



Under A Million Stars

Rita Branches

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Can a beating heart bleed from the shattered pieces?

Her heart cracked when her best friend walked away; it completely shattered when she lost her family in a tragic accident.

Now orphaned at seventeen, Charlotte Peterson is forced to live with her former best friend, Jacob Parker. Charlie, a talented pianist, desperately wants their loving friendship back, but something is holding Jake back. The more she spirals into the darkness of depression, the more she needs him.

Jacob vowed to stay away from her—no matter how much he still loved her. Armed with secrets that would have destroyed both of their families, he chose to end their friendship and walk away, which nearly killed him. As he watches the girl he once knew begin to fade away, however, he realizes that their relationship is more important than the truth he's hiding.

Now it's up to Jacob to put the pieces of Charlie's broken heart back together—even if it means revealing the secrets he so desperately wants to protect her from.

Will Jacob find a way to bring back the carefree, talented girl he once knew, or is it too late for both of them?

It's a Stand-alone

Under A Million Stars Details

Date : Published August 8th 2016

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Author : Rita Branches

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Genre : Romance, Young Adult, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Under A Million Stars for online ebook

Abby Wilder says

Under a Million Stars is a sad story. The overarching theme of the book lends to a beautiful, but solemn read, filled with heartbreak and sadness. After performing at a piano concert, Charlotte Peterson is greeted with the news of a tragic accident that took away her family. Charlie is sent to live with family friends the Parkers. There is only one problem with this. Jacob Parker is the love of her life and her best friend, only he hasn't spoken to her in two years. What follows is their story of re-connection and along the way, secrets are revealed the will change their lives.

Although I didn't fall in love with this book quite as much as Painting Sky, it was a beautifully written story of loss and love, and the flashbacks to their childhoods give deeper insight into their relationship and the choices they made.

Poulami says

Originally posted on Daydreaming Books.

I received an eARC of this book from YA Bound Book Tours for the blog tour in exchange for an honest review.

This book was an emotional roller coaster. I loved the story from the beginning till the end and I loved every bits of it. You can also check out my review of Painting Sky, her debut novel, [here](#).

Charlie and Jacob used to be best friends but one day Jacob walked away from her without any explanation. Now Charlie has lost her whole family in an accident and Jacob's family has been appointed her guardian and she is forced to live with Jacob under the same roof. Jacob notices that Charlie is slowly spiraling out of control and if he doesn't do anything he might end up losing her. Despite the reason why he walked away from her, he decides to bring the old Charlie back but what will happen when the devastating truth comes out?

I definitely liked the plot and it had one of my favourite romantic tropes, best friends to lovers. **This was a story of second chances and I loved how it was executed.** Charlie and Jacob had been best friends forever but he ended their friendship one day without giving any reason or explanation. Now, when they are forced to live under the same roof, Jacob notices how much the accident of her family has affected her. He buries the secret that tore them apart and decides to help Charlie as much as possible. I liked the big reveal although I had guessed it when I was halfway through the book but it was definitely handled well.

Charlie was a great character but she held herself responsible for her family's death. I could sympathize with her condition and I felt so, so bad for her. **I liked her relationship with Jacob**, even after he hurt her so much, she still trusted him. Jacob came as plain rude at first but then I could see how much staying away from Charlie was tearing him apart as well. It was definitely not right for their parents to take *that* decision on their behalf even after knowing how much it would hurt them, it was downright selfish. Nonetheless, **I loved the chemistry between Charlie and Jacob and I definitely enjoyed the romance.**

Overall, *Under a Million Stars* was a great read. I loved the plot and the characters and the story successfully kept me engaged from the very beginning. I loved the romance between Charlie and Jacob. The **writing was beautiful** and easy to read and the **pace was even** throughout the book. I can't wait to read more books by this author.

Recommend it?

Yes.

Chelsea says

What I Loved

Besides everything? This is the second time this author has completely blown me away! I find that she's extremely great at making you feel all kinds of emotions. There were some parts that physically hurt and others made me so happy! You're definitely on an emotional roller coaster during the whole book. I'm just really glad that everything turned out ok for mostly everyone. Also the epilogue was really cute! I love seeing a little glimpse into the future of my book characters!

I don't normally read contemporary books so I'm not sure if what I'm saying is true, but I've never seen a plot like this in anything I've read before. The idea was really simple but nothing was easy for these characters and I loved that this story was about fixing relationships instead of breaking them. The relationship is broken from the start of the book so it was nice skipping that part and starting from a point where things could only be fixed. I loved that!

Honestly, it's really hard to talk about this book because I don't want to give away any details! Nothing! I think that not knowing anything when you start this book will only make you feel more during the course of reading it. The plot didn't 100% blow me away but it was the little things here and there that made this a five star read for me. This plot would be nothing without the beautiful writing and the emotion the author puts behind everything. That's why it got 5 stars from me.

Side note: That cover though! It makes me so happy!!

What I Didn't Like

The one and only thing I didn't like about this book was that it used the line. The line that is in every YA book ever! The line was "I let go of a breath I didn't know I was holding." The book was doing so good until I saw that line! Still, with how this book was going, I didn't let it affect my rating.

Who I'd Recommend To

I'd recommend this to any YA romance lovers who love complicated relationships. There's nothing easy about the romance in this book and I think that's why I loved it so much. It felt so real to me! Also if you're a fan of gorgeous writing then pick this book up!

See full review at [Books for Thought](#)

Amy Shelton says

Independent Reviewer for Archaeolibrarian - I Dig Good Books!

* I received this book from the author in return for a fair and honest review. *

Heartbreaking. Soul shattering. Tearful. Betrayal. Hopeful. Love. Best friends. Those words pretty much describe this book from the start to the finish. It was absolutely incredible. I started it before bed and read nearly half of it before my body passed out from exhaustion and partly because I was up half the night reading because I just couldn't put the book down.

Jacob is a character you will love to hate and then love to love. There is something he is hiding starting right at the beginning of the book to nearly the end of the book. He has his reasons to act the way he does but are they really justified? I think that I really started to enjoy Jacob's character once his character really started unfolding. You see the jerk and the cold side but you also see the caring and heartbroken side. He had his reasons to hide what he did and was acting as he felt was necessary. The secrets go deeper than Jacob and it would unsettle more than just him and Charlie's world. Charlie can read Jacob and knows Jacob almost more than he knows himself – he could never keep this secret with Charlie around.

This story is absolutely heartbreaking at times. The beginning tragedy I had pegged pretty quickly and it felt like a slow motion train wreck unfolding before my eyes. Tears kept building in my eyes until they overflowed. My heart broke for Charlie – she just wasn't getting any breaks in life. The story finally gets a little happier and things start getting better and happier.

I absolutely devoured this story and definitely didn't want the story to end. The end was surprising but a happy surprise. I think you could read this book and finish it and feel content with the story and the characters. The author did a great job writing the story and buttoning it up at the end. I'm so happy that I read this story – It was just as good as her first story, *Painting Sky*.

? Jeri's Book Attic ? the Romance Bibliophile ? says

I read "Painting Sky" a while ago, which I think was the debut novel of Rita Branches. If I remember correctly it was during a Blog Tour and I really liked it, a LOT.

So when the Author approached me with her new book "Under A Million Stars" and asked if I would like to read it – it was basically a no-brainer after I had taken a short look at the blurb and deemed it definitely up my alley.

Oh my and HOW up my Alley it was.

And I do not say stuff like that just because I got a book for free. Believe me, there is more than one author out there that had to take some hard truths from me. Because no matter how nice or polite the words you use

are – they will not change the facts if you do not like a book.

But no worries as far as this author is concerned, if you are looking for a YA novel with deep characters and a well told story that tugs at your – you can pick up both, the previous book as well as “Under A Million Stars”.

I remember comparing Rita Branches first story to one of Colleen Hoover or L.A. Fiore. I wasn't sure at that time, having only one book to judge from, but now I would say definitely the style of L.A. Fiore only in the genre of a YA.

I am as usual not willing to spill on the storyline.

But you can be sure that Jacobs and Charlottes story will devastate you at times. But you will also smile in other moments.

It is the story of the power of true love. The kind of love that lets you be strong enough to walk away from people you love to spare them from harsh realities.

As an outsider one might consider Jacobs decisions unnecessary or harsh but ones you accept that they are coming from deep within his heart.

From what he deems right at that moment. You can feel his struggle in every letter written in this book. Always considering the lesser evil in the problems, he faces.

Rarely you find so well described struggles in such a young book character.

And I loved every minute of reading it.

Honestly ... this book offered me one of the rare occasions where I was hoping for a leading character to loose a battle.

And I will be more than happy to pick up the next book by this author if the blurb sounds appealing to me.

Lynda Dickson says

Charlotte is a seventeen-year-old girl with a promising future as a concert pianist. But her whole world is turned upside down when her parents and baby brother are killed in a car accident on their way to her first public performance. Charlotte is forced to move in with her godparents, Laura and Robert Parker, and their son Jacob, who broke her heart when he stopped being her best friend two years ago for an undisclosed reason. What secrets are these two families hiding? Will Charlotte ever stop grieving and start living again?

This is a story of grief, family secrets, and betrayal, but mostly it's a story of a childhood friendship blossoming into love. The author uses a clever trick to demonstrate the way Jacob keeps his distance from Charlotte: he never refers to her by name, only as "she" or "her". Until, of course, he starts feeling closer to her again; then we get into the (urgh!) three names/nicknames for one character territory. Told alternately from Charlotte's and Jacob's points-of-view, we get a good insight into what each character is feeling. A couple of scenes are repeated from both viewpoints, leading to some confusion, as the present-day story

jumps back in time to be repeated from the other character's viewpoint. I love the flashbacks to Charlotte's and Jacob's earlier friendship but, with the present-day story written in the past tense and the flashbacks written in the annoying part-perfect tense, they are extremely hard to read. The whole thing would work better if the author used the present tense for now and the past tense for the flashbacks, or if the flashbacks were in italics or labeled (e.g., Seven Years Ago). Another thing that makes this book hard to read is the excessive overuse of commas (and, believe me, I'm a fan of commas), as well as the incorrect use of prepositions. I read an ARC and was prepared to forgive some of these errors; however, after reading the preview on Amazon, I note that every single error is still there.

The story itself is beautiful, if annoying. Both Charlotte and Jacob give up their passions for no good reason, they both get together with totally unsuitable partners, Charlotte constantly contradicts herself, she doesn't eat or sleep but no one notices. Why are Laura and Robert so oblivious? It's so obvious that Charlotte and Jacob still love each other. Why don't they just talk to each other? And all the secret-keeping is so unnecessary. I imagined worse things than what actually happened. I know, I know, there wouldn't be a story without these complications, but still - so frustrating! In addition, what turns out to be a nice ending is ruined by the cheesy epilogue.

Sorry, guys, this is another book in need of a good edit.

Full blog post (12 August): <https://booksdirectonline.blogspot.co...>

Aditi ~ •A Thousand Words A Million Books says

AS SEEN ON: A THOUSAND WORDS A MILLION BOOKS

I received a review copy from YA Bound Book Tours as a part of the Blog Tour, in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.

I didn't know what to expect from this book, to be honest. And yet I found myself at 3 a.m., still awake, almost done with *Under A Million Stars* and completely, utterly heartbroken. and also surprised that I was so invested in characters I'd only met a couple of hours ago.

ALSO, THIS IS A BEST FRIEND ROMANCE, MY ALL TIME ACHILLES HEEL, AND IT WAS AWESOME SO YAY!

Right from the beginning, this story was tragic and beautiful and I wanted to reach in and help everyone - Well, Charlie - and I just wanted things to get easier for her. I loved her chemistry with Jacob and I was so happy when her left got happier!

Jacob was a character I loved and then I hated and then I loved, but somehow I was always rooting for him (?) I could tell he was hiding something but I found myself not caring, and wanting to know at the same time. I absolutely adore a character that can make me feel so bloody confused and Jacob was just that guy. He had a swoony caring side and a jerk side and the secrets. AAH. I think I loved the most though, is that BECAUSE THEY WERE BEST FRIENDS, Charlie knew Jacob more than Jacob and it was AWESOME!

The ending was really good, but I SO DIDN'T WANT IT TO END.

Someone please give me more.

Tiffany says

Reviewed on Behalf of Give Me Books

I don't read a lot of teen or YA books anymore, but when I do they need to be exactly like *Under a Million Stars*. This story sucked me in from the very first page and wouldn't let me go until I was finished.

"I knew I'd never stop feeling for him—this overwhelming need for him. It didn't matter how badly he treated me. He would never be part of my recent promise about not loving anyone else—of not letting anyone else in my heart. Jacob wasn't anyone; he had created such deep roots around my heart during all these years that he was a part of me."

Charlie and Jacob were best friends for as long as they could remember. Really, they were each other's only friends. But they had a special connection, one that others couldn't break. So, when Jacob broke their friendship—and both their hearts—out of the blue, Charlie knew she would never be the same. However, that wasn't the worst thing that was going to happen in her life.

"I was going to break my own heart, in order to save hers."

Jacob never wanted to break Charlie, but he was doing what he thought was right for both families when he found out a shocking secret. But when Charlie needed him the most, he couldn't continue to push her away.

"I should have been stronger than this. One minute, the resolution of staying away was cemented in my head, and the next, she took my breath away and my brain turned to mush."

I loved this story! It gave me all the feels. How amazing is it to find your one when you are just children?

"Being close to Jacob had always felt right, like that was where I belonged. It was as if he was my home—my everything."

This story was extremely sad; I cried a lot. But it was necessary to make you feel and relate to both Charlie and Jacob. And, it was also full of hope and love, secrets and lies, and so much more. This is my second story from Ms. Branches and I will definitely be going back for more! She certainly has a way with words! (4.5 stars)

Karina says

**Thank you very much YA Bound Book Tours and Miss Rita Branches for the review copy opportunity.*

Under a Million Stars follows the story of a girl who was left broken and devastated by a tragic accident and a story of love, which was broken by so many lies.

Meet Charlotte Peterson, a pianist, a daughter, a loving sister. Meet Jacob Parker, an athlete, a son, and the one who knows the biggest secret that can break not just his and Charlotte's hearts but also torn their families

apart.

Under A Million Stars was written on dual points of views: on Charlotte's and on Jacob's. First POV's from these two made me feel slightly uncomfortable and quite disappointed. They don't have such strong voices and there are times where I can find myself questioning their actions, choices and decisions – especially Jacob's. There are also a lot of instances when I just wanted to scream at them and tell them to stop. Stop the drama. Stop this childishness. Be mature enough to make the right decisions. Stop breaking each other's hearts even more. It's obvious how they truly love each other but pride and being oblivious to each other's feelings holds them back.

I understand Charlotte's case, but not Jacob's. Jacob is just another representation of how boys are so good on hiding their true feelings, which I, personally hate and annoyed by it. Boys hiding their true feelings were just one of the main reasons for so many misunderstandings and so many heartaches. And Jacob is just pretty good at it. Making their situation worse. Fortunately, their characters – from more than the half of the book – slowly developed. From being both stubborn and prideful, they managed to learn how to handle and express their emotions very well, which opened the opportunity for me to connect with them, understand them, and even love them in a deeply way. The lovely thing about Charlotte and Jacob is they're realistic and – sure enough – can speak in a deeply emotional way to teenagers who feels broken, lonely, confused or ecstatic because of love.

I killed Mom, Dad, and Jamie, and, with them, my dream of becoming a promising musician.

Under A Million Stars really didn't meet all of my expectations. In fact, it met only one. Aside from the cover and the title, what made me hope high for this book was the prologue. The prologue was something that will remind anyone of If I Stay by Gayle Forman – even if you've only seen the movie just like me. With that prologue, I expected this book to be inclined with music, but it's not. And the blurb, made me hope for this book to be as painful as it sounds, but it was also not.

While the prologue went good, the preceding from the very first chapter just became the opposite. The narration was so fast and things were less elaborated in a sense that the paragraph was already ended while you're just starting to sink things in, making the reader being unable to comprehend and feel what the narrator had just said, and the words seems non-sense or meaningless. The pacing from fast on the start became so slow in the middle. It just became better few chapters away to the end.

And there are instances where the words and emotions were just feels forced, from the POVs of both Jacob and Charlotte, you'll already feel how forced they were, specially the emotions this book were trying so hard to give. Under A Million Stars – obviously – meant to break hearts. But on the first half of the book, it was crystal clear that there are a lot of failed attempts to do so. The first half – or more – of the book was just not executed very well, but it slowly had progress and became better up to the end.

The plot isn't that impressive. It was honestly just okay, just ordinary. There are lots of high school drama happened, totally cliché and I really didn't enjoyed it at all.

She hugged me tightly, and soon my tears matched hers. She fell asleep after what seemed like an eternity. I took some time to watch her sleep—watch her squirm and frown, whimper

and shiver, probably plagued by the nightmares that invaded her nights. I kissed her forehead each time, trying to mend her broken heart, only to open cracks in mine.

It honestly needed to reach more than the half of the book for the story flow to be well and the failed attempts to deliver emotions succeed. What I loved – and sure you will too – is how this book is filled with emotions. It was heart-warming and heart-breaking at the same time. Even though there were a lot of failed attempts to do that, it eventually worked. It's a book that can leave a wide grin or staple a smile on your face for minutes and make you feel too much pain in your chest. It's the kind of book romantic or hopeless-romantic people will like. And it's the only expectation I had for *Under A Million Stars* that it managed to reach. It's just sad that it needed more than the half of the book for this to happen.

Even though the book was meant to break hearts, it was ended in the opposite way and I think that's beautiful. Heart-breaking books mostly just want to push too much to the point of trying so hard to be painful until the end just to torture their readers, but *Under A Million Stars* isn't the same. It was just beautifully ended and I do not regret reading Charlie and Jake's story. From being broken, they were fixed. Fixed by their selves and their love for each other. After reading this, I felt so full of hope and love. Because of how smoothly the flow of the story suddenly became few chapter away to the end, I didn't realize that I was already almost done. I didn't imagine that I will ever wish for this book not to end, but I did.

Overall, it was just an average because it still has a lot of improvements to make. I know it can be fixed because it was already proven on the way it got better a few chapters away to the end. What I loved is how this book made me feel giddy, deeply in love, and in pain. The journey of Charlotte and Jacob healing, trying to fix their selves, their friendship and love story was one I am so glad to read. I felt so connected to them that I don't feel like leaving and closing the book anymore.

Under A Million Stars is a story of love, loss, recovery, family and friendship. Capable of making a reader feel emotional.

It had been settled; we would stay together forever, until we became stars.

Pauline Ang says

Based from the synopsis of *Under a Million Stars*, I really had the impression that I'm in for a roller coaster ride, and I was not disappointed. It was really a roller coaster ride for me, and I couldn't help but keep on reading because I wanted to unravel all the secrets and about the events that happened in the past.

For throughout the story, there were just too much feels. I found myself crying a lot, and later on smiling, and then crying again. I think that I looked so weird to others while I was reading it, but at that moment, it really didn't matter at all. I was greedy to keep on reading and reading and reading, and I was entirely immersed into the story. The way *Under a Million Stars* is written just made it so much easier to connect with the characters, because it felt like I was looking at a glimpse of their soul. There may be not much concrete character development, since it focused more on how both Charlie and Jacob would overcome the difficulties they are facing, but everything was just so vivid and realistic, and it felt like I wasn't a by-

watcher, but somebody who was with the characters throughout their entire journey.

There was just so much heartbreak and sadness, but it was such a beautiful read. I love how the both of them started off as best friends first before their relationship blooming into something more. And it's just amazing how they are able to find their the one at such a young age. I also love how there were two POVs, which provided more insights on what each character really felt. In addition to this, I love how their flashbacks of their memories during their childhood gave even more depth to their relationship, and made me understand more of the choices they make, or the way they think or act.

However, while I really enjoyed reading *Under a Million Stars*, I felt like the suspense of what went wrong between Charlie and Jacob was prolonged. And sometimes, I found myself starting to get annoyed on how Jacob became a character that I could quickly switch between someone I love and someone I hate. He was confusing, and despite being able to read his POV, I found him to be secretive and mysterious (which I think was the point of it since he was keeping a secret). Even though it took me a longer time to come to adore him, in the end, it was great to see myself really rooting for him.

In the end, I love how *Under a Million Stars* is a story about second chances, while each discovering slowly on how to simply live life. Seeing both Charlie and Jacob slowly overcome their hurdles in life was such a wonderful rollercoaster ride. With beautiful writing, complicated romance and so much emotions/feels, everything felt so real. I truly recommend this one (but prepared for a good rollercoaster ride!)

1-Click Addict Support Group says

I don't read a lot of teen or YA books anymore, but when I do they need to be exactly like *Under a Million Stars*. This story sucked me in from the very first page and wouldn't let me go until I was finished.

"I knew I'd never stop feeling for him—this overwhelming need for him. It didn't matter how badly he treated me. He would never be part of my recent promise about not loving anyone else—of not letting anyone else in my heart. Jacob wasn't *anyone*; he had created such deep roots around my heart during all these years that he was a part of me."

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Cody Benson says

Full review at <https://childishlypassionate.wordpress...>

Brilliant, moving and perfect for a romance-lover, Under A Million Stars has both the wow factor and the haunt factor. My reluctance to read this book eased after the first chapter and I couldn't seem to stop reading. You've done yourself proud Rita Branches.

Aneesa says

I received an arc in an exchange for an honest review, thanks to YA Bound Book Tours

SO much HEARTBREAK! This was a roller coaster ride full of emotions, but mostly pain and heartbreak. Why did Charlotte and Jacob break up? What secret is he holding that broke them apart so viciously?

This was a typical cliché heart break in relationships, a secret dividing two lovers, torn apart by fate. This "big secret" they kept emphasising throughout the whole book, I honestly was expecting it to be some HUGE news that would be so devastating. Okay so maybe in some sense, I could understand how it would be a problem, however, like in any relationship communication is key. A problem can be tackled if they just had open communication, I feel conflicted about this. I really liked the story, I loved the emotions seeping through the pages for both Jacob and Charlie. But then I kind of think this story was a bit prolonged too much. On a side note, both POV's for the characters was a delight to read! :)

I honestly can't say much about character development is shown in the book, it is more of both of them learning to overcome their difficulties (or what they assumed to be their difficulties) and stop fighting their feelings. But that doesn't mean there wasn't any, for Charlie she realises that life goes on. Good and bad are part of life. And for Jacob, he learns that love can overcome any hurdles and honesty and trust are the key foundations in any relationships.

Although I felt the book was very long, I really did love the writing. I feel like the author got the emotions perfectly in the book, it had the right amount of feels.

Roina Reyes says

I was hooked by the story without even realizing it and I didn't know why or how!

The story revolves around Charlotte Peterson, a very talented pianist who lost her family in a tragic accident, and how she deals with depression caused by her loss. She is forced to live her former childhood best friend, Jacob, who ended their friendship years ago for no apparent reason. Even given Charlotte's situation, Jacob still refuses to make up. But why? How big is that reason for him not to be swayed by Charlotte's loss? Finding out the reason why is what kept me hooked with this novel. And most probably will be the reason why you will, too.

The plot is so good. It jogs your memory about *If I Stay* but, it's what happened after the incident, and how the protagonist picks up her broken pieces together, slowly, until she has glued herself back together again. The story reminds us about the importance of family and loved ones. In fact, there were actually part where I actually teared up! The thing between Charlotte and Jacob went along with the plot as well.

And the character development!

The protagonist had a really really really wonderful character development. I loved how the author showed the protagonist's growth and how she handled the depression caused by her loss. We can actually see Charlotte's self-healing progress in each chapter. How she lost total interest in socializing and the things she used to love, but as the story developed, so did she.

The only thing bugging me about the two protagonists is Jacob and his mood swings. One minute he shows great compassion and love for Charlotte, the next, he's ignoring her and complaining about her. But! Eventually, when the reason was finally shown, I understood why he acted that way.

Rita Branches' writing style is also really comfortable to read. I could easily visualize the scene she was trying to tell and felt the feels she wanted me to have. I just have a small problem with the repetition of scenes. Like how this certain scene given from Charlotte's point of view is shown again but now it's in Jacob's POV. I perfectly understand the reason for this, but I just don't like it. Although there may be some other readers who are more comfortable with this type of writing but, it's just not for me.

All in all, this has been a really wonderful read. The plot was good. I loved the character development most of all. The writing style is really comfortable to read. And to top it all, the book cover is just gorgeous. If you've read and loved, *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman, then I definitely recommend this book to you.

AK Mama Reads says

This atmospheric read chews you up and swallows you whole. It touches on a myriad of issues facing teens, some more so than others. While I appreciated the fact that the main character experiences depression and codependence, there were aspects of Charlie and Jacob's relationship that were rather unhealthy. As someone who has struggled with depression for over two decades, I can assure you this is not the type of love that helps someone with mental illness, but I'm not given the impression that the author would disagree given the way things go in this book. The prose within the pages of this book had me spellbound even when I wasn't so keen on the events taking place. This is an important piece of YA fiction that I think could show a lot of others the types of troubles that can befall a teenager looking for help when they feel they have no one to turn to. If you are suffering, you need not be alone and ultimately I think that's what Charlie needed to know. Due to the darker nature of this story I would say it's suitable for ages 16 and older.

3.5 stars

