



Across The Hall

N.M. Facile

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Quinn Lobato has recently moved to Minneapolis to finish college close to his parents. His mother found the perfect apartment for him close to campus and assured him it has everything he needs. Quinn has had his own hurtful past and is looking forward to starting med school and a new life.

Little do they know that what they each need is waiting just across the hall.

Across The Hall Details

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B.E.Love says

****re-read**

I really liked this book. Quinn was perfect and swoon worthy, I loved Quinn and Sylvia together and rooted for them from the beginning. This book made laugh, cry, and made me full of joy. All the supporting characters were great and I loved them just as much as Quinn and Sylvia. I also really liked that everyone's story got wrapped up perfectly. This book is definite worth it and excellent read!

Ebehi says

This may sound harsh but I honestly wish I could erase ever reading this book and could have spent that time doing something even marginally better like watching clothes dry. I really can't bring myself to write a review. Apart from the fact that the writing was terrible and the infodumps were endless, it looks the author just tried to slip in as many sex scenes as she could (with the most cliché descriptions). So with that, I'll just put a few random passages and let you decide for yourself. I wouldn't recommend this book.

'Beau was leaning against the left side of the door frame when I opened the door. I grinned in appreciation at him. His shiny black hair hung straight down to his shoulders framing his face, drawing attention to his sapphire blue eyes. Those eyes swept over me like I was his next meal and he hadn't eaten all day. Even though I felt myself blush from such a predatory gaze, I still felt a shiver of excitement race through me. He let out a low whistle. "Damn girl. Are you ready to go?"'

'Looking over his shoulder at me I gave him an innocent smile. He asked me, "Do you like what you see?" I let my gaze linger over his lips before drifting lower. I took a deep breath, letting it out with a quiet, "Yeah, I do." He hummed low in his throat, turning back to the table. He sank the next one as well. "Are you enjoying yourself with your little innocent teasing?" He growled.'

'I went back to my room and threw on a pair of jeans. I didn't even bother with a t-shirt or shoes. I needed to talk to her. I needed to do it before anything could get worse. I knew Sylvia. She was probably just as scared and worried about what happened between us as I was. I would bet anything that she was internalizing it and finding everything wrong with it.'

KarenH says

Really good debut novel...well thought-out plot and engaging characters. A totally hot beta hero and a heroine worthy of him. The sex scenes rocked as they were not only explicit but very sensual...the amazing chemistry Quinn & Sylvia shared was undeniable and explosive.

Across The Hall will suck you right into the story and run you through the gamut of emotions, concluding with a perfect epilogue - the kind romance readers yearn for in every novel but very rarely see. I am looking forward to reading more by this author!

Highly recommended!

4.5 stars

Alexandria Tugot says

This book was tolerable for the first two chapters, and then it just got annoying. There were times when I felt like my brain was going to explode because of the stress the characters put me through.

The book could have been written a whole lot better. There were times when I wished that the characters weren't so stupid (Sylvia, my God, she was so stupid like 80% of the time).

Also, I found Beau to be such a horrible villain. I mean, what kind of villain would be a stalker ex boyfriend? Beau was scary and all, but seriously, what a horrible idea for an antagonist.

I wouldn't really recommend this to anyone, at all. I mean, if I enjoyed the story, even just a little bit, then I would recommend it, but I really just don't see myself doing so.

Lastly, I think that this book is the only book wherein the epilogue was better than the entire story. It was brilliant how she wrote the epilogue because it was unlike any other. I liked how they were looking at a photo album and all and reminiscing as it got me excited and sentimental for my own future like that. I guess that's the only nice thing I can say about this book, sorry.

★, • * ° * ?*Blanka*?*°°*•, ♡★ says

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When books start off with "I'm so plain, my best friends are beautiful, me..not so much" I want to effing puke..Grow some damn confidence..jeez, bishes these days!

Becca says

I really wish I hadn't spent .99 on this book. I normally love indie books (where I first discovered Amanda Hocking and Jamie McGuire, both phenomenal story tellers) but this was just awful.

Sylvia is an extremely annoying and selfish main character. She is self centered and kind of a slut. Yes, I really did say that. I thought the story line dragged and I only read it so I could know what happened at the end. Even the relationship between Sylvia and Quinn was lacking in development especially after 4 years apart.

If you're looking for a good read with characters college aged, I recommend checking out any book by Jamie McGuire.

Maija says

I'm very disappointed in this book. I thought I'll like it or at least enjoy it to some point, but, honestly, it too cheesy and amoral.

What I didn't like?

*the change in POV's was really shitty, I didn't need to see through a whole day twice. The author should learn from Simone Elkeles.

*the idea- nothing new there

*TMI in descriptions, I got bored quite fast. I even started reading diagonally at 18th chapter, so I'd fucking finish it already

*when Sylvia and Quinn finally got back together every chapter featured how they have supposedly steamy sex. My eye started to twitch at one point

*it's predictable

*if Sylvia lost her mother to a breast cancer and later had her heart broken by Quinn, why was she acting so ordinary? Nothing hinted that she even misses her mother. She didn't even name her kids after her, just after her father, Kelly. She seemed really two dimensional.

*Sylvia is SO naive, so fucking stupid. She infuriates me, so trusty, so easy to manipulate with, broken over a break up 4 YEARS AGO, unprotected and fucking stubborn at the same time. That's just fucking bullshit, kids. Still can't wrap my mind around the fact that she believed and trusted Beau

I'd have gotten someone to fucking whip his ass if I couldn't do it myself.

*the GR synopsis was a bit wrong, but that wasn't the book's fault

What I liked?

*it was seriously funny, even at the places not meant to be humorous.

*Cussing, I just love bad words

*the scene where Quinn beats Beau`s ass

*Reed, that dude is frickin' hilarious

But I'm kind of sorry I didn't like it, though, because I had my expectations high, too high. I'm sorry I spent two nights trying to read it.

Farmers Wife says

50% through and loving this story! Takes me back to those early 20s when we think we know who we are and where we are going but later learn, we weren't quite there? Or, that we knew more than we gave ourselves credit for.

Great Chick-Lit book with a small love triangle!

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

4 Stars

This was a good book. Pretty predictable, but a nice read. It was a bit long in certain parts - but I didn't skim .. at all. It pulled me along through to the end.

This was again, a story about the strength of love and how when you are young, do you really understand that the depth of some feelings doesn't just happen...? Being so young and new to relationships and the accompanying emotions... and a love so strong. Is it easy to assume this will happen again ... repeatedly? The two main characters in this book learned the lesson - love that makes your heart sing, your skin tingle, makes you sick at your stomach, and gives you such a deep sense of peace only happens if your lucky and may not happen for some. It is the love we all search for, and when found, you should hold tight and not let it just ... go.

**** some spoilers ****

When gone, do you always then search for it again? Do you give up and just go through the motions? Or, do you say to yourself, once I finish this phase in my life, I'll go back and pick it up again? Well, this is exactly what Quinn did. He broke things off with Sylvia for what he thought good reasons - being rather selfless [he thought]. He thought he could go back at some point, but in order to break it with Sylvia, and to preserve himself, it was "cold turkey". Sylvia didn't even see the huge truck hit her ... one day she had Quinn and the whole rest of her wonderful life ahead, and then BAAM - Quinn broke things off, with absolutely no contact. She had no idea why, and what she did wrong. She spent the next few years trying to get past it... you can only imagine.

Then, they meet again. Now what? They are really very different people, but not. What now...?? Sylvia's anger was phenomenal and the scene where she expressed it leaves you with a huge ... YES! She said things just like we would have said for her. She held nothing back and I was proud of her.

This is the premise of this book. It was a real journey and the author did a pretty good job. I like her style of writing. For me, how an author writes intimate portions of the story is very telling. What phrasing do they use ... do they describe things clinically, a bit trashy, or do they create an environment of sensual intimacy. This author does a very nice job. This book should not be considered YA, unless late teen/college age YA.

This was her first effort, so can expect she will evolve and look forward to reading more of her work.

Happy Reading!

Booknut says

A tale of ex boyfriends, never-ending innuendo, crime mixed in with college romance, plus a dash of friendships, picnics, bowling and somehow teenage pregnancy.

I can't explain it. The plot just didn't click - none of the pieces matched up to me, as the plot flittered from one path to another. First it's about undying love, then about lust, then about 'hey I still love you', then it's about deciding who to love, then it's 'hey my not-so-boyfriend-boyfriend-was-actually-a-criminal', then the show down, then there's more kissing, then there's 'we're having a baby', then there's the whole NOW WE WILL FEATURE A EPILOGUE SKIPPING 40 SOMETHING YEARS INTO THE FUTURE WHEN WE'RE ALL OLD!! Yeah...it didn't work for me.

It didn't have that magic that, for e.g., Stephanie Perkins and Miranda Kenneally books had - I expected this book to me so much better than it was.

Katie says

I've read numerous reviews in which the reviewer has said "I really wanted to like this". I never fully comprehended what that meant until I read Across the Hall so here it goes... I so WANTED to like this book, unfortunately in the end it just didn't spin my wheel.

What I wanted to like about it... I love second chance romances. It is without a doubt my most favorite theme. In Across the Hall we have Sylvia who is a grad student and lives in a small apartment building. Four years ago her boyfriend Quinn, who she was utterly in love with and devoted to broke up with her immediately after graduation. Since then she's been a miserable shell of a girl who all though sleeps with pretty much every guy she goes out with, cannot find a boy who even comes close to Quinn. Quinn a med student, moves into a new apartment building shortly before discovering his across the hall neighbor is none other than his former girlfriend Sylvia. This premise is what drew me in, it sounds so sweet, and the

characters, Sylvia and Quinn were very well fleshed out wonderful characters. I liked them, I cared about them and I wanted so much for them to end up back together and in love.

The main, well the only problem I had with Across the Hall was the delivery of Sylvia and Quinn's story. I am a show me don't tell me kind of reader. I felt that I was constantly being told, told, told what was going on in the character's heads. There were actual chapters that would go by when the characters didn't really do anything but we were simply told the internal monologue going on in their heads. I have a really hard time maintaining focus when nothing of action or significance is happening.

This particular novel simply didn't appeal to my reading style but I would gladly give NM Facile another chance. I enjoyed her character and plot development a lot. Overall I felt this was a excellent development from an indie author.

Ciara says

This was not the kind of story where girl and boy skate around their attraction and then they get together and BOOM end of story!!! NM Facile introduces us to the main characters, Sylvia and Quinn, and lets on that each one has had their life turned upside down by the one that got away. With a great cast of supporting characters, it was hard not to like this story. Quinn and Sylvia were high school sweethearts until after graduation Quinn breaks up with her out of the blue and breaks Sylvia's heart. Even though we learn later there was more behind it, both never fully recover from the breakup, and now here they are accidentally neighbors when Quinn moves in across the hall from Sylvia. After becoming quick friends with her circle of friends, also fellow neighbors, the plot thickens as we realize that Quinn is still madly in love with Sylvia and is hoping to reunite with his one true love, only to find out that Sylvia has just begun a relationship with Beau, a sexy bad boy bounty hunter. The plot thickens as Sylvia and Beau's relationship deepens, Quinn and Sylvia keep crossing paths, and one night of hot steamy sex brings up a lot of unsolved problems and unrequited emotions. I love how this story takes it's time to progress, giving the reader time to relate to the characters and get a feel for what is actually happening. You actually start to feel the raw emotion from Quinn and Sylvia and find yourself not being able to put the book down as you curse one of them out for acting stupid or saying the wrong thing! It's like they were friends of mine!!!! I especially enjoyed the descriptive love scenes in the book, I felt they were very tasteful, not just sex but sensual and descriptive that actually left me breathless a few times!! Thoroughly enjoyed this book!!

Courage says

Unfortunately did not enjoy this as much as I hoped I would.

The main problem of Across the Hall is pretty typical of authors in this genre - too much emphasis on the romance and not enough on the actual plot line or background to the story. Most of the book was filled with lackluster love scenes that weren't all that inspiring.

The characters themselves were also 2D. I didn't sympathize all that much with either Sylvia or Quinn, which sucked because they were the main characters. After finishing this book, I STILL don't get why Quinn

left Sylvia back in high school. They could have found some way to stay together and still be a happy couple slated for their HEA, but the misunderstandings were just plain stupid and petty, especially for people their age. I would expect this maybe for a MG novel.. Sadness.

And I'm sorry to say this, but Beau? SUCH a pathetic villain!

It was as if Facile included this "bad boy" in his clichéd leather jacket and beat-up jeans just so she could include a "bad boy" in his clichéd leather jacket and beat-up jeans. *smh* He was a character to be pitied, not feared.

Also, Kerri. I get that Kai is pretty much Alice incarnate, but Kerri was a sadly pale imitation of Rosalie. There was no substance to her existence in the book.. She's pretty much there to be mean and add in some snarky comments every once in a while. Not saying that Rosalie is a character I esteem, but at least she had different facets to her personality.

The writing itself was.. bleck. Facile suffers from the author disease in which actions in the story are simply written about and not detailed in live action. Switching from two or multiple characters works in some books, but in this one, lots of scenes were repeated twice, just from different points of view. It was pure boredom to read through, especially when lines are copied verbatim from one chapter to the next.

And who signs EVERY SINGLE TEXT with their initial, anyways?

-L

Liz Cope says

I'm not going to be harsh in this review as I usually am for most 2 star books, I will be brutally honest though. Self-publishing has been an amazing thing for the world, we found authors and books that would never have come to light without self-publishing. Yet the downside to it is that publishing houses weed out authors who just aren't ready to be published, and Across the Hall would have been one of those books. From the writing, to the character development, to even the flashbacks this novel needed time and maturity. This author should really develop her own writing style than rather try to emulate others. The book wasn't horrible, it was mostly predictable, unrealistic in the way she handled some plot scenarios, and really immature. My recommendation would to be to take some writing classes, get your works peer-edited (most good authors do) and write more often and don't publish what you do write. This novel felt derivative of a Nora Roberts books except aimed at college kids. I would not read this again, it just isn't memorable and honestly the author really needs to develop her writing before she tries again. People have been too forgiving with this book, I'm not saying that in a few years this author won't be a best-seller but unless the author puts some care and dedication to her writing craft she never will be.

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

If you don't already know, I thoroughly enjoyed Jamie McGuire's Beautiful Disaster, even though I was well

aware of its problems. I couldn't help it, it was sort of a guilty pleasure book. So when a discussion popped up on my Goodreads homepage regarding books that were similar to Beautiful Disaster, I took a peek and wrote down a few suggestions. Across the Hall was one such suggestion, and I can honestly say that I will never take a recommendation that lightly again.

I'm assuming you've read the synopsis. Poor little college girl still heartbroken over her high school sweetheart. They broke up four years ago. *Four years ago*, and she's still a whimpering mess. I don't...I can't....look, I'm not against the idea that you can remain in love with someone after four years, but the way Sylvia acts, it's like the breakup occurred four months ago, not four years. But then you find out that her behavior directly following the break-up was even more pathetic, so then some of it makes a little sense. Kind of. But then the ridiculous factor is upped by the melodrama of all of Sylvia's friends, who make it seem as if someone breaking up with his high school sweetheart should be considered a capital crime.

I'll admit I was a little ways into this story before I wondered if perhaps it weren't more Twilight fanfiction parading itself around as actual writing. Turns out, it *is*. Oh, joy of joys. This doesn't automatically mean it's going to be bad, but I'm beginning to notice a pattern; those who like Twilight enough to write their own fanfiction based on it don't seem to know a whole hell of a lot about good writing.

This was another book where the writing style signaled fairly early on that I wasn't going to like it. I don't mind wasting my time on a book that's not that deep as long as it's relatively tolerable. For a book to be tolerable to me, there needs to be a minimum of cheese, likable characters, very small moments of stupidity (if there needs to be any stupidity at all), a relatively competent grasp of English, and an absence of overused phrases/cliche's. I also appreciate it when the author doesn't try to pretty up his/her simplistic writing and limited vocabulary with superfluous adjectives. This book violated every single one of those principles.

Issue #1 - Unlikable characters

I'm not unrealistic, I know that there are always going to be characters I don't like, but it's important to at least like the *main* character(s). The biggest stumbling block on the road to likable characters? Stereotypes. Each chapter alternates viewpoints between Sylvia and Quinn, and the first chapter is from Sylvia's perspective. The book starts off with a serious problem; massive info dump. We hear all about Sylvia's night, then her life, then her friends, then the sleaze she got slutty with at the bar, etc., etc. I already didn't like her very much, but when she went into her descriptions of her friends, I started to go a bit cross-eyed. Because here are her friends;

Alice Kai-ying:

Stereotype #1 - the perky, bubbly, funny fun fun fun Asian girl who's colorful and psychic and quirky and perky. Did I mention she's perky?

Rosalie Kerrington:

Stereotype #2 - the cool, collected, gorgeous rich girl who can be a bitch.

With the physicality (and stereotypical "quirks") of these two characters described to the reader in mind-numbingly boring detail, it apparently left very little room to expound on their actual characters. Sylvia's descriptions of her two best friends are almost entirely focused on their appearances, on how beautiful and poised they are, and how she, Sylvia, pales in comparison, both in looks and in personality.

Sylvia:

Stereotype #3 - the pale, skinny, redheaded, freckled, green-eyed, klutzy, petite social outcast that no one should like because she's just not cool enough to have friends, and she doesn't understand why anyone talks to her at all, much less why they don't just push her into the street and spit on her and call her names. She describes herself with such ridiculously pedantic self-deprecation that any sympathy I might have felt for such an insecure character quickly flew out the window as I too wondered how on earth she'd managed to make (much less keep) friends.

But it got worse. After describing how beautiful her friends are, and how sea-sluggishly hideous she was in comparison, she actually states the following:

"It didn't really matter to me that Kerri and Kai were so much more interesting than I was."

That. That right there. That is what's wrong with a lot of females these days. The very idea that I would need to explain to someone that being less attractive doesn't necessarily make one less interesting makes me want to hit something. I shouldn't have to explain that. And yet, here I am.

Can I just ask one thing? What is with the klutz angle being employed as some sort of charming endearment? *I'm klutzy*, and I can tell you in all honesty, there is nothing charming or endearing about it. It's constant toe-stubbing, ankle-twisting, arm-bruising madness. I've torn the ligaments in my right ankle so many times that the excess scar tissue has caused me to lose some range of motion in that joint. That being said, even I don't walk around tripping over my own damn feet like a drunken Clydesdale with a middle ear infection. Seriously, is it supposed to endear me to a character when she can't walk from the bar to a pool table without tripping and spilling half the beer she's carrying, then going all blushy and giggly and saying things like, "Well, that's me!"? No, that does not endear me to her. It makes me want to push her into traffic.

Aside from the fact that Sylvia is a walking cliché, her personality is just garbage. She's self-centered, spoiled, selfish, and resentful. She remains with a guy who is obviously not a good person merely because he's there, and she becomes angry when her friends are concerned for her and hatch a plan to keep her from getting hurt.

Problem #2 - Bad writing

I can overlook one or two transgressions, but offending sensibilities in nearly every area of writing is unforgivable. The writing in this particular book leaves a *lot* to be desired. Similes, metaphors, clichés, stilted dialogue, tense confusion, and unrealistic voices made for some uncomfortable reading. Quinn's POV is so overbearingly feminine that I couldn't at all place him within the confines of the male protagonist, and the interactions between the other men within the story was completely unrealistic. Men simply don't interact with one another in that way.

Here's an example of Quinn's stunningly masculine inner monologue:

"I knew I was being incredibly rude, but I was just too shy and self-conscious to talk to her. I was a skinny, geeky boy. She couldn't possibly have anything to say to me."

I'm not trying to say boys aren't ever shy or insecure, but does that sound in any way like something a guy

would think/relate to someone? No. Sorry, no. Then at the end, there was this wonderful bit:

"She had just a light touch of make up on. Nothing over the top, just enough that it drew my attention to it."

Yeah, *he's* straight.

Then there was the presence of an ever-growing problem amongst wannabe authors; showing *and* telling. For example, if you write out an entire paragraph of slurred words to indicate someone is drunk, you don't need to then tell the reader that the speaker was so drunk they were nearly incomprehensible. We got it. Trust me.

Here are some examples of my favorite lines in regards to terrible grammar:

"It had been an exhausting week of end of the year tests added on top of that Sylvia had the flu."

"I just wanted the escape from my reality that sleep would provide me with."

"He asked me what growing up with a cop as a father was like. I told him that I guessed it was like any other father-daughter relationship would be like."

"Two places of my body involuntarily clinched..."

This one isn't grammar so much as basic research:

"...Alice in Wonderland theme. Kerri was Alice, Sloane and Reed were Twiddle-Dee and Twiddle-Dumb..."

It's called Wikipedia.

And now for some of my favorite bad lines. Not so much grammar as skill (or lack thereof).

"Sylvia, it's more than just the fever that has me burning."

Is it also syphilis? I think it might be syphilis.

"The kiss was hot but the fire didn't need to travel through me this time. I was already a raging inferno."

Yup, syphilis.

"I tasted his mouth on mine, his tongue again calling mine out to play."

Uh. Ew.

"I could feel the heat and hardness of his body against mine."

I would certainly hope so.

"It was a wet open mouth kiss with our tongues slithering around the other's, more outside of either of our mouths than in."

OK, is that supposed to be hot?

"In that moment, my heart began to cry again."

"Staring into those twin emeralds was a better morning pick-me-up than any caffeinated beverage."

"She arched her hips to me every time I passed her pearl."

Yeah. Her pearl. The only time I've seen a worse euphemism for 'clitoris' was when one of my mom's Harlequin romances referred to it as a 'love kernel'.

"There was nothing on earth that smelled as wonderful as a recently fucked Sylvia."

"Kai held on to my hands and squeezed them gently letting me know she cared and was concerned."

No, really? That's what she was attempting to convey? I wouldn't have guessed had it not been spelled out for me.

It's just all so obvious and overstated and cheesy and irritating, and reading it is like having someone force bamboo shoots under your fingernails.

Oh, and the text messages! Every time a text message is sent or received, it is followed by the sender's initial. Why are they signing every single one of their texts? Who *does* that?

I'm not buying books any more. That's just all there is to it. This fanfiction nonsense needs to end, and people need to stop thinking that describing a sex act with words makes them an author. I'm sick of it.
