



Rain Clouds and Waterfalls

Piper Templeton

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Rain Clouds and Waterfalls Details

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From Reader Review Rain Clouds and Waterfalls for online ebook

P.J. Lazos says

Rain Clouds and Waterfalls by Piper Templeton is a lovely little coming of age and beyond story set in a time when life was simpler if only because choices were limited. In other ways, life was more harsh as the dogma of the day ruled. People, especially children, had fewer options. They didn't revere, as we do today, the meaning of individuality, and "Authority," meaning work, school, teachers, parents, priests, etc., was spelled with a capital A. It was always the job of rock and roll, beginning with the Beatles, to peel back the veil of mass conformity so that everyone could let their individual light shine. Rain Clouds and Waterfalls offers a peek into that beginning time.

The stories follow the life trajectory of a young girl, Ellen, depicting isolated incidences as she goes from child to adult which, en toto, gives you the fuller picture of her life, especially as it is interwoven with the music of The Beatles. Each chapter is headed by a Beatles song. Sometimes the music is a catalyst for her actions, sometimes a balm, but always linked to the story within, allowing the reader to witness Ellen grow up with and through the music. The stories are bare bones, not a lot of fluff here and no extraneous subject matter. Often the language belies the gravity of that same subject matter which can be stark, harsh, sometimes unbearable. A brother who leaves, a friend who leaves, a boyfriend who leaves, a boss who comes through (finally!), parents who are perennially remote and self-absorbed, all leave you asking where is Ellen's "good" in life, really, other than through the music of the Beatles?

The stories are told almost matter-of-factly without pity or pulling of heart-strings even though some very adult things happen to Ellen as a child. Set in New Orleans, I wished for more of a sense of place, at least from the adult Ellen. I also wanted the adult Ellen to try a little harder to create her own reality rather than letting things wash over her as she'd done as a child. I understand that not everyone can or will evolve in this way, but I was rooting for her. In fact, the majority of the world is so slow to change that sometimes it seems the only dynamic action occurring is that which is dramatized in film and literature. Ultimately, I think it would have better served the story to see more of that character arc as well as the arc of the language Ellen used as she matured. Overall, however, the stories are balanced and steadily told. The book would make a great art house film — soundtrack essential — with the protagonist growing year to year along with her love of the Beatles. For a quick, enjoyable read try Rainclouds and Waterfalls.

Mary says

This is a very emotional story, especially if you're a Beatles fan. Ellen leads a very disheartening life. One sad episode with a man after another. Mixed in with the timeline of The Beatles and John's murder, we see how the music and lives of the Fab Four influenced and affected her, and others. Even mentioning Stu and Pete shows the depth of interest in the band. The end of the book is very bittersweet, and very touching. It's a great read for people who are Beatles fans and those who aren't.

I received a free copy of this book from Reading Deals Review Club. This is my honest opinion.

Angelica says

This was a well written compact coming of age story, with the Beatles as an integral central theme. Each chapter uses a Beatles song and traverses the decades of 1970 through the 80's centered around Ellen coming

through adolescence through young adulthood all revolving around her love of the Beatles music, of which she should have been president of their fan club. I loved the ingenuity of the author, felt the writing was good and it was an easy read. Would I recommend...definitely for the Beatles lover out there!

Becky says

I really enjoyed this book. It was an easy, delightful read. I can totally relate to the main character Ellen. I think was her. We are the same age and I loved and still love the Beatles. Reading this book was like a trip back in time. I remember the era so well. The ups and downs of her love life was much like my own back in the day. It was a good story with a happy ending. I will read more from this author.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Georgie says

This highly entertaining novella is a coming of age story, told in small bites. It is narrated by a teenager, who grows into a young woman as the story progresses.

There is a lot to like about this story: it is well written and has interesting themes. The narrator's voice is strong--we feel the protagonist's emotions.

I admire writing that doesn't indulge in excess description. This story sticks to the subject matter well and doesn't wander into superfluous scene-building or dialogue.

Beatles songs were woven cleverly into the plot.

The only distractions for me came from too much emphasis on iconic products of the time—Scholl sandals, for instance.

Rain Clouds and Waterfalls was obviously written for teenagers. I would like to see a full-length novel of the same story, only this time for adults.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest and non-reciprocal review.

Amazonianz says

This is a short book, novella length, easy reading, fitted to young adult readership, though not restricted to that group.

It is set in the 1970s to '80s, and the underpinning idea that drives the overall story of a girl's years through adolescence to early adulthood is a love of the music of the Beatles; so it may also appeal to older adults – the now fifty-plus.

The chapters are crafted like short stories, but together they tell a continuing story.

In a few parts there seemed to be a gap and I found myself having to go back a couple of pages to check if I'd missed some explanation. Most books tell too much, but this is one that could do with a little more, at least in some places.

I expect we'll hear more from this Author in the future.

Shaheen Darr says

Rain Clouds and Waterfalls is a novella that spans the growing up years of Ellen Clemens in the late 1970's to 1980s. An ardent fan of the Beatles their music is pivotal to everyday moments in Ellen's life. Piper Templeton's idea to use a Beatles song to head each chapter and to carry its theme throughout the chapter is ingenious. The story touches on subjects like sexual harassment, domestic violence and heartbreak but without too much drama. Indeed the brevity with which Middleton handles these subjects leaves an impact. The ending was sad and I hope there is more to come that will tie up the loose ends, I look forward to reading the sequel or another book by this very talented writer.

K.A. Krisko says

No! This one ended too soon!

This coming-of-age story is a quick read, tersely and sparingly written, with no wasted space. Each chapter is predicated upon a Beatles song, and in many cases a chapter reads almost like a short story, a technique I really like.

It's set in the mid-to-late 1970s and 1980s. I was a similar age to the protagonist during those years, and many times I had to chuckle at the cultural images. If you grew up in, or are a fan of, this era, you'll recognize many iconic items, from Dr. Scholl's sandals through plastic kitchen clocks.

Suitable for mid-to-older teens, but definitely appropriate for older adult audiences (like me). You won't be distracted by typos, odd word usage, or poor punctuation; the tight editing makes it possible for you to immerse yourself in the world with nothing to pull you out.

In some ways I wish there was more detail about some of the sections of Ellen's life. On the other hand, I can't think how to expand the chapters without disrupting the to-the-point, short-story format, and I wouldn't want to change anything, so I'm just stuck craving more.

As for the ending: sometimes it's best to leave things to the reader's imagination, and this book does just that. You can guess what's going to happen next, or make up your own story; everything doesn't need to be spelled out. I found it satisfying.

I would read similar books by this author any time, and I'd recommend it to literary fiction fans of all ages, especially those who enjoy short stories, coming-of-age stories, and 1970s retrospectives (and the Beatles!)

Please note: I finished this book on December 8...coincidence? I think not!

Adam Snowflake says

I was given a free copy in exchange for this review. I wish I could say I liked this book, but unfortunately I do not.

Pace and plots: I found the book to be a slow read. This is not a bad thing normally however nothing happens throughout the course of it. I find it a bit boring. It's littered with countless references that really serve no purpose whatsoever in the story.

Characters: I'm really not sure what to say about the characters. I can't really remember any of them. Not to say their bad or its bad writing, there is no such thing as bad writing in my book, but I didn't feel invested in them, thus I don't really remember them.

Main protagonist: I felt the main protagonist much too written like an adult, given their age. Normally when writing for teens, they should act like teens. Not to say they can't be mature, but they shouldn't be written as if their adults, because we're not adults.

In a world full of white people: I found this story, vastly lacking diversity. In the real world there's a huge mix of people of color, people who are disabled, people who are gay, bi ect. But I felt this story severely lacking anyone who isn't the majority which I personally find to be a bit unrealistic. There are some characters who are presumed to not be white here and there such as Ahab, but generally most characters are presumed to be such, and thus the story lacks diversity. I understand this may have to do with the time period the book is set within, however it is still a flaw in my opinion.

Ellen and her journeys: I found them uninteresting, basically we are just reading about her life. I get that this may be appealing for some people however for most readers I imagine this to be a bore.

Lastly : don't let this review discourage you. You are an amazing human being and I wish you the best. Just because I disliked the story does not mean others will as well. Just because it wasn't for me doesn't mean it's not for others. ^__^ I wish you the best -Adam

Mary Vogelsong says

Review of Rain Clouds and Waterfalls by Piper Templeton, Audiobook

I "read" the audio version of Rain Clouds and Waterfalls, by Piper Templeton. That in itself is a big plus for me! I frequently listen to audio books or the text-to-speech accessibility feature of books while I multi-task. Professional narration by Audible conveys the nuance of words and tone of the scene in a way that text-to-speech cannot. It really brings a book to life!

Rain Clouds and Waterfalls follows the life of Ellen, a school girl in the '70s, to adulthood in 1990. The most notable and enduring of Ellen's personality is her fanatical obsession with the Beatles, and that provides the thread connecting the chapters which are snapshots of her life. Given this, I half expected actual Beatles music to be present in the audio book. Alas, it is only present to the same extent as in the other forms of the book, with mentions of albums, songs, and Beatles history and trivia.

Ellen evolves as a person during the course of the book. She starts as a timid member of a dysfunctional family, and gives up the idea of college because she mistakenly believes her future is with the guy who has been using her for sex. We continue to see her as sexually abused in the 1980s workplace, in a way that would not be tolerated today. By the end of the book she has moved past that situation, and is considering furthering her education.

The ending wraps up some loose ends with a nice twist and a hopeful outlook. If you are a Beatles fan, and

grew up during that era, you will enjoy this book. Try it on Audible!

Brittany T says

All great novels--and songs--do more than just tell stories. They capture a moment in time, touch the soul and speak to that part of ourselves we keep hidden. Though they worked in lyrics and melodies, the Beatles were arguably the greatest storytellers of all time and Piper Templeton pays tribute to their legacy with "Rain Clouds and Waterfalls."

Told in a series of short stories that follow the life of Beatles mega-fan Ellen, "Rain Clouds and Waterfalls," chronicles the beautiful messiness of life and how music can bring joy. Templeton does a wonderful job at crafting characters that are real. I've met several people like Ellen--sleepwalking through life and living vicariously through others, in this case, the Fab Four. From the opening paragraph, I was hooked. Absorbing, entertaining and above all, well-written, "Rain Clouds and Waterfalls" is a must read for fans of literature--and great music--alike. I look forward to more for this author.

Jessica says

This book really caught my attention when I first saw it and now I have read it and even more happier that I actually read it, plus it only took me 2 days to get through it.

T. Kent says

I thoroughly enjoyed the book!! This was a trip down memory lane for me, since I am about the same age as the protagonist, Ellen. And I love the Beatles. I thought it was a very moving coming of age (and then some) story. The author does a great job weaving the Beatles songs and milestones throughout the story. Honestly, there were so many elements of the story that mirror my personal life, it was a bit uncanny. Most specifically, the story of Ellen's brother. I was engaged from beginning to end and had to pull out the tissues on this one. I liked the author's writing style as well. Definitely worth the read!

Kristin says

Book Review : Rain Clouds and Waterfall, by Piper Templeton
Updated on July 2, 2015

Book Review: Rain Clouds and Waterfalls, by Piper Templeton

I wanted to start this review for an understanding what the review brings to the author. First and foremost it allows the author to get a second or third eye on what the material is, how it would relate to readers, and hopefully; a review will drag more readers into reading the book. We are not editors we just try to illustrate how we see the work. Simple as it sounds, but in this case it is quite difficult. Templeton gives quite the

enchanting story of trials and errors as a young girl begins to grow into a young woman while borrowing quite a bit from the Beatles. Overall she does this exponentially well. For the most part the story flows well. The task of using another work as the basis of your own is actually not always an easy task; I have to give Piper Templeton credit for what she did create.

Authors always harp on the little details. She often paints a picturesque scene. As you read you do become engulfed into the world she has created. On that note, several times I noted I had to stop and do a double take to see if that is how it reads. There are slight character issues that pop up here and there that do stop the flow. This is not at all referencing and editorial concerns. The characters often will say something that sets up the wall to stop you. The voices sometimes are in conflict with age and actual years.

Even though I felt the road blocks, I had to reread this to find the words to describe how I conceptualize Templeton's work. I enjoyed it. Some of the passages hit you and take you back into the days when the only question people asked, "Are you a Stones or Beatles fan?" I would recommend this book as I see the potential for it to expand. I do love the texture she gives everything and brings together a simple time we all hear of but cannot fathom.

Happily I give this book four out of five stars. ****

Kristin Blizzard

June 26, 2015

Author of: What Murphy Didn't Know, Secrets to Pushing and Marketing Your Book, Works of Blizzard

Dawn says

"Rain Clouds and Waterfalls" is mostly a warm, comfortable, fast read.

I say "mainly" because Piper Templeton manages to weave in some slightly disturbing scenes.

It's a great "slice of life" read with more than a hint of The Beatles!
