



A Stone's Throw

Alida Winternheimer

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Two-time Pushcart Prize nominated (2013) author, Alida Winternheimer, delivers a story of love and longing in A Stone's Throw.

Simona Casale is a Minneapolis painter with a successful career. Having never known her mother, the last thing she wants is a baby, and being at a pivotal moment on her artistic path, it's a bad time to find out she's pregnant. Gemma Ledbetter, a London homemaker, is desperate for the baby she can't have.

Simona and Gemma live an ocean apart and never meet, yet they have much in common: art, longing, and a magic that changes both of their lives. And then there is Peter, the man they love. Magic—like any great act of creation—comes at a price...and one of them will have to pay.

Art. Love. Magic.

A Stone's Throw Details

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Author : Alida Winternheimer

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Aly says

A Stone's Throw is.....there are just no words for it. It was a marvellous read!

First of all, as always, we have the characters. It seems as if the two women who are the focus of this book are complete opposites. One is following her dreams, experiencing life and enjoying it while the other seems to be stuck, losing all of the things that she used to hold dear. And they share Peter, the man they both love although not like polygamy. More of a cheating husband. It was interesting to see all the different ways these two women were different. Throughout the story you empathize with them, wish things were better and in general just commiserate with them. But as the book continued I began to find myself looking forward to the chapters in which Gemma featured. Throughout the book, she's rediscovering herself, working towards becoming the person that she might have been earlier. Whatever happens, she's working towards that place in her life where she can be happy and enjoy the life she has been given. This experience made me feel closer to Gemma and look forward to finding out more about her throughout the book and watching her grow.

Alida Winternheimer also makes you feel a full spectrum of emotion. You go from smiling to tears, and it's easy to get involved in the book. You quickly feel as if you're watching from above the events that are happening and finding yourself emotionally involved. It's hard not to with the way that the characters are described. It's nice to be so drawn into a book and feel more than just laughter and happiness.

Then there's the fact that a price must be paid. In real life this tends to be true for a lot of things but sometimes in novels you don't always get the feeling that the characters are paying a price for their actions or what is happening around them. It was nice to see that Alida Winternheimer included this price and the payment. It was an interesting concept and one I enjoyed seeing develop throughout the book.

You should definitely give this book a look and a chance. It's a great read and one that I will most likely read again....although only after I've emotionally recovered.

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books are love says

This book was intricately woven and beautiful in the end. The way the author wove their lives into a quilt and how they all helped each other heal and love so they could move on was beautiful. It was heartbreaking though that tragedy had to come about and in the end what Simona didn't want to happen to her baby did. Gemma through Simona was able to heal and find herself. She moved forward knowing that she would be okay and that Peter was not who she loved. She also learned that she needed to love herself before others could love her as well.

Peter found love and understanding with Simona. He also found life. Life he didn't know he was missing. He found acceptance and someone who didn't judge him. He was the piece of the quilt Gemma needed to connect with Simona so she could heal. When Peter is left with the price that is paid for the finishing of the painting and Gemma's healing, it is steep. Steep in what he lost but beautiful in what he gained. He gained someone to love unconditionally who wouldn't judge and feel he wasn't worth it. Someone who he can be

there for no matter what and who he will protect and be able to get joy from watching grow and become her own.

A beautiful heartbreaking story of lost love, finding yourself and the inner strength to accept yourself and things around you and go on.

Shelby says

I was torn on what to rate this book. I wish Goodreads did 1/2 stars, because this would probably be a 4 1/2, rather than a 4. I liked the characters and the story line overall, however, I was a little disappointed in the ending. I didn't feel like everything was wrapped up as much as it should have been. (Or maybe it just didn't end the way I wanted it to -- what happened with Simona in the end was very unexpected -- I didn't see it coming at all!) I wanted to know what happens to the other characters, not just Gemma in the end. Overall, it was a great book and I look forward to more by this author. **Book was won from a Goodreads First Reads giveaway**

Anya says

Gemma and Simona live on different continents, but they have more in common than either of them could have imagined. Peter, for a start. But Simona has something that Gemma has always dreamed of: Peter's baby, and recognition as an artist. When a strange magic binds them together, they both discover things about themselves that help them move beyond the hurts of their past. But this magic comes at a cost... This is a lovely story about two women whose lives become inadvertently intertwined, a story about the magic of creativity, about mothers and daughters, about the healing of old wounds and the pursuit of dreams. The prose is gripping and beautiful, and the tension builds up to a breath-taking emotional climax.

Sage Adderley-Knox says

A Stone's Throw revolves around the lives of two women, Gemma and Simona. While they live far away from each other and don't know one another on a personal level, they share a mutual passion for art and a man named Peter.

Alida Winternheimer has crafted an emotional tale of loss, madness, crossing spiritual worlds, and love. Readers are also introduced to different women who have profoundly affected the protagonists, and the plot expands as we learn their intimate stories.

The multiple layers within the book intensified the reading experience. Winternheimer created strong female characters that transformed tremendously throughout the story. While getting wrapped up in their individual journeys, it's also uncovered how they are magically linked.

The ending was shocking and I was left processing the complex book. It was a pleasurable read and I recommend it to those who enjoy women's fiction with a supernatural twist.

Lisa Biela says

This novel grabbed me from the start--it works on so many levels. The characters are finely drawn and sympathetic. They undergo significant--often wrenching--change throughout the story. The descriptions of their emotions and what is going on in their heads are so vivid that their emotions/thoughts are almost tangible. That sounds like an odd thing to say, but it's accurate in this case. The dialog was spot-on and realistic.

The interconnections between the characters and their story arcs were very carefully crafted. This is not to say there was no suspense--there was plenty of suspense--I mean when you finish the book, all those details fit snugly, no mismatches. I had the "bad fortune" to just begin reading the dramatic turning point later in the novel when my bus dropped me off at work. I was itching to get back to the story ASAP to find out what happened. I don't want to give spoilers here, but I will say I didn't expect that development, but looking back, it was the way it had to be.

This novel combines the page-turning nature of a thriller with the close character examination and beautiful prose typical of a literary work. Highly recommended!

Francene Stanley says

Despite the slow start, the plot develops into a tense "who done it". I couldn't decide who to believe, although I wanted the easily led main character to be happy. Well written and giving immense detail, A Stone's Throw will keep the reader engrossed until all becomes clear amid a snow storm.

Annie says

I received this book as part of a Goodreads giveaway and couldn't have been more pleased!

It was an engrossing story which links 2 women by an unseen force, unbeknownst to either of them. There is a sort of magic involved, but not the kind with spells and charms as one may originally think (and wait for). The painting of a mural is the focal point of the majority of the book. The detailed descriptions of each painting were lovely, but as an artist the timeline was a bit unbelievable - one cannot paint a life-sized portrait in a day, or even a week....

It was a thoroughly enjoyable book and I definitely recommend it. You may think you have it figured out, but Alida throws a curve ball - bravo!

Lesley Gibbs says

I definitely got lost in this emotional story. The themes of art, magic, and womanhood were woven together tastefully. Ms. Winterheimer is a talented lady.

Anna says

Simona is a painter in Minneapolis who has found out she is pregnant after a brief but passionate affair. Gemma is a housewife in England who is struggling with depression after multiple miscarriages. Both are women trying to make sense of their lives and decide what they need to be fulfilled. Both are also in love with the same man. Mysticism and art are two other links that bind these two women and entwine their stories in ways neither could have predicted.

This story was engaging from the start and is very unique. Watching both women experience love, loss, happiness, and change was an emotional experience. I felt it was easy to connect with both women even though it was not always easy. There are parts of the story that are messy and challenging, and make each seem all the more human even as unbelievable things are happening in their lives. Peter was difficult for me to like. I found a lot of his choices and the way he chose to deal with situations (or not deal with them) frustrating. At times he seemed weak and selfish, and others loving and wonderful. I think that added an element of realism to the story as well since humans regularly don't make perfect decisions. It's been a while since I've read a story with elements of magic that felt so grown-up and real. I would read more by this author in the future.

*An ARC was provided in exchange for an honest review
