



## Heart Breaths

*K.K. Hendin*

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After a tragedy nearly ripped 21 year old Madeline Darlington-Gray's life in half, she's spent the past three years trying to put the pieces back together. But pieces never just fit back together, and when she's betrayed by those she trusts, everything crumbles. Shoving everything she owns into the trunk of her car, Maddie drives south, trying to run from her past.

Eno, North Carolina seems like the perfect place to hide. Working at a local café is light years from Maddie's Manhattan existence and for the first time in a while, she's finding her family. There's Grandma, the café owner; Samantha, the hairstylist next door with plans to make Maddie's life unsuck and Noie, the three year old girl who's stolen Maddie's heart.

And then there's Gabriel Mendez, Noie's single dad. He's intrigued Maddie since the first time she met him, and while he has his own secrets, he wants more from her than just friendship. But the past never stays past, and all too soon, Maddie realizes she can't hide from hers. If she can't put the pieces of her shattered life together this time, she'll have no hope for a future.

A future she desperately wants.

## Heart Breaths Details

Date : Published November 5th 2013 by KK Hendin (first published November 2nd 2013)

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Author : K.K. Hendin

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# From Reader Review Heart Breaths for online ebook

Sarah {Literary Meanderings} says

♥ Find my reviews here: [Literary Meanderings](#)

- - -

21-year-old Manhattan socialite, Madeline Darlington-Gray, is running. She's running from heartbreak, from betrayal, from her past...

*They say you can't escape the consequences of your choices. But damn if I wasn't going to try.*

Driving south with no destination in mind, Madeline (Maddie) ends up in a small ocean-side town in North Carolina. The charm of the town and its people grow on her. She ends up working in a small café and living in a small space above the place.

She makes friends with the café owner, Grandma, and also with some of the local girls. Then there is Gabe. Tall, dark, handsome Gabe. Maddie has been attracted to him since the very first time she laid eyes on him. But Maddie isn't going to allow herself to fall for someone, especially someone with a three-year-old daughter. Little Noie is just the thing that could ruin all the progress Maddie has made in letting go of her past—or just the thing Maddie needs to finally let it go completely.

- - -

*Heart Breaths* was such a pleasant surprise! I was expecting your run-of-the-mill New Adult book—which is fine, I enjoy those a great deal, but this one had a little something *more*.

Before I continue, please know that this review will contain some spoilers. Nothing big, but I can't leave out the reason for Maddie's pain and still accurately explain how I feel about this book. :)

So, with that said...

**\*SPOILERS AHEAD!\***

Maddie has suffered great loss. Maddie lost a fiancé and a child. Maddie got pregnant at a young age. Her boyfriend was a stand-up guy and they made a little life for themselves. Maddie and Ravi (and eventually their daughter Devi) were the perfect little family.

Until the accident that ended it all.

The story begins three years *after* the horrific accident that took Ravi and Devi away from Maddie. Maddie was making strides toward moving on, dating a new guy, and then he betrayed her. It was the straw that broke the camel's back. She hops in her car and drives south... and this is where we begin.

Maddie is a wonderful protagonist. She has a lot of pain to work through and it was an inspiring journey to

watch her do just that. The most devastating part is that it isn't just the pain of loss, but the pain of guilt as well. A situation like this could easily become whiny and overly-done, but I think K.K. Hendin balanced the tough parts out very well with the more hopeful elements from Maddie's new life, new friends, and tentative relationship with both Gabe and Noie. It was sad, but not hopeless, and I suppose that's the point. While I haven't experienced anything remotely close to what Maddie did, I connected with her easily.

The romance was intense, but not unrealistic. No insta-love. Insta-lust? Yes! Right from the get-go Maddie struggles with herself. She is attracted to Gabe but she's built her walls up so high after the betrayal of her last boyfriend that the prospect of any sort of new relationship isn't even within her grasp. But, of course, Gabe and Noie begin to chip away at those walls. Soon enough, the two get to a point where they can test the waters of a relationship. It's easier said than done though. I'll let you read about that yourself. :) But my point is that the author gave us a truly realistic portrayal of a woman wounded by grief and betrayal, and how difficult it can be to simply let someone into your heart. I enjoyed the slow-building romance and the fact that this book wasn't 100% focused on Maddie falling in love with Gabe. It was about *so* much more than just romance.

While this is a contemporary read, there is a slightly paranormal aspect. I'd say it leans toward magical-realism, but not quite. I won't spoil this part, but it's a nice twist on the story. I applaud the author for weaving such an unexpected element into the plot so flawlessly!

Now, I wouldn't be writing a fair review if I didn't mention what I didn't like. For me, the story was amazing all-around. The pace is where I had a problem. Everything was perfect until the end. All of a sudden, stuff hits the fan. All at once, things are happening. I don't want to get spoilery here, but all the issues within the story are wrapped up in a matter of 5% of the book. It's too close together. It almost comes out of nowhere, too. I feel like it should've been spread out a little more. With it all being so mushed together, it happens too fast and you're a bit winded.

Overall, *Heart Breaths* was a wonderful read! Think *Safe Haven*, but with a twist and for a slightly younger audience. Maddie is a protagonist you will love right from the first page. Her past is one that will break your heart, but journeying with her into acceptance is something you won't soon forget. This book is filled with hopefulness and silver-lining. It's about coping and moving on, but not forgetting what you've lost. It's about learning to open your heart and to love without restraint. It's about living life to the fullest. It's about friendship. It's about breathing in the new; the hopeful; the love, and breathing out the pain; the distrust; the past. *Heart breaths*.

This is a beautiful story with beautiful characters that'll touch your heart. I recommend this to anyone that can appreciate a good contemporary that isn't solely focused on hormones and forbidden love. It's deeper, more complicated, and completely moving.

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**Book source:** From the author for review

**Publisher:** Self-published

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**GeektasticAlii says**

Original review posted: <http://www.aliisbookjungle.com/2/post...>

Before I begin I need to point out the lushness of the cover!...Okay moment over. So I received this as an ARC courtesy of the fab author, way, way, WAY before the tour came along and due to unavoidable circumstances I was never able to publish my review. Sufficed to say I was feeling pretty shitty about that, because I don't like breaking promises. So I had a plan in sight to make up for it all, when all of a sudden BOOM! A blog tour invite popped up in my mail box and I thought to myself, what better way to make it up to K.K. than being part of the blog tour?! More exposure, more bloggers and more Geektastic awesomeness. So I sat there thinking...It. Is. Genius! And the rest as they say is history, and here we are.

So what are my thoughts? Well I really liked the book actually. I say that a little surprised, because reading the synopsis I was all set for an emotional somewhat depressing read. Woah there, let me finish! It was definitely emotional there's no denying that, but I wouldn't call it depressing. The storyline was actually really well put together, and I found myself enthralled from the first chapter, no seriously, it took me like a day to finish! I was that enthralled, and you know that says a lot. Maddie's story was a hard one to hear, and I admit K.K. had me bawling my eyes out at just 26%. It was so hard to feel for all the pain and hardship Maddie's been through, I found myself often wondering how I would handle such grief, because it's hard not to try and contemplate. I admired her strength of character, her compassion, her bravery and really big heart. She was a well developed character, and I don't think as a reader you could really hate her, that's not to say there weren't times when she was annoying or too damn stubborn, but in the end you just have a whole new level of respect for the woman.

Her relationship with Noie was heartbreaking and beautiful all at the same time, I'm a sucker for stories with children involved. Makes me all mushy and happy. I think in their own unique way they helped heal each other a little, through their relationship you could see the fear slowly disintegrate, the trust begin to grow and the buckets of love just flourishing. It was cute, sweet and adorable as hell.

*"Changing your location doesn't necessarily mean losing your problems. They'll show up wherever you are, changing to fit the situation. But until you break them down and deal with it, there is nowhere far enough for you to run away from them."*

Oh Gabe. My dear Gabe. Where shall I even begin? Hmm...well I loved his character for starters. He was thoughtful, sweet, funny and hot! I liked his relationship with Maddie, it was a good depiction of people attempting to move on after suffering such loss in their life. There was no easy fix, and their relationship definitely had it's ups and downs, but in the end they manage to find a half way point, meeting in the middle. I liked the slow progression of their relationship, 'cause as you know Alii is not a fan of the insta-love scene, so watching theirs slowly bloom was captivating. In all honesty I was acting like a complete girl, screaming at my Kindle 'Kiss her! Kiss her now!' and other such things young girls are prone to scream.

I loved how he was with Noie, like dude could father of the year. Their scenes had me in sighing in content, and getting all mushy inside. I just wanted to hug them sooo bad, but that wasn't possible so I hugged my Kindle pushing all my happiness through to them. Yeah I know how I sound, but hey it was a good book damn it and I'll be damned if it doesn't get the appreciation it deserves.

*Everyone's past has ways of sneaking up on them. You just have to be in a place in the present that you're strong enough to deal with when your past comes to visit.*

Alas my friends, as much as I liked the book it fell short for me in certain places. It seemed at times as though K.K. was getting a little repetitive, especially where Maddie's feelings were concerned and it started to get just a teensy bit annoying. Maddie's relationship with Gabe was also a little disappointing, it all felt kind of secondary compared to Maddie's feelings. At the start it was very much involved in the story and had a lot to do with their healing, but by the end it seemed to fall apart and other things began to over shadow it. I wasn't expecting a HEA where they all ride off into the sunset, but I also wasn't expecting how it ended. There was also the freaky stuff going on with Noie, like the book was going to take a paranormal turn but then didn't and so it all felt a bit too much like coincidence.

Therefore my rating is 3 endearing stars. K.K. has a lot of potential, and her writing style is something to take notice of. I loved the story of Fort Raleigh being incorporated into the book, and I'd actually heard it before in *Supernatural*...gotta love the Winchesters! As a history buff that kinda thing makes me all tingly and intrigued...it's a historian thing. So if you're looking for a book with awesome background characters (who aren't really in the background), a town where you feel right at home and as though you've known another since forever, the most adorable 3 year old you'll have the pleasure of meeting and a hero and heroine fighting their pasts for the HEA, then look no further minions.

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## **FicCentral says**

Maddie has lost everything twice over. After experiencing almost unimaginable tragedy, she was betrayed by those she trusted most. With nothing left, she leaves, driving aimlessly south as she tries to outrun her past. What's supposed to be a quick stop in a sleepy beach town becomes a longer stay when she accepts a job at a homey cafe, befriends the locals, and meets a little girl with whom she has an amazing connection.

Gabe's life hasn't been easy, especially when it comes to love, but he's since built his entire world around his daughter Noie. Terrified of strangers for some unexplained reason, Noie surprises everyone when she immediately attaches herself to Maddie, telling everyone they're friends. While their connection brings Gabe and Maddie closer to each other, it also opens an otherworldly door to finally healing and moving on.

The ending to the story was so abrupt that I thought I'd somehow skipped a chapter. It didn't make for a bad read, but even though it implied a happily ever after, it seemed to leave some loose ends and had me wondering what would happen next. While this move was obviously intentional, it was rather disappointing after becoming so wrapped up in the characters.

Were it not for the quick drop-off of an ending, I probably would have said this book was perfect. I loved

that Noie wasn't just a replacement for what Maddie had lost, but rather a link to it. I also loved the slow build of her relationship with Gabe. But in the end, I'm not sure I'd classify it as romance first. It was more the tale of one woman beginning to heal and move on, and while the romance certainly played a part, it wasn't the main focus of the story. In any case, it's a lovely story about friendship, healing, and finding a new start, and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys something more meaningful than just another romance novel.

I received this book through IFB Tours in exchange for an honest review, but I'm far too opinionated to let a freebie influence my opinions or reviews.

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## **Elena Love says**

Maddie or Madeline had a really painful past that she can't get away from. She's still broken, unhappy and barely finds the courage to keep going.

"I wondered what that felt like, to be that happy. To have a laugh that made others almost as happy as you..."

"My sobs grew louder, trying to overpower the memories that were threatening to suffocate me."

She decided to leave it all behind... So she gets in her car and starts driving. Destination? Unknown. When she ends up in the small city of Eno, she finds a piece she never even imagined and meets some amazing people that become the family she never had. They support her, love her for who she really is and don't expect anything in return.

Then, there's Gabe. Another tortured soul who has to raise his three year old daughter by himself. Noie is a three year old angel but she's terrified of strangers so everybody's surprised when she meets Maddie and instead of freaking out, she talks to her and becomes her friend. They're brave... together.

"We're going to be brave together, okay?" I whispered.

"Okay" she whispered back.

At the beginning, Gabe doesn't trust Maddie but they end up falling for each other. But will they stop being afraid of the past and the future, and just enjoy the present?

I fell in love with Heart Breaths from the moment I started reading it. I fell in love with the characters and little Noie stole my heart. She was so sweet and adorable. I was enjoying the book so much that I didn't want to stop reading so I ended up finishing it in a day.

Maddie was a great main character. She went through so much and I loved the fact that she stayed strong. Even though she felt hopeless and missed what she lost, she was such a brave and strong character. She went through everything alone and the betrayal of her family broke her even more but she survived. She was broken and I could see it, I could feel it and it made me really sad. She went through so much and she didn't have anyone to support her.

"Sometimes I wished that all I had left was a carving on a fence post. Instead I had the scars of my

mistakes, and nightmares that haunted me while I was awake..."

Let's move on to Gabe. To tell you the truth, I connected with him as a character and Maddie's love interest but I didn't love him. I don't know why but I hated the way he treated Maddie sometimes. And he broke her heart and didn't even care to see how she was doing. I could understand the need to protect himself and his daughter but he didn't achieve anything by pushing the best thing that ever happened to him away. Maddie was broken two but he gave their relationship a chance. The only thing he did was break her heart...again.

"Turning, he walked away, shredding what was left of my heart."

"I don't know how long I lay there, letting my heart bleed..."

The secondary characters like Sam, Grandma Evelyn, Mary Elizabeth and Hannah supported Maddie and stood next to her like a true family. I really enjoyed their time together and it was obvious that they helped Maddie heal. And let's not forget about Noie who I fell in love with!

The author did an amazing job with the plot and character development. We saw both Maddie and Gabe developing as characters and starting to heal and move on with the help of each other and their loyal and dedicated friends.

"I breathed out and felt a piece from the wall around my heart crack off. I felt my heart breathe a little..."

The amount of heartache and grief Maddie had to suffer through was really hard some times and her hitting rock bottom was heartbreaking. But the way her family treated her was just awful. And I was so happy and satisfied when Grandma Evelyn and the girls put Jen, Maddie's sister in her place. I also have to admit that I cried a couple of times throughout the book. I was so sad and heartbroken for everything the characters, especially Maddie had to go through.

The ending was a bit abrupt and I felt like the author could have ended the story differently and given us hungry readers an ending where more things happened. That's my only problem which isn't a problem at all because I loved the book. The author could write a sequel or small novella giving us more details about Maddie and Gabe's happily ever after! Just saying;) )

Heart Breaths was such an inspiring and heartbreaking story about love, loss and the effect the past has on everyone's present. It was such an enjoyable and quick read and I highly recommend it. Get ready to cry a bit though. If you're an emotional person like me that is!

P.S. If you haven't heard Whiskey Lullaby, go ahead and listen to it. It was beautiful, it made me cry and I loved it as much as I loved the book itself!

"As long as your heart was breathing, there was always a chance. There was always a choice to keep going..."

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## **Novel Grounds says**

Meg's Review:

<http://novelgrounds.com/2013/12/21/he...>



|Amazon|Goodreads|4 Stars

#### Meg's Review:

When I was contacted by the author for a review of this novel I was intrigued. I get a lot of requests, but this book really stuck out. The synopsis grabbed me as well. I love a good "escape" novel. By that I mean someone needing to get out of their life and find themselves. This is exactly what Heart Breaths is. A story that tells of a heart in need.

The story takes a little bit to dive into. Not in a bad way, kinda of in that peel the layers type of way. It doesn't jump right in and throw everything at you. It introduces you to the characters and you get to meet them. Just as you get to meet new people her story unfolds as her journey continues. I Love this type of novel and I loved the twists that this one came with.

I cried in this. Beware. I warned you. Once we get into the story you get thrown into the deep end. Madeline has been through the ringer, not only once, and not only in one circumstance. Life has thrown some doozies her way. This story though, has so much going on in it. A broken woman, a man whose life is also been through the ringer and through these faults and hurt, they find love. They find a chance.

Like others have said the ending is what you make of it. There is no happily ever after, but there is a chance for you to picture it. This is a story of life, love, and the hurt that we sometimes endure in the process. I felt the ending fit it perfectly.

Read it.

#### Synopsis:

After a tragedy nearly ripped 21 year old Madeline Darlington-Gray's life in half, she's spent the past three years trying to put the pieces back together. But pieces never just fit back together, and when she's betrayed by those she trusts, everything crumbles. Shoving everything she owns into the trunk of her car, Maddie drives south, trying to run from her past.

Eno, North Carolina seems like the perfect place to hide. Working at a local café is light years from Maddie's Manhattan existence and for the first time in a while, she's finding her family. There's Grandma, the café owner; Samantha, the hairstylist next door with plans to make Maddie's life unsuck and Noie, the three year old girl who's stolen Maddie's heart.

And then there's Gabriel Mendez, Noie's single dad. He's intrigued Maddie since the first time she met him, and while he has his own secrets, he wants more from her than just friendship. But the past never stays past, and all too soon, Maddie realizes she can't hide from hers. If she can't put the pieces of her shattered life together this time, she'll have no hope for a future.

A future she desperately wants.

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### Gina Denny says

I'm one of the lucky people who got to read this book first. So, first of all, I need to say: Neener, neener, neener.

Second, I need to say this book is adorable. Full of characters that spring to life, a heart breaking story, and a little girl who will make you smile all day long.

This is another one of those new-fangled NA novels, and it breaks from the conventional "sexed-up YA" story and goes into new territory.

**PARENTAL ADVISORIES:**

Violence 1/5: Brief, non-graphic conversations about death and violence.

Sex 2/5: Kissing, making out, some "oh boy I wonder what he looks like naked"

Language 3/5: A good smattering of PG level curse words throughout.

Substance Abuses 1/5: I don't remember specifically, but I feel like they spent a scene or two at a bar, but no major issues.

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**Patrycja says**

I really enjoyed reading it, but I felt the ending was rushed and it left me unsatisfied.

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**Jennifer says**

"Maddie, when there are hearts involved, there's always the risk of getting hurt. That's just what happens."

"Everyone's past has ways of sneaking up on them. You just have to be in a place in the present that you're strong enough to deal with when your past comes to visit."

"Sometimes it wouldn't work out the way you wanted it to--sometimes crashing and burning was the inevitable end. But even then, there was always that glimmer of possibility hiding. As long as your heart was breathing, there was always a chance. There was always the choice to keep going."

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**Fatmah says**

I liked the book very much. Just wished the ending wasn't so rushed for the reason that there needed to be a little more to the story instead of just ending. Because it ended the way it did I would think there would be a sequel but I don't think there will be. But all in all it was a great 'finding yourself' kind of book.

3.75-4 stars

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**Chu says**

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

This one was of those books...

I didn't expect to LOVE this novel SOOOOOOOO MUCH!

Let me start off by listing all those **terrible characters** in this book that had made me cry:

The 3-year old Noie

Grandma Evelyn

And the girls.

### **Kidding!**

But they did make me cry. Imagine HOW can a 3-year old burst your bubble hard enough for you to shed tears? I can't imagine as well, until I read this novel.

One tragedy to the next – that's how Madeline Darlington-Gray's life had been, and she was just 21 years old. She was lost, broken and hurt. She had lost someone who is dearly close to her, it didn't help when she was betrayed by someone she trusted the most. She just wanted to walk away from it all. She took her car, drove away, threw her mobile phone in the middle of nowhere and ran away from her past.

***Changing your location doesn't necessarily mean losing your problems. They'll show up wherever you are, changing to fit the situation. But until you break them down and deal with it, there is nowhere far enough for you to run away from them.***

She ended up in Eno, North Carolina. The perfect place to hide, not just because the population was small, nor the beautiful beach that was just nearby – but this was something way out of her ordinary mundane past. She unexpectedly found work in a café as a waitress, a place to live and some new friends.

There was Noie – yes, yes, the three year old who made me cry! But she was just SOOOOO adorable. She likes pink, had an awful stranger's anxiety and an imaginary friend named, Devi. Maddy was the only stranger she wasn't afraid of. Maddy and Noie's life is much more intertwined that they would have thought. There's Grandma – who had a surprise of her own. She own's the café. I love her, she's cool, she's hip and sensitive. She knew exactly what Maddy needed, space, and when the time came, a shoulder to cry on. She didn't push, prodded, she allowed Maddy to set the tone of their relationship. Of course, there's Sam – the lively, energetic and persuasive friend who constantly push her out of her comfort zone. Then of course, there's Gabe. The single father who had her heart palpitating the first time she saw him. Both of them had troubled past, they have enough baggage already. They must settle with their past in order for them to find peace in the present.

I love, I love, I love this book!!! It was an unexpected surprise for me. It started out with so much pain, and I was glad to join Maddy in her journey towards healing. Fate had perhaps pushed her towards Eno. It didn't just helped her heal and finally got the peace of mind she was desperately searching but she also found new

friends, new family and perhaps, a new love...

This was not just a story about love, second chances, and moving on – this story is so much more... It had the hair on my arms rose on its rather surprising twists that had really caught me off guard. They were more connected that I can possibly imagine. I was glued from the first page, until the very final one – the moment I was at the end – I was surprised. Again, K.K. Hendin gave me an unexpected ending, but nevertheless, over all, this was an amazing work and I would love to read more from this author!

**Here's something for KK Hendin...**

**AND...**

*Everyone's past has ways of sneaking up on them. You just have to be in a place in the present that you're strong enough to deal with when your past comes to visit.*

★ARC Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.★

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**Jennifer says**

*\*A review copy was provided by author in exchange for an honest review\**

Amazon Buy Link--->> Heart Breaths

**~~ 4 Emotional Stars ~~**

I want to start by saying thank you to KK Hendin for letting me read and review her book Heart Breaths. I have had this book on my kindle for awhile and I am kicking myself for not getting to this book sooner. This was such an enjoyable book!! This was so much more than a love story. The love story of this book actually takes a back seat to the main theme of the story and that is forgiveness and learning to live again and opening your heart again and letting love in. I thought the writing of this story was wonderful...it flowed smoothly and the pace was great. I thought the storyline and characters were developed very well. We were given the right amount of information to feel the story was complete, but we weren't overwhelmed with information that would normally make the story drag. The only real negative I have about this book would be the ending. I thought it was kind of abrupt. It has a happy ending but I just felt that we could've gotten more when it came to Maddie and Gabe. I will say that I truly believe that this book was more about the story and journey that Maddie and Gabe took, then it was about the HEA. Like I said the love story between Maddie and Gabe was truly not the main focus of the story.

It is very rare that I fall in love with all the characters in a book. But KK Hendin has created such a wonderful cast of characters in this book...I loved almost all of them. (Of course you can't have a story without the bad characters...Diane and Jen) We meet Maddie, Gabe, Noie (Gabe's Daughter), Grandma Evelyn, Sam (Gabe's sister), Hannah (Sam's friend), and Mary Elizabeth (Sam's friend)...plus a few more in this story and each of the characters were great...each in their own way. After reading this story it almost makes me wish I lived in Eno North Carolina (even though it doesn't exist) This town was just a small home town that Maddie stumbled upon, when running away from her family in New York. What Maddie found here was people who would do anything to protect the people they love. I love how the author was able to suck you in and make you feel like you were a part of this wonderful group of friends and town. I loved watching Maddie grow as the story continued....I really think she still has a long way to go, but she is definitely going in the right direction. I truly believe everyone should read this book and meet this wonderful cast of characters. They will have you laughing, crying, yelling and even a little bit of swooning.

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a love story, but that is more than that. This book is truly a journey of one person who finds herself along the way. It's a story about how you can still love people who aren't with us anymore, but still open our hearts to let new love come in. This is an emotional story, so you will want some tissues while you read it. I believe this book is a standalone, but with the way it ended and some of the things that weren't made clear...I could see a future book...maybe about other characters or even more about Gabe and Maddie.

For more reviews go to [Book Bitches Blog](#)

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### Wendy Darling says

[  
-- car accident that killed her boyfriend and child  
-- being in the car with them and surviving  
-- snobby rich parents who hated that boyfriend because he was poor and Indian  
-- her family pretending that the accident was just her hallucinating, so they could save face  
-- her being pressured into dating the "right" rich boy  
-  
]

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### Michelle says

I had not heard of the author or this book prior to being contacted regarding a review. After a quick visit to goodreads to find out more about the book, and also get a look at the breathtaking cover, I replied with a 'yes please' and soon found myself downloading **Heart Breaths** onto my iPad.

The beginning of **Heart Breaths** keeps things vague, the protagonist Madeline is running from something, with sporadic thoughts of traumatic event, and hints about something she wants to forget. It's not until that she settles in Eno that we start to discover what she is running from.

While it took a while to find out what was going on, it took no time at all to fall into the pages of **Heart Breaths**. Experiencing the emotions that Madeline is going through makes it easy to connect to her, and while I have not experienced what she has, my heart broke for her. As she begins to settle and get to know

her new 'neighbours' in this small town I felt happier for her. When we meet Noie my heart melted, she is such a sweet little girl and I love how much she took to Madeline, especially when we see her usual reaction to strangers.

**Heart Breaths** was a surprise read, while the synopsis gives us basic information, there is so much going on under the surface of it all and I love how seamlessly it weaves together to make this a unique story. **Heart Breaths** deals with love and heart breaking loss, about learning how to deal with your past but also find a way to live in your future, in your here and now. It's about not forgetting where you have come from, but using that to make a better person, using it like a building block, a small stepping stone on the path you want to take and to be the person you want to be. Seeing that wrote down sounds easy, but it's a struggle not only for Madeline, but also for Gabe, Noie's Dad.

The friendships Madeline has made with Sam, Mary Elizabeth and Sam are strong, and seeing how these girls have accepted Madeline into their group, but also how they all have each other's backs makes it easier for Madeline, but also shows her what a real family does for you, blood related or not.

**Heart Breaths** had twists that I didn't expect but they were very fitting to the story itself. I read **Heart Breaths** faster than I expected to, and while it didn't have a confirmation of 'this is how it ends', it is left open for you to picture what you want to happen. I laughed, cried, and cheered the characters. K.K Hendin has a way of drawing you into the story and really making you feel part of it.

After getting the links for the author info, I also discovered that K.K. Hendin has possibly one of the funniest profiles I have ever seen.

KK Hendin's real life ambition is to become a pink fluffy unicorn who dances with rainbows. But the schooling for that is all sorts of complicated, so until that gets sorted out, she'll just write. Preferably things with angst and love. And things that require chocolate.

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## Rebecca McNutt says

This book was an amazing story about starting over and making amends with the past. It had one or two typos/grammatical errors here and there, but otherwise it was really well-written.

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## Calatasde says

First I want to say, God knows how much I liked Noie! She's just so adorable! I want to hug her so tight :( I wish she was real and she was here with me so I could hug...

Noie besides, I love Madeline most.

If there was no character but Maddie I would love to read that book too. But with these characters I love it too.

All I wanted to do was drive— drive until my tires ran flat, get a new pair, and keep going. Drive until I couldn't drive anymore, until the allure of wherever I was became stronger than the urge to bury my head in the sand and never, ever come out. Far enough away that my memories would all magically fade away into a

bizarre kind of nostalgia, the kind that only comes from knowing how bad things sucked.

All Madeline want is a fresh start.. There's a new town,new neighbors,a little cute child,granny and a handsome hot single dad.

Dear God, he was beautiful. Tall, dark, with tousled brown hair and a five o'clock shadow, in a button-down and slacks, he stood towering over his daughter. I could see somewhat of a resemblance between the two of them— they both had the same startling green eyes.

This is really a unique read, that had me amazed. I haven't read anything like this, and I felt Maddie's sadness and I was curious to know who or what had hurt her and if she would be able to recover.I love the paranormal touch of the book.It's create a curiosity that wondered what's going to happen in the next page. You can feel Maddie's heartbreak and hope that you'll love and trust again. You know what? I don't know if I can explain but I really understand Maddie's trust problems.I love the writing and idea of the book. This is The author's debut novel and I think she succeeded to creating a great book.

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