It tells the story of a young man and woman who run into each other by coincidence ten years after life pulled them apart. What unfolds next is a very emotion filled account of two people who should be together, but can't because of other circumstances. It's a book any romance lover

should enjoy.

I gave this book four stars instead of five for a couple of reasons. The first is that I've never, ever heard of anyone going to a pet store to buy earthworms. That's just not what immediately comes to mind when I think of earthworms. Even though the story is set in Chicago, I'm sure there must be a few stores that sell live bait, and the cost would be less than buying them at a pet store.

Secondly, you would think that a girl who grew up with a father who absolutely loved gardening, and who shares her dad's dream of opening a greenhouse and nursery, would know the purpose of putting earthworms into the soil of an outside pot of flowers. No, the plants are not going to eat the worms. The worms will loosen the soil around the roots and provide fertilizer. Even though that shouldn't be a problem with lillies because they grow from bulbs.

The third thing that caused me to give the story four stars does not have to do with the book itself. Instead it is because of the difficulty I had reading the part of the last few weeks of Sarah's dad's life. This just hit way to close to home for me because I lost my dad to brain cancer too. In one way, I was jealous that Sarah's dad was coherent until the end and was able to say goodbye and how much he loved her just moments before he died. My dad's death wasn't like that. He was fairly coherent a few days before he died, but leading up to that time, he had been unresponsive for several days. And after that one day, he wasn't. So it made me cry quite a bit and made me sad.

Other than those issues, the book was very good. I probably won't read it again because it brings up too many painful memories. But I encourage others to read it. I just want to warn those who have had experiences to mine so they won't be blindsided like I was.

Lorraine says

SUMMARY: Life only gives you one first kiss.

And when Jesse Malone kissed Sarah Ramsey, he thought his life would change, but not in the way that it did. An unlikely childhood romance between a poor boy and a wealthy girl began the day Jesse decided to do the impossible and cross the creek. A love was born, one that would become their shelter, protecting them from the storms of their lives, until the day Jesse witnessed his mother's murder, forcing him to leave his childhood home...and first love.

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REVIEW: While not a page-turner, this sweet love story, with both tragedy and sweetness, is definitely compelling. The author's writing style reminds me somewhat of both Dan Walsh and Nicholas Sparks. This is not classified as a Christian book but definitely a clean read and definitely contains the theme of second chances and redemption. Loved both of the main characters and found them very realistic. The ending does leave you hanging and leads you on to read the second and third books in this series.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "Love always comes with a consequence."

"Life's going to give you every excuse not to follow your dreams. It's up to you to make your dreams a reality. Chase your passion and go after what you love."

"But that was the funny thing about mistakes: your heart always found a way to rationalize, a way to explain it away as you stepped ever further to the abyss, even if your mind knew better."

"Time was a thief when it came to memories. Not so much the memories as the details that give the memories life, making them more than just a dream."

"Love is beautiful, caring, nurturing, inspiring. It makes life a brighter and better place to live."

Jennifer says

Across the Creek felt like a really short book. At the end I just felt like oh it is over already? I didn't feel like much happened in it so it was just okay.

The story starts off with Jesse and Sarah's first kiss, and the last time they have seen each other. Then it jumps to 10 years later when they stumble across each other again. There is the instant attraction again, but Sarah is engaged.

Even though Sarah is engaged, and loves her fiancé, she is still attracted to Jesse. He is there for her when she needs someone. Really they don't make the fiancée very likable, which is a shame. Sarah seems like a good person, as does Jesse, but they both think they are not good enough for good people.

Sarah has a lot to deal with in this story. Her dad is dying and Jesse always seems to be there to help her through the hard times. It was an odd read because as I have said it didn't feel like much happened. There are a few chapters from Jesse's brother's point of view, and without him the ending would have been much different. Jesse thinks he has to save his brother all the time to repay him for what he did for Jesse when he was 12.

I had a hard time really connecting with everyone. It wasn't a bad story, it was just missing something that makes the story really engaging. I read it pretty quick, and I have the second book already so I will give that a read now, but it is just missing something. I don't know what it was that made it just a so-so story for me. A quick, easy read, but not something that will stick with me forever.

Also posted to Jen in Bookland

Courtney Stephens says

This was a sad love story. I cried and laughed my way through this book. I think Jesse and Sarah should end up together in the end. But who knows how the series will play out. Can't wait to read the next two books

Susan Kelley says

Jessie and Sarah were so close once upon a time. Ten years ago the boy from the wrong side of town shared a first kiss with his Whispering Pines Princess. Then tragedy struck for him and he never saw her again until the day she walked into his family pet shop. It all comes flooding back. Now he can't get his mind off the girl. Jessie has it bad for Sarah, but Sarah's engaged to another man.

I'll be honest, I was expecting the run-of-the-mill love story. I can't describe this book as such. Maybe because the author is a man? I had the story all figured out in my head, but the puzzle pieces just didn't fit. It was still an interesting story, and I might just pick up the next in the series. Curiosity and cats, y'know...

Kadijah Michelle says

This book is a soap opera on paper, and a good popcorn read. I just downloaded the sequel because just like a soap opera, you know the story is just going to keep going. You can't help hoping for the fairy tale ending to this story.

Lora Shouse says

I was sort of expecting this to be a historical, or almost historical, sort of romance about a boy and girl who grew up together as friends in a simpler time and who suffered from the mistaken belief that they were just friends and therefore could never be in love – or something like that. But no...

Jesse and Sarah were friends in their past when they were about twelve or so, but it is the not-so-distant past. We first see them just when they are having their first kiss and on the verge of being separated for what they believe will be forever.

Talk about people with misbeliefs! Jesse believes that because Sarah lives in a wealthy subdivision and he lives in the trailer park across the creek, her family would consider him not good enough for her. And Sarah believes that her parents separated because her mother blamed her for the death of her brother when he was five. Though Jesse knows Sarah has problems with her mother, and Sarah generally knows where Jesse lives, they apparently have never talked about these issues in detail, and certainly have never discussed them with their parents.

Jesse goes home from that first kiss to find that his father, from whom his family has been trying to hide for years, has found them again and is in the process of killing his mother. Afterward, Jesse and his brother Robbie are sent to live with his aunt in Chicago.

Years later, when they are both grown, Sarah has also moved to Chicago with her father. She and her father are working on starting their own plant nursery when she almost accidentally discovers Jesse working in a pet shop, the lifelong dream of Jesse's uncle August, who died right after it was started.

The trouble is, Sarah is now engaged to a successful lawyer type, Kevin. Another trouble for Sarah is that her father is dying of cancer. But she is happy to see Jesse again and is eager to have him in her life as a friend. She invites him to the birthday party she is throwing for Kevin at her apartment, where Jesse and Kevin seriously don't get along and get into a fight. Kevin knows 'way too much about Jesse. Later, after Sarah convinces him to try to make friends with Jesse, Kevin tells Jesse that he ran a background check on him after Sarah told him she was meeting him for coffee, and that is where he got the information for the insults he was throwing at the party. Who does that?

The plot thickens. Jesse tries working with Sarah on the greenhouse for her nursery but decides he can't just be around her as a friend and watch Kevin control her, which he keeps trying to do.

Meanwhile, Jesse's brother, Robbie, gets his girlfriend pregnant, and, thinking his career as a fighter and part-time pet store employee is not paying enough to support a family, gets involved in a robbery where he gets caught.

Sarah's father dies after dispensing a wealth of good advice to both her and Jesse and leaves a letter that sends them to their old neighborhood where they met to unearth a time capsule Sarah and her father buried by the creek. There they both decide they are in love with each other, and always have been, but can they give up the things they already have? Will they be allowed to?

Don't worry – there are two more books in this series.
