



# Compass

*Jeanne McDonald*

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As teenagers, time is infinite and love is made of fairy tales and caramel corn. For Alexis York and Ryan Fisher, their friendship was the cornerstone of who they were. In the wake of a family tragedy, that friendship was torn apart by time and distance. Unrequited love was never reciprocated, and two lives that were once intertwined, now moved on different trajectories. Fifteen years later, these two friends are given a second chance to correct the mistakes of the past. With one flight, a new home, and a little help from a tiny red compass, Alexis and Ryan are reunited, setting them back on the same course. Together, they find themselves on a journey of rediscovery, friendship, hope, and love. Yet, when the harsh realities of life threaten to tear them apart for good, will Alexis and Ryan lose all hope of a happily ever after? Or will the childhood promises of forever lead these two hearts through impossible odds and back into each other's arms? "You're my compass. My one true north."

## Compass Details

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Author : Jeanne McDonald

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## From Reader Review Compass for online ebook

### Naughty Beauties Book Blog says

\*\*\*Received this book for an honest review\*\*\*

Alexis and Ryan are two characters you literally want to see together. Outspoken young lady and a shy, caring, young man are all combinations for something going right. Compass has just that!!

After life choices and the two meeting years later, perhaps it will allow them time to reconnect. Alexis lands right in his lap so to speak. The two deal with past feelings as well as knew. I loved watching them come together again and the feeling that the two have this connection even though they don't know it, makes it all feel real.

The development flows well, as do the tears. This was a wonderful book. This was my first time reading Jeanne's work and look forward to picking up more of her books. I recommend this one to readers, it truly is amazing!

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### Mary Devereaux says

\*Received an ARC for an honest review\*

Jeanne McDonald does it again.

Just when you think you know her writing style, she changes it up with her book, Compass.

In this book, she moves from her traditional first person POV to a third person and alternates between Lexi and Ryan each chapter. It's great to be able to see into both of their heads through out the whole story!

There is no slow burn to this one, no playing around with the "should I or shouldn't I" like there was in The Truth in Lies Saga. Lexi and Ryan are long time friends. They share a special bond that's endured since childhood - even after years of being apart with no communication. They give in to their feelings for one another after skirting around it for a time, but it won't have the reader wanting to chuck their book/ereader into a wall out of frustration. There are moments where it'd be nice to shake them a bit, but Ms. McDonald does a fantastic job at creating supporting characters that do that for you.

Lexi is a likeable character. Smart and quick witted. She has her bratty moments (mostly in regards to her father and his new wife) but by the end of the book, she's gained some perspective and has learned to move on.

Ryan is charming, caring, and easy to enjoy. I tend to gravitate toward male characters, and Ms. McDonald has again delivered a man who has some flaws, but you love him more in spite of them; or maybe because of them. He has an innocence about him, even though he's more worldly, and is a romantic through and through.

This is not an angst filled read.

If you want a long drawn out cat and mouse game between the two MC's, you won't find it here.

This book is about friendship and love. It's about letting your heart be your guide - your compass - to find the one that loves you more than their own life. It's about holding on tight to what's real and letting go of fears. It's a romance for the ages.

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### **M.B. says**

I've made no secret that I'm a fan of Jeanne's work. She has this way of sucking you into the world she's created and the characters who live there. *Compass* is no different. I sat down to read and only put my kindle down when I had to do something like cook, or pick the kids up from school.

As I turned the pages, I needed to know what was going to happen next. There was no way I was stopping until I'd finished the entire book, and after about 5 hours, I did.

We first meet Lexi and Ryan on the day Lexi is moving away from the only home she's ever known, thanks to the breakdown of her parent's marriage. She's been in love with her best friend for years, but has never told him, and now it's too late. fast forward fifteen years, Lexi's moving once more. This time from new York to Texas. She's been thinking a lot about Ryan, and is debating whether to send him a message via facebook. No need... Ryan is now a pilot, having achieved his childhood dream, and is in the cockpit of Lexi's flight home. Thanks to a tannoy announcement and a toy compass, they are reunited.

They slip easily into their friendship, almost as if they hadn't been separated for years, but what Lexi doesn't realise is that her unrequited love was in fact, requited. What follows is a beautiful slow burn as these friends rediscover each other and get to know the adult their friend has become.

Tinged with sadness and a trauma that had my heart in my throat, McDonald has once more created a story that unfolds in front of you and keeps you wanting more.

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### **Amber says**

Going in, I had high expectations of this book. It is by Jeanne McDonald after all. She definitely delivered!! Even though I like my angst, it's a nice change once in a while to read a sweet fluffy book, and that's what you get with *Compass*. Sweetness.

Though you will get frustrated and want to bang Lex and Ryan's heads together to give them a clue!! But this is definitely a five star, sweet read!

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### **Clarice says**

This book kind of reminds me of my childhood so I easily identified with Alexis. Once I started reading *Compass*, I couldn't put it down! The evolving relationship between Alexis and Ryan is an interesting one and a very romantic concept to read about. It's unfortunately rare these days to stay in touch with people you grew up with. And even with so many resources available Ryan finds it pretty much impossible to track

down Alexis when they lose touch. One of the good points about this book is how the past does help mold who we are and we can either let it rule us or live and learn. I really loved the cover as well! It fits well with the story and I found it creative.

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### **Sydney Logan says**

Simply lovely. Full review to come.

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### **Shameca Smith says**

#### **5 STAR READ!!**

Let me tell you, I need to find a guy who treats me just like Ryan treats Alexis. I'm so jealous of the love they have for each other, and the hope that they would see each other again after all of those years.

"Forever and always."

I was instantly drawn into this story and loved that it was told in both POV's because you were able to feel all of the emotions that Ryan and Alexis has for each other, past and present, and you were able to see into their individual lives, and how much they truly care for each other. One thing that I loved about this book, or any book that I read, is when the title actually goes with something inside of the book. The compass was a huge sentiment to Ryan and Alexis and I love how it tied into the title.

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### **DJ Sakata says**

Favorite Quotes:

"Ryan smiled and turned her hand over in his placing the red toy in her palm. 'It's a compass. Keep it with you always. In those moments when you feel lost, alone, or confused, pulled it out and let yourself remember. Let this compass lead you back home. Let it lead you back to me. Forever and always, okay?'"

"Are you kidding me? For a man, age equals distinguished. A woman – well, you're just decrepit."

"Love's not supposed to hurt. It's supposed to free you, to lift you higher. To make you fly... You said you're afraid of falling. I'm not going to let you fall. I'm going to make you soar."

"Ryan was the other half of her soul... He was the piece of her heart that was never hers to give."

My Review:

The prize from a box of Cracker Jacks of a red toy compass on her moving day becomes the touchstone piece in this delightful and heartfelt second chance love story. A teen-aged girl must move away far away from her life-long best friend/neighbor/untold first love, following the discovery of her father's infidelity and parents' divorce. She is crushed by her father's betrayal and develops a distrust of men as well as insecurities

about relationships and her ability to have one. Years later, a new job places her in a new city where she becomes reacquainted with her father and old friend, and she is forced to reevaluate and rethink her conclusions and face her own misconceptions shaped during her youth. The plot was interesting and unusual as the teen-aged male is the scrawny geek friend while the girl is a popular cheerleader – which is typically not the norm in romance books. The story was amusing and entertaining, and the writing was well paced and insightful with sparkles of humor and occasional steam. The characters were smart, well developed, and likable. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and remained engaged and interested from beginning to end. This was my first read from this Ms. McDonald and I so greatly enjoyed her style that I have added her entire library to my ever expanding TBR.

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### **Jodie Scott says**

Reviewed on behalf of 2 girls who love books blog

Compass by Jeanne McDonald

Alexis is just about to make her big break in the world moving away from home for her job as a doctor but she is terrified of flying. When clearing out her childhood room she comes across a compass that her long term childhood friend Ryan had given her. She takes the compass with her to her new home. She gets on her flight thinking of Ryan and how they lost touch. As the announcement comes over the airplanes system for seat belts to put on she knows that voice and it is non-other than Ryan himself. She gets all excited and asks the flight attendant to give him a message. Ryan cant believe his luck and goes out to see Alexis for the first time in 15 years! From there they realise they will living near to each other and their friendship takes off like they were never apart but it is clear to everyone around them that this is more than just a friendship. Follow Ryan and Alexis as they go through trials and plot twists and tragedy and their friendship blossoming into love.

There are many fantastic and well thought out twists to go with this story and I loved it. It isn't too long which is always a plus and is a stand-alone read. The characters are fantastic and Alexis is the most lovable person ever. The writing style is good and sex scenes are hot. I would have liked this to be a series but as far as im aware this is the only one there will be.

I rate this story 4 stars

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### **Stacy Aube says**

I received this book as an ARC for a honest review.

This was a really good book about true love in the last place you expect to find it. Alexis and Ryan were childhood friends that were forced apart due to family drama. Only to have an unexpected reunion. You get to watch their love blossom through an unexpected event, which only makes their relationship stronger. I really enjoyed this story and would recommend it for anyone who like true love

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## **Terri says**

\*\*Received ARC for Honest Review\*\*

I truly, truly enjoyed this book. It was done in a different style than Jeanne's other books---written in 3rd person, but you do know how each character is dealing with things or what they are thinking about. That, I really enjoyed.

What a great way to reconnect with an old childhood friend, soul mate. The main theme was brought back to you throughout the whole book, at the most appropriate times "forever and always" and "follow your heart, it's your Compass" these themes kept coming back, even if they weren't exactly spoken/written in the story---you KNEW it was there. This story was very believable, the characters extremely likable, even when it looked like someone was getting in a jealous female snit, and then the tension near the end was not dragged on for chapter after chapter. It was nice to see friends in books being honest and not hiding anything. Not that, that is a bad thing; I love some angst occasionally, but it was fun to have friends so close to each other and looking out for one another! Most definitely very different from her other series! WELL DONE, Jeanne!!

It was a welcome idea to see, a divorced couple help their adult child overcome her preconceived ideas and both take blame and apologize for that child's adult fears! Loved the ending, fun and done in a special way, very appropriate for this story---yes I am a romantic at heart, so it was great!

Well done, Jeanne! Cannot wait for your next book!

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## **Nadene (Totally Addicted to Reading) says**

Reading a book by a new author is a gamble as you have no idea whether or not you will enjoy the journey you will be taken on. This was the challenge I faced when I decided to read *Compass* by Jeanne McDonald. Now that I am at the point of writing my review, I have to say I am glad I took the gamble as I got the chance to read a story that will stay with me for some time to come.

*Compass* is a beautiful and heartwrenching story of first love and second chances. It's the kind of story that keeps you engrossed from start to finish. It tells the story of Ryan Fisher and Alexis York. These two have been best friends for most of their lives. They were inseparable. However, time and circumstances conspired to put a wedge in their friendship. Alexis was forced to move to New York City leaving her best friend behind. At this point in the story, I was an emotional wreck. Their goodbye was bittersweet. Their promise to never forget each other and to always keep in touch was poignant. It was evident that their feelings for each other went beyond friendship, but they were both afraid to admit it.

Fast forward fifteen years later, Alexis and Ryan are living their lives separate from each other. They are both successful in their respective careers and have forged new friendships. However, their lives were incomplete as they were both missing the love of their better half. As fate would have it, their paths would once again cross under the most unlikely circumstances. At this point in the story, I was all smiles. I felt the joy and excitement of their reunion. So deep was their connection, it was like they were never separated. Ryan and Alexis have received a second chance to express their feelings for each other. Will they cease this

opportunity or will they continue to keep each other in the friend zone?

I found their interaction at this point entertaining, albeit a bit frustrating at times. There were moments when I felt shaking them both due to their failure to see what was staring them in their faces. Everyone around them saw what they failed to see.

The characters were well-developed and easy to relate to. Alexis is smart, strong, independent and feisty. She was struggling with issues of trust that stemmed from her parent divorce. However, we see her gaining perspective, thus enabling her to move on. Ryan is adorable, caring, confident and sexy. The story was well written and well paced. It had a mixture of humour and sadness. There was a point in the story where my heart was in my throat as I feared the worst. The title was fitting for this story. A simple toy compass guided two people, who had lost their way, back to each other.

Compass depicts that when two people are meant to be together, no matter how much time has passed, they will find their way back to each other. It also shows that true love transcends time and will endure for a lifetime. I loved everything about this book. I am a new fan of Jeanne McDonald, who will be looking forward to reading more of her work.

#### Favourite Quotes

You can't let fear steal your chance to love. If you and Ryan part ways, which I don't ever see happening, but if it happens, don't let that deter you from loving again. Love is learning. It's taking chances. It's making mistakes. But most of all, it's allowing yourself to trust and be trusted.

Lex, you are my best friend in the whole world. Just remember, every time you feel off course, follow your heart. It's your compass. It will always lead you to where you belong. Flying high, Ryan

I received an ARC in exchange for a honest review

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#### **Paula Harned says**

\*\*\*Given an ARC for honest review\*\*\*

Words can't describe what I thought about this book. I loved it from start to finish and just couldn't put it down. This book had so much emotion from the start right down to the end.

As a reader, I related to this book so much. As being a wife of a pilot, this hit home. I really wanted things to work out between Alexis and Ryan. I could tell that they were meant to be. Throughout the book, I just had a smile on my face. I loved the way Ryan cared for Alexis and vice versa, just neither of them really knew it. Then the ending came and I didn't know what to think. I'm usually not the type of person to cry at a book, but this one got me. I could physically understand the hurt that Alexis went through and it literally broke my heart. Just get the tissues ready (you were warned).

I totally recommend this book and I have found a new author too. I am glad that I got a chance to read this wonderful book.

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## **Andrea says**

*"Falling hurts. Love's not supposed to hurt. It's supposed to free you, to lift you higher. To make you fly."*

The moment you open *Compass* you are pulled into a moment that you dread. It is a moment you'll have to relive, you know this. A moment that life changes. The moment a single action, a single decision, and a single blip of fate .... changes everything.

Moment. *Compass* is a beautiful story that is all about moments. Happy, sad, lost, yet to happen *moments*.

Alexis York and Ryan Fisher were best friends and soul mates. Growing up together, the popular girl and the nerdy boy never let their childhood "status" affect who they were together. An undeniable love and friendship helped mold and guide them through life and ultimately separated them. As life does, days apart turned to weeks then to months and eventually to years.

Then, as fate intervened, Alexis and Ryan find themselves back together. Only this time, they are adults. Adults with desires and passions. Adults who have been hurt and continue to bleed from the pain of their past decisions and those in their lives.

*Compass* is a beautiful story of second chances. What happens when the person you have loved more than any other person in your life suddenly reappears and fate hands you a second chance? How do you embrace it without losing the person you have become? How do you learn to fly and trust love when all you know is love hurts? Falling in love is taking a leap of faith with no guarantee you won't break.

Through every moment with Alexis and Ryan you feel it all. The pain, the suffering, the need, the desire, the want. All encompassing. The love between Alexis and Ryan is magnetic and through it all you believe. You believe that love is worth the risk. You believe love is worth the leap because why you may fall, you may also fly. And if you are lucky enough to fly, it is never ending.

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## **Melanie Moreland says**

*Compass* is a story about childhood friendship, and a love that never leaves us.

Two best friends growing up, and feeling more than they think they should, part ways, and go about their lives, but never really forget about each other. A chance meeting involving a treasured gift and a remembered promise brings them back together. Still, either of them are loathe to rock the boat and admit they feel something more than friendship.

But when they do, oh my.

Ryan is confident, sexy, and pretty damned sweet. His favorite things in the world are flying and his girl, Alexis, with Cracker Jack rounding out his list.

Alexis is smart, funny, and carries a pain with her only Ryan can understand, since he shares it with her. Dedicating her life to helping other people, she has forgotten that sometimes, she needs saving too. A wonderful read, great banter and a touching lesson about forgiveness and moving on.

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