



Don't Fall

Rachel Schieffelin

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In which a teenage girl endures the over-protective love of her adoptive mother until she falls for a boy who has her wanting to spread her wings, pitched as a contemporary retelling of Rapunzel.

Seventeen-year-old Anya leads a very secluded life in a house on the edge of town with her adopted mother. She doesn't go to school, but instead has a private tutor. Her over-protective mom keeps her so sheltered that she doesn't even have a best friend.

But Anya doesn't seem to mind. She has her books, her photography, and her daydreams, and would do anything to please her mom. Until one day at the library, the only place she's allowed to go, she takes a picture of a beautiful boy.

Before long she's lying to her mom, and sneaking out late at night to meet Zander. But Zander wants more than a secret romance. If Anya wants to be with the boy of her dreams, she will have to risk her relationship with the only other person she's ever cared about.

Don't Fall Details

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From Reader Review Don't Fall for online ebook

Hari ~Brekker-Maresh~ says

Usually, as soon as I start a book, I can tell if I like it or not. This book was no different. It was amazingly BAD from page one.

So, if it's so bad, why did I keep reading it??? For one thing, I don't like the idea of stopping a book in the middle, no matter how bad it is because maybe it has some redeeming qualities. Thus, my suffering. Maybe something would change and I would actually LIKE the book. My thoughts while reading were *OMG this is SOOOO bad*. I could already see myself giving it a one star rating. But maybe I could bump it up to two stars. It doesn't take much to please me; a clever quote, or swoon-worthy romance would suffice.

But this? This "romance" was FAR from swoon-worthy. It seemed fake, despite the characters' insisting that it was anything but that. Who are you trying to convince? Yourselves?

Yes, it's another two- POV book. One that really doesn't work out. With cheesy lines and atrocious declarations, it was TERRIBLE.

Ok so you know how in books, the author wants you to fall in love with the main characters? Or at least SOME character? Yeah, don't expect that.

So, I literally had to go back and figure out the characters' names cuz I forgot them. In like an hour since I finished the book. THAT'S their impression on me. They skipped cheesy and jumped onto pathetic and lame and just UGHHH (for lack of better words). Anya and Zander (ohhh like **A** and **Z** I guess). You'd think with names like that I'd remember it.

But honestly. If you find Anya SOOO irresistible, don't just say so. I don't *get* the feeling that she is, just like I don't get the feeling like YOU are SOOO intriguing. (that's me talking to Zander) No character depth whatsoever.

Were those letters supposed to mean something??? Oh, they were supposed to be romantic??? Oops. Sorry. Not getting that vibe AT ALL. I just keep getting the same shit over and over. No redemption. Just a boring listless read that made me kinda wanna shoot the characters. Stupid idiots.

See, I like a good, long delay between like and love. Something gradual, but steadily picking up the pace. Love is acceleration. Not this random jump after days of simple walking. I guess what I'm saying is, they "fell in love" so fast that it didn't convince me that it was true love. There was nothing building up to *the moment* and honestly, I was confused. Where was the chemistry?

Lazy ass descriptions. This was their first kiss:

"I'd read about butterflies and fireworks, electricity, sparks and flames, your body warming up and getting chills all at the same time. I'd even felt my own body tingle while reading the words and longing to feel those things myself.

But now, with Zander's lips against mine, I realized they were all weak descriptions."

GO DIE. YOU'RE A WEAK DESCRIPTION. You'd think the author would come up with some new way to

describe a kiss. I was slightly excited for it, reading the first paragraph. *This is it. This is where it becomes a two star book.* Wrong. If anything, I would've rated it negatively. Why dignify something with a one star rating when it isn't even worth THAT???

Lastly, what happens? What's the big deal? Was that ending supposed to be a breakthrough. Oh, was I supposed to congratulate you?? Nooo. I don't think so. I am in shock with the ending. Because it. Is. So. LAME.

I can't even deal with this book. It wasn't even a disappointment because I should've known better to read something pitched as Rapunzel, one of my favorites.

This book could just die. Or burst into flames. I wouldn't care. (okay maybe a little)

Fiona says

“Somehow, even outside the library and our clearing in the woods, we were still in our own world. Everything else could fade away, and he and I would remain, tied together by something I couldn’t quite explain. In its simplest term, love.”

!!!!!! My. Heart. Just. Melted. Into. A. Puddle. Of. Pink. Cute. Goo. !!!!! ♥

What to say? It's fun and lighthearted and a magical kind of romance, everything a fairy tale inspired book should be. It's swoon worthy and fast paced and I just loved every minute of it, especially the similarities to Rapunzel in this contemporary magic free book.

A few of my favorite things:

I loved **Anya** . She's a book worm which is always a plus and she's down-to-right perfection. Honestly the main things I loved about her though were that even though she is essentially locked away in her house and has next to no interaction with people, she's not naive, and she doesn't hold it against her mom, yes, she finally comes to realize that it's not right what her mom has done to her but she doesn't hate her for that. **She's mature and caring and a breath of fresh air in the world of YA.**

Also, I liked that **Zander** was understanding, for the most part, about Anya's situation. He's sweet and cute and swoon worthy. I adore mostly how he was determined to fight for his love for Anya no matter what the cost. **Such a real-deal man!**

Anya's Mom - Mainly I loved the back story, I wasn't sure how that was going to work when going into this book and how the author was going to tie it into a Rapunzel retelling type thing, (or whatever you want to call it) but it was perfect. I really wanted to know why Anya's mom was the way she was; why she kept Anya under her thumb so, and the answer was intriguing. In the end, it made total sense of why her mom locked her away like that and alternately made you feel bad for her and get annoyed because she needs to let the girl live already. All together I thought her character was just done really well.

I really enjoyed **Shannon** , **Blake** and **Denise** 's character. While neither was in it a ton I loved them all. Shannon is basically Anya's only friend, a fellow book nerd and a key player in that she helps them pass notes and back and forth, which added to the cuteness of this book. Blake is Zander's cousin and an equally

fun and enjoyable character. Lastly, Denise. Her cupcakes made me drool! She was sweet and I like how she was nice to Anya & Zander. They were so fun, and I wish that we could have seen them more.

Another thing that impressed me about this book was that sometimes when I made guesses I was wrong. There is nothing more disappointing, even if it's enjoyable, than a predictable book. I was just so sure for the longest time that Anya had been stolen from her parents, which probably comes from my attachment to the original tellings of the different fairy tales. (Haha!) Nonetheless, it was fast paced without being too fast. I just loved the way it was told, from both of Anya & Zander's points of view and focusing pretty much solely on their time together. It made it easy to read and just really enjoyable. *giggles*

Overall: I am not good at describing writing so let's just say **it's awesome**, okay? I was happy with how the book ended. There were things I wish could have been different, but that didn't really detract from the story too much. **One thing I ADORED about this book was that it was clean.** That probably sounds like a silly thing to be happy about, but I'm so sick of YA books that are just full of descriptive sex scenes. It's an awesome thoroughly enjoyable book, I read it in like a day and loved every minute of it. There's really not anything bad I can think of to say about it, that's not to say it's perfect, but nothing irritated me because I feel like the fast pace helped with that. And yeah, it's just fun and magical and everything a fairy tale should be; everything I wanted this book to be so you better read it. **NOW.** (*^?^*)

Lenore Kosinski says

4.5 stars -- OK, so it had me at Rapunzel retelling, but it's really more of a Rapunzel inspired tale -- like what if you took some of the elements of that story and tried to imagine them in real life in the modern world. It was a great success. Anya was so sweet and naive and innocent, but I could totally buy it given the way she grew up and all the tidbits of her history we were given. Zander was unbelievably adorable....he was kind of more of a beta male, and I wasn't expecting that. Very pleasant surprise. I mean seriously, who doesn't love a mischievous bookworm??? They had great chemistry together too. It started off as this totally believable epic crush, but transitioned perfectly to something that I could see was more and real love.

My pleasant surprise came with Anya's mother.... I had set myself up to anticipate a truly evil woman, b/c quite honestly in Tangled she is one of the most insidious and evil characters I've ever seen. But that wasn't what we got. Which was kind of marvelous and unexpected. I seriously kept expecting some additionally horrible revelation, and when I didn't get it, instead of being disappointed I was impressed. B/C she had way more character development than I was expecting, and it was just so very real and heartbreaking and believable how someone could let their grief and fear and guilt overwhelm them into making truly horrible choices. I even liked that the resolution with her character wasn't quick and 100%....but slow to turn around. Believable. That's just what I keep thinking.

I was enthralled with Zander and Anya's love throughout the book, but the ending with the mother is what hit this book out of the park for me. Such a great surprise.

Ruth Hill says

Young adult romance can often be hit or miss, and all too often, they are not very well written. I am quite happy to report that this book definitely has the practically perfect young adult romance formula. There are

only minimal profanity issues--hardly worth mentioning, and it is implied that the two main characters slept together, but no details are given. I would honestly have no problem letting my almost 11-year-old daughter read this book (although she is not "into romances"). For this, I give the author kudos.

Why did I not give it a five-star rating? For me, even speaking from a young adult standpoint, it was a bit too sappy at times, and I felt that the ending was too perfect. I prefer more realism in my reading, so that is my only complaint. If you are a fan of young adult mushy romantic novels, you would probably love this. It definitely does live up to being a modern-day Rapunzel.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

Lexi Lynn says

4.5 Slow Down, Don't Fall Stars

Don't Fall was unexpected-in a good way. Let's not get all panicky over that word, now ;) It was unbelievably cute. Like kittens giving each other eskimo kisses cute. But by the cover I was expected something different. Don't know why, just did :)

In a nutshell:

Sheltered girl meets romantic boy through the bookshelves of a library (yeah... sold. I used to dream about finding my soul mate in a library *nerd alert*) But she's not allowed to date. She's not even allowed outside really with the exception of the library. So when he falls ridiculously in love with her adorableness, you can imagine that puts a hitch in things.

Zander and Anya had one of those fairy tale fall in love stories. It was princess-erific, Disney movie worthy, and was a great retelling of Rapunzel with the modern day twist-though most of the concepts I found to be a bit stretched on the believable factor, but that's okay. I liked the fantasy romance of it.

There was only one thing that kept me from giving a full five stars, and it's so small which is why I rounded up :) The characters were so pinch their cheeks cute that I often pictured them much younger than they actually were. Zander's heading to college and Anya turns 18, and yes, that's young. But I felt with their interactions, internal dialogue they could be even younger. So when (view spoiler) Though this could be because 18 year olds are often portrayed much OLDER than what 18 year olds actually act like. So yes, I'm torn on the whole thing.

That being said, this was an adorable read, fast and simple, with a bit of heartbreak. The mother/daughter struggle in this sure had me screaming at my kindle hoping and praying that sweet Anya would speak up and let her mom know how she felt. The end was very satisfying, and I felt like the author wrapped everything up

nicely. No loose ends, and I lurve that.

Recommended to anyone looking for a light, sweet romance. But it is VERY YA. So if that's not your thing, than keep it in mind.

Happy Reading! Mwwwwah!

Gehna says

3.5 stars rounded up to 4!

I wasn't really expecting to like this book that much considering my bad experience with YA and romances but this book was really good.

This book is about Anya who has a very protective mother. Anya falls in love with Zander but her mother doesn't like that and she looks her in her room like Rapunzel(???) The blurb says it is a retelling so....

Well, it wasn't bad. It was boring at times but I liked the way characters are written. Every character has specific traits and they are written very minutely. The parts about sitting in the clearing at night reminded me on twilight, but zander's not a vampire so no worries there :P

I initially picked this book only because of the cover (yes, glares' coming, I know) but it is so so beautiful!

Anyway, 3.5 stars, overall :)

Jennifer (Bad Bird Reads) says

DNF

All tell, now show.

Review coming soon.

Sthita says

Anya and Zander's story was a sweet one. Anya is a seventeen year old who isn't allowed to go anywhere except the library because her mum's overprotective. She meets Zander in the library, and the story is about how they love each other and how Anya's overprotective mother finally learns to accept Anya's decisions. Sweet, but a little too cheesy for my tastes.. The book is a modern-day retelling of Rapunzel, and I think the author did a good job, if not great, in delivering the story.

Valerie says

4 stars - Such a great YA fairy tale!

I haven't read a lot of fairy tale stories but this one appealed to me. I've been in the mood for a good YA and this totally fit the bill.

Let me start by saying I love the cover. It's whimsical and fits the story so well. I also adore the names of the characters. Anya is such a pretty name and Zander is just a yummy boy. Loved that.

I read this straight through. I don't remember a book that went so fast as this one did. I just glanced down and it was done. How did that happen? I think it was that fairy tale magic.

Clearly a fairy tale but in modern clothes, Anya is being locked away by her over protective mother. Having lost her own daughter in a tragic way, her adoptive mom feels the need to keep her safe at the cost of her social life.

Anya meets Zander at the library when she can't help but take his picture. It's a sweet moment when he looks up and realizes what's up. Their relationship develops as they meet at the only place Anya is allowed to go, the library, twice a week. Soon, that isn't enough for either of them. But Anya is afraid to tell her mother.

Things play out as one might expect but I just smiled as the story unfolded. So good. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The story is just so sweet and delicious. It's the perfect YA read and a great one for adults to enjoy too. I accepted it as a fairy tale and just enjoyed it. I'm sure anyone who loves YA would enjoy this one too.

jasmine says

honestly I don't know what I thought about this.

Farrah says

A light, sweet, and utterly lovely retelling, Don't Fall was a fantastic YA romance. I really liked this delight of a read. From start to finish, it was just wonderful.

Anya was a lovely heroine. At first, she seemed weak-willed, unable to defy her mother in anything. But, over the course of the book, she grew stronger and became determined to finally start her life. She was a great character and I really liked her.

Zander was also wonderful. He was very sweet and I loved how he was so devoted to Anya, willing to wait for her if need be. He was perfect and I adored him.

The romance was super sweet. Anya and Zander were so perfect together and I loved how they were willing to both fight and wait for each other. They were lovely together.

One quirk of the book, which is probably just me is that, though the author did a good job creating new imaginings of the old characters, I couldn't help but imagine Mother Gothel from Tangled as Anya's mother. Maybe it's just because I've watched that movie way too many times for an adult, but no matter how hard I tried to envision this new version of the fairy tale villain, I still imagined Gothel :)

The plot was fast paced and I was hooked the entire way through. I absolutely loved the story and the ending was perfect.

Don't Fall was a wonderful YA retelling of Rapunzel. It was light, sweet, and enjoyable from start to finish. YA lovers, this is a book you won't want to miss.

*I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review

Emily Bradley-dorman says

3.5 / 5

Instead of a tower we have a small house overlooking the forest. Instead of a Princesses we have Anya with her long golden hair and camera happy personality. And instead of a Prince we have an unbelievably adorable English Major called Zander. We also have cupcakes!

The story itself follows seventeen-year-old Anya, who has spent the last fifteen years of her life constricted by her over protective mother and all her rules. She's not allowed to go to public school, she's not actually allowed to go anywhere but the library and even then she has to text her mum to tell her she got there safely. But the rule that affects her most of all in this story is the fact she's not allowed to date. Which is a big problem once she meets Zander. Zander - who by the way is the cutest damn thing I think I've ever read - is unbelievably romantic and falls hard for Anya. He wants to make her the centre of his world but its these same suffocating rules that constrict Anya that threaten to tear them apart.

The book is told through a dual narrative, with each chapter split in two. I really liked that fact that as a reader we got equal amounts of both Zander and Anya because in a lot of books where the point of view is split it tends to focus on one particular character. Which as I said, wasn't the case with this this book. Don't Fall is a super cute and completely unputdownable.

I'm not going to lie it was a bit of a slow starter and it wasn't until around 25% that I really got into it but there are a couple of story lines within the book that have your stomach in knots just waiting for the final piece of the puzzle. I didn't like her mother though. I know you were meant to feel something resembling sympathy towards her by the end but I just couldn't. Although, I'm not sure if that's a flaw in the writing or maybe I'm just some kind of emotionless cyborg.

Okay, this book isn't going to change your life and it's not going to make you question everything you know or anything like that. What it is going to do though it put a smile on your face. It's a short book (so no dragging along half the library with you) that's easy to read and a great story to escape into. It's vivid and

well written, with every setting and character easy to picture. And did I mention, cupcakes?

Overall it was good, a little heavy on the romance maybe, but an enjoyable read none the less. I would recommend this to most YA readers, but I think that it's more suited to a teenage audience. Which I know is technically what YA is, but I also know what a lot of you lovely lot are no longer in your teens - myself included. But as I've said, overall definitely worth adding to your TBR lists.

Cassie Mae says

Rachel Schieffelin... you satisfy my romance bone with every book you write. And yes, that sounds weird and creepy. No, I don't care. :)

The Gist

Sheltered Anya meets sensitive and sweet Zander at the library, and they fall fast for each other. But Anya's mother who refuses to allow her to date or go outside for long periods of time. And Zander grows frustrated at the secrecy of the relationship, not knowing the extent of the ~~crazy overbearing~~ protectiveness of Anya's mom.

The Characters

Anya is sweet, quiet, and yearns for adventure. I loved watching her slowly take risks, step outside herself, and find out who she is. She longs for the approval of her mom-a kind word or compliment here or there. And the love she has for a person who, quite honestly, is hard to love made her that much more likable.

Zander is one of the nicest guys I've read in YA fiction. (and I love a bookworm ;)) I also liked that even though he is sweet, patient, caring, and not afraid to express himself, he was also strong and well... a guy. I never once found him feminine which is a hard feat when writing a character like this.

The Writing

Simple and beautiful. I love the way Rachel tells a story. It's straight-forward, pacing is flawless, and I don't have to spend paragraph after paragraph on how the forest looked. I get to read how the surroundings effected the characters. It's the best type of reading experience for me.

Why I Totally Recommend

This book was short and sweet, with that heart pounding love story and heart breaking family story. I love retellings, and this one is no exception. Teens would enjoy the simplicity of it, and the underlying message that is weaved throughout the pages. If you're looking for a sweet YA that leaves a goofy smile on your face, I'd pick this one up.

Enjoy, loves! <3!

Michelle says

****See this full review and more at <http://bookbriefs.net>****

Don't Fall is a completely contemporary retelling of Rapunzel. I have read 3 or 4 re-tellings of Rapunzel now to date and this was a really interesting one. I know the very first line of the summary states that it is a contemporary retelling, but even going into the book knowing that I wasn't sure what to expect. I was reading and enjoying the story, but I kept thinking in the back of my head, "what is the twist going to be". And while there were a few little twists and turns that I didn't see coming, this book really is 100% a contemporary story about a girl with a very over-protective mother. It was a fresh spin on Rapunzel, very fitting for this day and age actually.

I felt for Anya. Her mom is so over the top protective. She is only allowed to venture outside of her house to go to the library. And even then, the main librarian is a friend of the mothers so she is basically a spy. The girl has no where to go. She is tutored at home, only interacts with her mom and goes to the local library two days a week. I think it was because she was so sheltered that her interactions with the cute boy, Zander were so adorable. It made me smile to see the two of them together. Everything about them was sweet and innocent. It was so cute how Zander would wait for Anya every Tuesday and Thursday.

It was so interesting seeing the split in emotions that Don't Fall made me feel. I would go from being so happy with a goofy grin on my face watching Zander and Anya get closer and closer, to feeling so sad for Anya when I would watch her get locked away at home again. Every time she tried to speak to her mother she was met with "no's" and stony silence. Her mother would not even discuss anything except expecting a complete devotion to her "rules".

Don't Fall is a standalone book that I think so many will really enjoy. The story is cute and very easy to get into. It is a super quick read; one that you can finish in an afternoon. It is my first book that I have read by Rachel Schieffelbein and I really enjoyed it.

Jennifer says

A fun contemporary retelling of Rapunzel. I read this in one day! Anya and Zander were both such likable characters that I found myself rooting for them in every chapter. Loved the dual POV as well.
