



Drops of Rain

Kathryn Andrews

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Ali Rain

Sometimes I think to myself, "How did I get here?" Then the pain hits and I remember...it's because she's gone. I now live in a new town, go to a new school, and I'm supposed to be moving on with my new life. Only, I no longer know who I am. Dancing is all I have left and every day I feel completely alone. Silence has become the theme song to my life. She said to find some joy and light, but I don't know how. Mostly, I feel surrounded in darkness...that is until I meet him.

Drew Hale

I have only one goal, in 298 days I'm going to drive away from this small beach town and never return. People are always watching me closely, too close, and I'm tired of wearing a mask. I need to be free. Swimming is my ticket out of here and I remind myself daily to fly under the radar, stick to my routine, and under no circumstances let anything distract me. I'm not as perfect as they think, most days I am drowning in guilt. I'm not sure I will ever be able to escape the feelings of shame, worthlessness, and just being unwanted...that is until I meet her.

Drops of Rain Details

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From Reader Review Drops of Rain for online ebook

Asia says

smutna i piekna historia. moglabym czytac takie ksiazki w kolko i w kolko. on jest bardzo zraniony, on i jego rodzina. ona tez jest zraniona i razem ratuja siebie. ale ona go bardziej. wydawa?aby sie ze sztamowo , ale nie. to sie nie nudzi. moze zawsze czytac takie historie...zwlaszcza gdy jest tak smutnie i pieknie napisane... cudo.

hokey-pokey says

FENOMENALNAD:D:D:D:D

Nadine Hook Me Up Book Blog says

3.5 Heartfelt Stars

As a debut, this was a good book about two young adults that got dealt a bad hand in life. Two young adults that suffered from the unfairness of life, forced to grow up way too fast, while falling head over heels for another along the road...

"Two words.... eight letters that have forever changed my life." ~Ali

Young Ali lost her mother, her best friend, her home, and in a sad way her father, all within a few weeks. Forced to leave her home, Denver, behind, she and her dad move to sunny Florida where she ends up being the neighbor to the famous Hale's brothers. Ali a talented ballerina, Drew a swimmer - both using their talents to escape from life.... Drew for a different reason than Ali.

Her start at the new school among spoiled rich kids wasn't easy, especially not while still grieving the loss of her mother and an absent father. Meanwhile, she and Drew seem to bump into each other way too often for his taste. He knows he can't get involved with anyone, especially not a girl. Swimming is his ticket out of this hellhole, away from his father. Little did Ali know who her neighbor truly is; all she knows is that he swims every morning in the ocean while she runs along the beach. Both establish somewhat of a friendship.

"No one. I'm no one." ~Drew

That's his way of blocking out people so no one gets too close to him. Drew, despite being the popular kid that girls want to have and boys want to be like him, he's very quiet and keeps to himself - unless when he's around his brother. He tried his best but Ali seems to pop up everywhere and he can't help but feel very protective of her. He can't fight against their pull any longer. He seeks Ali's friendship; their closeness, their time together, her smile, good heart and mind. She gives him hope and only with her he lets his mask down showing who he truly is. Because all this time, no one saw what a broken young man he is....

"Ninety-five percent of the day I have to wear a mask to cover up the truth. No one really want to know the truth. The truth is ugly, and every day I feel ugly." ~Drew

Ali gets him, she truly does and same goes for Drew; these two are each others rock, shoulder to lean on to just let go. I really enjoyed their story, how they met, which obstacles they had to fight and overcome. I felt like Sherlock Holmes when I figured out who will be the leading characters in book two LOL. As a debut it was well plotted and written. It was bittersweet to read through their pain and how certain people made their life unnecessary hard.

As for why I rated it 3.5 stars (which is still pretty good in my eyes) was because it had too many cliches in it. You have the hot "I wanna be like them" pretty boy who has some serious problems back home but seems to be star in school, the bitches who hate all girls, especially the new ones, and you've the newbie at school who turns head, boys are curious about, but eventually falls for You know what I mean; it was a bit predictable but nevertheless well written and their problems believable - **remember, I'm a picky romance reader & reviewer!**

If I'd recommend this lovely book? Totally! I will definitely read the second book in the series because I'm curious about Drew's brother, Beau, and his story.

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."~Georges Duhamel

Review on the blog → <http://bit.ly/1wTjqnM>

- ◆ Read all my review (A-Z) on the blog
 - ◆ Like the blog on Facebook
-

Sammy ?? says

3 it just wasn't for me stars.

Drew and Ali are both teens dealing with drama and pain with the sole purpose of finishing High school so they can move on. But bumping into into each other wasn't part of the plan.

I've got to hold my hands up and say I skim read the second half of this book which I despise doing, but I did want to find out how it ended although I found it a bit slow.

Nance says

1/10/15 - My dear Ms. Andrews, your writing was superlative! Loved Ali and Drew's story! This was more like a 4.5 star rating for me. I'm older, so I need a tad bit more heat. But, this is a Young Adult book so I

guess that I saw enough intimacy.

Can't wait for Beau to now show us what he's got! He was a great supporting character. So, I'm looking forward to Leila and him finally getting it all together...

1/13/15 - Another angsty read for me. I just can't seem to avoid distressing novels. The sadness. The love story that is built on heartache. But, this one was special. It was beautiful. It was fresh. It had me sighing and smiling. Why? Because both main characters were strong. They were brave. And, the life that they were dealt, was just not fair. Allyson Rain loses her mom to cancer, and with that her father picks up and moves them both clear across the country to Florida. He changes jobs to accommodate their new move. But, he deserts his daughter. While he's off residing in a condo further away from his daughter trying to jump-start his new life, she's trying to just breath every day. Ali is just so sad over the loss of her mother and her father can't see what his absence is doing to her. Naturally with the new move comes a new school. New classmates. New teachers. And, of course, a new love interest. And, that's when Drew Hale shows up. Quiet and gorgeous Drew. Taking everything in and not really having too much to say. He's a sweetheart. A really nice guy. But, his life is less than perfect. What he and his family are hiding is a disturbing and heartbreaking secret. It affects the whole family both physically and emotionally. Drew and Ali accidentally meet at the beach one morning, and they're both smitten with each other. But, it's Drew's terrifying secret that threatens to keep them apart. He can't bear for Ali to know his embarrassing and painful secret. Aly is just so understanding, though. What could it possibly hurt to tell her his tormenting truth? It gets all messed up, however, and will Ali ever forgive Drew for hurting her so miserably?

So many poignant moments to this story. The words were beautiful and meaningful. A few times I just stopped, took a breath, and smiled. It was a feel-good book even though there were parts that were agonizing. It was a hopeful book. The main characters together were cute and sweet. Caring so much for each other. It was a little bit low on the heat factor, however. But, that was okay because it fit the dynamic of the novel. There were some tender moments, and then some of the intimacy was implied while the reader could get a feel for what was actually going on. Incredible prose that was beautifully depicted amongst the pages of an emotionally heartfelt story. So many intimate thoughts expressed privately among the two main characters. It was almost like they read each other's minds. Loved this book so much!!! Just can't express how I enjoyed these characters and their story. Looking forward to reading Beau's story next. He's the middle Hale brother. And, he seems to be quite a charmer...

“But besides the things that everyone can see, it's the things that can't be seen at all that I love the most about him. Over the last year, I've heard people call him arrogant, proud, and self-entitled, but he isn't any of those things. Drew is quiet, private, and a little shy. He's sweet, thoughtful, and kind. He's overprotective and he always knows the things that I need, even before I do. He's easygoing and he doesn't sweat the small stuff. He finishes the things he says he's going to and he always stands by his word. Drew has provided me with a sense of home. He's made me realize that I have more strength and determination in me than I thought possible. I'll never be able to thank him enough for the love and confidence he's given me.” ~ Ali (Chap. 22)

“Someone once said, we all learn everything we need in kindergarten. Nope. I learned it from a brown eyed, gorgeous girl who grew up in the snow and never asks for anything of anyone because she's always too busy giving. She's taught me that it's the simple things in life that are best. Life is only hard if you want it to be that way. And every day, you get to choose what you want to do, how you're going to react, and how you're going to treat people.” ~ Drew (Chap. 22)

Marcia Bailey says

I had the Pleasure of reading Drops of Rain ARC. It is a Beautifully written emotional story of Acceptance and Forgiveness.

We are taken on a journey of two tortured souls, known as Ali and Drew.

Not only do they find strength in one

another but also in themselves. The emotions jumped off the page at me to make me feel exactly what the characters were feeling at that moment in time. I found myself several times throughout the story with tears in my eyes and rolling down my face, from having lived some of exactly what these two young adults were living and going through. I connected with their characters.

The support characters were absolutely wonderful. I love Beau (i cant wait for his story)

This is a beautiful and well written story of accepting your past, living your present, to fulfill your future and live your dreams, and not letting anyone stand in your way. It's also about finding out you're not alone and that more people love you and accept you then what you sometimes think. You just gotta learn trust, accept and forgive yourself and others. Only you can control your Destiny.

Although this is not my normal genre, I truly enjoyed the read. I was afraid of how the story maybe written with teens in sexual situations. It was worded and very well written. Its definitely a book i would let my teenager read.

I would like to Thank Kathryn for giving me the honor of reading Drops of Rain. I will accept the honor anytime in the future, if you need a Beta or ARC. You have a Beautiful Talent. Glad you seen that sign in My Beautiful home state of Kentucky... ♥

Keerthana says

My first ARC book

I am glad to say that I'm not disappointed and also I loved it. Review will be posted on August 11th because I don't have the ability to do a review without spoilers. I can't wait to read about the other Hale brothers.

Review Time:

My Rating: 3.5 genuine stars

I absolutely loved it. The story is about Ali and Drew, who had to face the unfairness of life at very young age. The author delivered the emotions with excellence that I felt theirs as mine. I loved Ali's special connection with dragon flies and Drew's freedom feel with swimming. It makes the characters, their story, and emotions all so true and beautiful. Usually in a romance book I tend to fall in love with the characters but it is very rare when I fall in love with MC's love itself. I experienced it in this book. Also Ali's passion for her future, career is something that's rare in YA novels these days.

This young love is powerful, compelling, emotional and overall incredible. And when I mean compelling I literally can't watch, read, or do anything until I finish this book. Not only I loved the MC's but also the other character like Drew, Matt and their friends circle too.

And about Ali, I loved her more than Drew. Now that's rare for me especially in a romance YA novel. Drew

grew up with his abusive father, while it's hard at least he's used to it. But for Ali, unfairness is thrust upon her immediately with no warning and she's got to deal with a lot yet she's strong with the strength from her late mother and Dragon flies. She concentrated on dance with passion. She never settles for less. When she thought Drew was being mean to her, she got hurt but she didn't abandon her passion or self-respect because of life's bitterness. She's an amazing girl and I love her a lot.

I loved moments that involved the appearance of Dragon flies. I cherished those moments for a matter of fact. And the time when she killed and cried over it makes this story more real and beautiful. The author made me love Dragon flies now. I won't ever be the same when I see a Dragon fly in my life again.

Never the less I love Drew too. He always looked out for his brother the way he knows. I can't blame him for not acting against his father earlier because he's grown into it and until the situation came he saw his swimming as his way out. Also he never hated his mother for not protecting them, which made me love him even more though I can't say same with his mother. Nevertheless his empathy towards Cassidy is amazing too. Deep down he's passionate towards swimming but it makes me a little because most he see it as an escape. I just wish his sorrow gets washed away. Good thing is that it does.

With Ali and Drew together I loved them, their relationship, also the little family created along the way. But why 3.5 stars?

Here is the reason for that. I found Cassidy parts clichéd and Mean Girls drama. And the way Drew and Ali first met. I loved their progress in love but not their first meet. When I read that part I got a wee bit irritated to be honest thinking that this is going to be one those ordinary romance novels. But thanks to Kathryn Andrews for proving me wrong. For a début novel this is brilliantly written with amazing quotes. And I know the most dreadful part yet to come in Drew's life. While expected it to be dramatic (which I never prefer it) it was written with reality and truth. And I am glad it happened to Drew after he met Ali, because I personally think without Ali he would never have the strength to stand against his father. I just want to thank Kathryn Andrews for making my first ARC book experience as a beautiful one. This book will always hold a special place in my heart.

Credit to Kathryn Andrews for these beautiful pictures

Donna ~ The Romance Cover says

Drops of Rain (Hale Brothers Series #1) by Kathryn Andrews
4.5 stars!!

“Alex Tan says, “Perhaps our eyes need to be washed by our tears once in a while, so that we can see life with a clearer view again.””

One of my favourite things about blogging in general is coming across brand new authors and finding a little gem and this book is more than a gem, it is a little diamond. This book is full of my favourite

things...”feels,” this book makes you feel a lot. It is emotional, it is angsty, it is sad in places but it is so adorable, you cannot help but fall in love with the characters and the smattering of wit throughout the book balances it perfectly. I just absolutely loved it...hard!! For a debut author, Kathryn Andrews has nailed this one and it was a privilege to read such a beautiful and emotional story.

This is a story about Ali Rain and Drew Hale, but this is more than a story, this is a journey and one that will stay with me for a very long time.

Ali Rain is overwhelmed with grief, not only is she still coping with the death of her mum, but she is also in a way dealing with losing her dad too. Her dad has shut down after the loss of his wife so Ali feels totally alone and to compound matters, in an effort to mitigate his grief her dad has moved them from their family home to Florida. Ali now has to deal with the loss of her friends and starting a new school on top of everything else. She really does feel abandoned; she is extremely sad and totally overwhelmed. But Ali does have inner strength and despite her inner turmoil she puts on a brave front. Her form of escapism is dancing, she is a very talented ballerina and she is also a runner to keep herself fit. It is while running on the beach she comes across Drew Hale, but will this be the only time their paths cross?

“Just one hour ago, I thought that I was evolving and adapting. Now, I’m not so sure. I miss my home. I miss my life. I miss my mom.”

Drew Hale is the typical popular guy that all the others want to be, the guys want to be like him and the girls just want to be with him. But his “popular guy” demeanour is just a front, a mask. Drew shies away from forming attachments, he has one goal and one goal only and that is to complete school and get the hell away from home. His swimming is his meal ticket out and nothing and no-one will come between him and his end goal, unless...

Drew and Ali keep bumping into each other, turns out they are neighbours as well as both attending the same school. He has his early morning swims in the ocean and she runs along the beach, it is this routine that leads them to a friendship but Drew is determined not to get emotionally involved. He can’t afford attachments, he needs to escape but sometimes your heart and your head have different agendas.

“...she definitely deserves better than what I can give her...which is nothing. I am nothing.”

This is a story about young love, it is a powerful story and as I said extremely emotional. Both Ali and Drew are broken souls, Ali through her loss and Drew because...I am not going to say, you will just have to read it, but it is extremely sad. Drew has a lot of weight, guilt and burden on his shoulders, totally unfounded and unwarranted but he is that kind of person. He was a truly beautiful character, inside and out.

“Kissing Drew is like a fairy tale each and every time. He makes me feel like there’s a once upon a time and a happily ever after all wrapped up waiting for me.”

Nothing could prepare Drew for the emotional relief that he would feel when he finally opened himself up, he took a huge chance with Ali, one that he wasn’t sure if he would come to regret, but with her and only

her, he could finally be himself. He didn't have to wear that mask, didn't have to put up that front and he could finally just be Drew. This two really are each other's soul mate, the development of their relationship was beautiful to read and really pulled at your heart strings. They have a lot of obstacles to overcome if they are to truly make a go of it, but with their foundations that they have slowly built I was eager for this couple to succeed. Life has many plans; I just hoped that "life" wouldn't get in the way of true love.

I have to mention Drew's brother Beau, he was another amazing character and I cannot wait to read his book. His injection of wit and humour totally lightened up this book and his "brotherly" relationship too with Ali was endearing and heart-warming. Beau is Drew's younger brother, but these two have a strong connection and again goes to show the true bonds a family have.

In summary, I totally and utterly loved this book, I cannot recommend enough and Kathryn Andrews is definitely an author I will be watching avidly. For a first in series and a debut book, this book was fantastic. I was totally gripped from first to last page; I had tears of sadness and tears of laughter but most of all it was an emotional journey and one that I will not forget. My heart felt every word and that is no mean feat by any author. Well done Kathryn on an amazing story.

"Do not look back and grieve over the past, for it is gone; and do not be troubled about the future, for it is yet to come. Live in the present, and make it so beautiful that it will be worth remembering. – Ida Scott Taylor"

www.theromancecover.com

Cecily Bonney says

This book is a keeper and when I say keeper I mean I will keep this book close to my heart.

Kathryn Andrew you did a fantastic job!!!!

I can't wait to read Beau's story because I have to know!!

Best quote ever!

"Perhaps our eyes need to be washed by our tears once in a while, so that we can see life with a clear view again."

Alex Tan

Malinda Burchett says

I was lucky enough to beta read this book and let me tell you it is simply amazing! I couldn't put it down once I started and read it cover to cover start to finish in one sitting!

This book had my emotions going on a roller coaster ride. There were times I wanted to scream and shout and times I couldn't read due to the tears steaming down my cheeks! I love the way this author is able to

convey in a simple paragraph every emotion I could ever imagine.

Drew and Ali are two people brought together in a very unconventional manner yet these two tortured souls couldn't be more perfect for each other. Through their trials and tribulations they are able to be each other's rocks and help each other through their toughest times!

My shining star was Beau!!! I loved loved loved this character!!! His personality and relationship with "Tiny" (Ali) was absolutely precious!!!!

I don't want to give too much away in the way of spoilers so I will just say read read read!!!!

Southern Belle Book Blog says

Even the second time around, this book still does it for me. I read Drops of Rain in mid-August, but was lazy and didn't write my review at the time. Since it had been a bit of time, I decided to reread in order to write this review. I can say, even the second time around, it still pulled me in and didn't let go. It was just as fantastic during a reread as it was the first time. Although I knew how it ended, it still made me feel that wide range of emotions that it did the first go around.

What I loved most about this book is that it didn't have to try too hard. It's your classic new adult romance, and I love that it is. It's unique, the storyline is different enough that you'll forever remember it, but what it all comes down to is the sweet story of two people that need each other. It has the romance and swoon worthy moments. In fact, it has A LOT of that. I can't count how many times I found myself sitting here smiling from ear to ear. The things Drew Hale says...sigh. It also has your all-American high school drama. It has the perfect mean girl-type villain. Although it does have all of the elements that should make for a predictable story, the underlying issues with Ali and Drew will steer you in a completely unpredictable direction. I love that an author didn't feel the need to add in a massive shock factor or crazy plot. Andrews wrote a real love story.

It is very sweet and very romantic. But it's also so hopeful. Seeing two people who need someone else as badly as these two did, and to find it in one another, makes for the most gorgeous story. Ali and Drew are both so individually broken and lost. Neither are sure how to gain control of their lives, but they do just that with the help and love of each other. I really feel like this book touched on every single emotion you can imagine feeling. Love, heartbreak, anger, humor, protectiveness, pain, the list goes on and on. So many emotions, but the story wouldn't feel complete without all of it. It all combines perfectly.

I also loved the connection the two had with each other, as well as the connection with Drew's brothers, specifically Beau. It's very much so Ali and Drew's story, but you'll care about the entire family by the end of it. You hurt when they hurt. You can tell when they're in pain, and how much it hurts Ali. She's not just an outsider, she's a part of their family. It was a huge plus as far as I'm concerned that the author didn't build the entire story around two characters, but rather a group of characters.

This is so silly, or maybe it's not, but there's one thing that stands out more than anything else in this book for me. Hopefully this isn't a spoiler because if you're reading a romance novel, this is bound to happen at some point in the book. When Drew tells Ali he loves her, he says it a certain way. He doesn't make a huge sweeping declaration. He simply says, "Love you." I swooned every single time. It made him real, in my opinion. Sure, those massive speeches all of our male leads give will make your tummy flutter, but how many of us can say we've ever honestly been on the receiving end of one of those? Not me. "Love you" is so very Drew Hale. It's simple, direct, and no nonsense. It's everything you need to know about that character

summarized into 2 words. Told you, kinda silly but I loved it.

Overall, Drops of Rain is the classic tale of two lost teens finding their way through love. They both begin the story so lonely or with hidden secrets and guilt, but overcome many different obstacles and better themselves in the end. It's beautiful, heartwarming, sad, but above all else, it's just plain romantic. I loved it the first time, was reminded of how much I adored the characters the second time, and now I absolutely cannot wait to dive into Beau Hale's world in Starless Nights. Yay for more of the Hale brothers.

Janja says

-4,5-

Two broken and lonely teenagers, two hearts with so many sorrows and one wish: to escape the pain. Drew and Ali were so different but still the same- going thru their life.

I loved the story and characters of Drew, Ali and all of their friends but I hate Drew's mother (she is weak and selfish) and not to forget Ali's father?? he just wanish with no sorrow or regret..

Drew and Ali are strong and they give each other the strength to cope and to face the demons they must overcome to have their HEA.

Haveyoureadbookblog says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review

This story is about Ally and Drew who meet at the beach when she moves after her mom'd death. He's this closed off popular kid with a secret that he wants no one to know. Ally is the dancer that catches his attention and eventually they fall in love...

I really liked this book. From the very beginning you are pulled in and start going through Ally's journey with her. Her loss, her triumphs, and her experience with love. I was looking forward to her happily ever after and the Hale brother's. When Beau goes to her after the incident I couldn't help my eyes getting all teary eyed. Drew is a great guy and perfect for Ally. Beau omg Beau! I really can't wait until book 2 to know what's going to happen with him. Cassidy was a really good bad guy in this book and am glad she had to pay for her bad choices.

Overall I liked the book and will definitely be reading book 2

-Maria

(M&D's Have You Read Book Blog)

Abbie says

Drops of Rain was a good read.

I really liked the characters in this, and i loved the bond between Ali, Drew and Beau.

I started to lose interest in this just under halfway, but the second half pulled it back, and i really enjoyed it.

Overall, a good romance read.

I'm looking forward to reading the second book.

Elle Brooks says

I had the privilege of Beta reading this beautiful book.

From the very first page I felt connected to the characters and I can't stop thinking about them even now.

There were parts that made me smile stupidly to myself, to the point where my husband wanted to see what I was reading because of the silly grin. Then there were others that broke my heart and had me holding my breath, teary eyed.

Ali and Drew's story restored my faith in true love, and that it is worth fighting for. Nothing in life is easy, people always have baggage and things going on in their personal lives that they hide away from view.

Ali is trying to cope with a devastating loss and accept her new life in a new town and all alone. Drew is living from day to day in an almost robotic state of existence. He's counting down the days until he can finally leave. The couple meet and slowly but surely begin to form a friendship that develops beyond what the other was expecting. They become each others life line. I was so enamoured with Ali & Drew's story that once i'd started to read it, I couldn't put it down.

The author has done a beautiful job of drawing you in and making you feel every single emotion her characters are portraying.

This is the first book in the Hale Brothers Series and I am eagerly awaiting the second one now.

A perfect late summer read, 5 Beautiful Stars.
