



Come Back to Texas

K.K. Hendin

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Everyone thought we'd be the ones who made it through high school. The ones who'd get married and stay married forever. The example of how young love can work.

We thought so, too.

Too bad life had other plans.

It's been three years since Hayley and Nate broke each other's hearts. Three years, and a lot has changed. Hayley's a freshman in Bushwick University, and the only things keeping her sane are stress baking, and her a cappella group, Twelve Beats in a Bar.

Nate's a Marine, stationed in Afghanistan. The only thing that's keeping him sane is the last picture he has of him and Hayley, and the hope that maybe when the hell of deployment is over, he can find her again and apologize.

One explosion will change everything.

When a bomb kills all of Nate's unit, leaving him missing a leg and eyesight in one eye, he's sent back home to Texas, where he loved Hayley more than he could possibly imagine ever loving anyone else.

With seemingly endless amounts of free time and needing something to distract himself, Nate starts making YouTube videos, imploring Hayley to come back to him, and come back to Texas.

Hayley's life is wrapped around the Beats, making sure she doesn't flunk out of biology class, and babysitting Ohio's smallest monster, Brandon. She doesn't want to admit it, but she misses Nate more than anything.

It's too bad she doesn't know just how much he misses her, too...

Come Back to Texas Details

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From Reader Review Come Back to Texas for online ebook

Jenn says

It took me a little while to get into reading 'Come Back to Texas', but in the end I am glad I saw it through. For this book being the first in the series, I felt like something was missing (an introduction, a prelude, a little background history, something). It just seemed like the story-line just jumped right in, even some description of The Beats would have helped. Another thing I found confusing was the blank chapters for Nate. They are supposed to be there, keep reading and it will all come together.

With all of that being said, I would like to see what is yet to come for Nate and Hailey. I have to admit, being from Ohio I loved that part of the book took place here and the references that were used. I have the utmost respect for our service men and woman and enjoyed reading about a marine and things he had to overcome, this is something that happens so much more than people seem to want to acknowledge.

*I received this book in exchange for my honest review.

*Review done for Kylie's Fiction Addiction

Beth says

Click banner to enter giveaway post.

Blitz-wide giveaway

Three winners, each one gets their choice of any two signed copies of K.K. Hendin's books (Heart Breaths, Only The Good Die Young, Come Back To Texas) and a guarantee of an ARC of the second book in the TBIAB series when it's available.

Open US only; ends September 1st

Elien says

This review and more on So Bookalicious

Hayley and Nate were high school sweethearts. But like many relationships that started in high school they didn't last. Three years after their brutal break up Hayley is starting college. A fresh new start that is supposed to keep her mind from thinking of Nate. Nothing has ever seemed more impossible than that. Is there a chance that Nate still misses her as much as she misses him, even after three years? Or is it finally time to move on?

Hayley was a great and wonderful girl. She had this amazing sense of humor. But her past was keeping her back. It bothered me a little that she hadn't really tried to move on after she and Nate broke up. It had been three years! I get that she still missed him in some ways but it held her back all this time. Near the end so was finally doing better probably because she talked about it to her friends, who are btw amazing. Hayley

finally accepted that she didn't have to do everything alone, that she had friends and family that wanted to help her and wanted her to be happy.

I really liked Nate it was clear that he had a difficult upbringing. I mean his mom literally dumped him by his grandmother and never looked back. He made some wrong decisions in the past but it was clear that he was trying to make up for them. He really grew as a character during this book and I really loved that. But I kind of missed that we didn't really get to know his whole background, I have a feeling that there is so much more about him than that we were told now.

One of the great things about this book was the flashbacks. They showed how Nate and Hayley met, how their relationship grew and how it abruptly ended. It did give me a better understanding of their feelings and why they made those certain decisions in their lives. We also get to see the present time where Nate and Hayley are separate and are living completely different lives. I really liked the alternations between the past and the present. The ending of this book was really sweet but it didn't really feel to me like an ending. It more felt like a beginning so I'm curious about the novella that Hendin has written.

Overall I really enjoyed this book. It was an easy and quick read. The book was heartbreakingly sweet at certain points but also so sweet with Nate and his videos for Hayley. I can't wait to find out how their story continues!

Jackie (No Bent Spines) says

4.5 Stars

Find more reviews on [No Bent Spines](#)

First off, I'd like to say that I'm from Texas, but not the small town- everybody knows everyone- complete lack of secrets that our lovely main characters are from. I mean Hayley and Nate's town doesn't even have 1000 people. My high school has more than that. I think. . . yeah it does. But, I've heard the ask for a coke then they ask what kind and then you (or I) say Dr. Pepper. I call my friends honey pie or sweet pea and all that, sometimes affectionately, sometimes in a manner that has them knowing that what they just said was rather idiotic. I also listen to some country music. And it's really where you get the ice tea at that makes all the difference. The sky is prettier here (or at least where I am) and it does seem to go on forever. I think the everyone being nice and smiling at strangers in more in where my friends from (Louisiana) or so I've heard. I do have a pair of seriously sweet boots, I know how to ride a horse, but I don't own a gun. I know; how shocking. Now that all that jazz is out of the way, let's get to the book.

This book had me humming country songs all the way home on that ten hour car ride. Especially Jolene and Stealing Cinderella. Oh, right in the feels, y'all. Right. In. The. Feels. Something about this book, these characters, the whole off to college and in the military, losing and loving and finding yourself, really hit home with me. Come Back to Texas has something in it that has me feeling all warm and fuzzy and hopeful. The characters who help the book reach such heights? Nate and Hayley.

Nate is just, he just so. Nate is all kinds of screwed up and he has this, Oh lordy, I don't even know how to describe him. I can't say that Hayley fixes all this problems (because she doesn't) and I can't say that he makes Hayley a better person (because he doesn't) but I can say that he really does try when it comes to her. And he really does love her. If that last picture and the "Come Back to Texas" YouTube campaign doesn't say much other than that. His childhood and Afghanistan and leaving Hayley messed him up.

Hayley and the Beats. Twelve Beats in a Bar. Or in a Hallway. They're sisters. The non-blood relative kind. She got real lucky with those college friends of hers. They're lucky to have her. I really want to try those pies she's so famous for. Just-lemon? I think yes. She really is bigger than the 600-something town she comes from. She's meant for more. But it's really sweet, the town she comes from, the place that she comes from.

Things I Wish Were In There a Bit More but Weren't

- I wish that there was more small-town feel about her small town. I mean, yes, it was a relatively poor atmosphere (from the trailer park), and that does say something for the community. I wish we got more interaction with the actual community, the people. I think it would have developed Hayley's character a little bit more since she has been there her whole life.
- I wish we got to know the other beats a little bit better. I didn't really get to know them that much. They seemed nice from what I gathered.
- I wish we got a few more videos. I freaking LOVED those. I mean, how sweet. How. SWWWWEET. Can you tell I though Nate was just a sweetie pie in general? Even if he really freaking messed up. I personally would have slapped him when I saw him. Even if the videos melted my not-so-ice-cold heart.

So yeah. Go forth and read. It was lovely. And now I must read all her books. All of them.

Happy reading

Jackie

Kimberly (Kimmy Loves to Read) says

ARC given in exchange for an honest review.

I liked this book, but it took me a little while to get into it. It takes place in the present, but we are given flashbacks to tell us the story of how Nate and Hayley became a couple. So the story jumps around and at first it wasn't very obvious when we were getting a flashback. I found it to be a bit confusing, but once I caught on to how the author was using the flashback plot device the book because easier to read.

"Good luck not regretting the stupid shit you've done."

Those are the last words Hayley says to Nate. They dated when they were in high school, but broke up when he enlisted into the Marines. It was a very bad break up and they haven't spoken to each other since. It's almost 4 years later and Hayley is now a freshman in college. She is trying she is making a life for herself, but has never really gotten over Nate. Hayley has a supportive roommate and a fantastic group of friend, but she becomes increasingly distracted by thoughts of him and it begins to affect her everyday life.

Meanwhile, Nate has never gotten over Hayley. He frequently thinks of her while he is deployed and even keeps a picture of the two of them with him at all times. After he gets hurt, starts to make videos asking Hayley to "come back to Texas." He starts them as something to do because he is in the hospital and is bored out of his mind. The videos become a kind of therapy for him and people start to watch them, like a lot of people. Nate also starts to get the people he knows and meets along the way to add in their two cents.

Here's the thing...while I really liked the videos Nate made for Hayley, I just wish she had seen them sooner. And if they were such a hit on YouTube and according to Hayley's roommate, Facebook, why didn't they come into play sooner. Hayley told her friends about Nate so they could have easily put two and two

together. Youths! Aren't they supposed to be good with this stuff? It just kind of felt like a lost opportunity, but they ultimately served their purpose, so i guess that is something.

I really liked Nate and Hayley as a couple. The way they meet is cute and it isn't long until they are spending almost all of their time together. Despite Nate being a few years old than Hayley, the two of them have a great connection and are super comfortable with each other. They have a wonderful relationship, until they don't. After Nate's grandmother passes away things deteriorate quite rapidly. This leads to Hayley saying the quote above, the aforementioned bad break up and Nate leaving for the Marines. Cut to the present and where the book starts.

I look forward to reading the companion novella to this one. I hope that Hayley and Nate are able to move forward and work out their issues. It's clear they still love each other and whether or not they will get back together will depend on a lot of things. They are both older and SO MUCH has happened while they were apart.

FicCentral says

Nate and Hayley fell apart when he headed off to the military and then war, and while they've never really gotten past their feelings for each other, they've both moved on with their lives. She's off at college, making friends and music with her a capella group, and hiding away her residual love for Nate. Nate, on the other hand, is a world away, simply trying to survive in a war zone and hoping that one day he'll be deserving of the girl he left behind.

But... For a book billed as romance, there really wasn't much happening in that department. While Nate spends his time uploading videos about his feelings for Hayley, she's simply moving along with her life, completely unaware of his heart being bared online. In fact, aside from a few flashbacks, the two have zero communication and don't even speak directly to each other until the very end of the book.

The Verdict: If I'm being perfectly honest, I have to say I got bored. The writing was good, and the story was interesting, but instead of moving forward, it all seemed to grow stagnant. I've read plenty of good stories in which the two destined characters lived rather separate lives for a good part of the story, but never for 99% of it. Nate's video diaries, in which he professed his love for Hayley and begged her to come back to Texas were sweet, and I kept waiting for her to notice as they went viral. But she was completely oblivious, and her part of the story (which was the bulk of the book) was simply a telling of her day to day life after Nate, interspersed with little flashbacks of their high school romance. I was tempted to start skipping chapters in the hope of stumbling across the one where they finally reconnected.

Come Back to Texas is the story of a college student not over her high school boyfriend, and the soldier he became realizing he'd do just about anything to have her back, but in many ways, that's all it is. She remembers their being together while he spends his days trying to get her attention on YouTube and convince her to move back to Texas where he's starting over after having been injured at war. Their memories of each other and enduring love are certainly sweet, but it's all about their path to reconnecting, and the story rather abruptly ends once they're reunited. Perhaps if it hadn't been billed as romance, I would not have been so disappointed, but I feel like I read an entire book of filler for just a hint of future romance in the last few pages.

***FicCentral received this book from Xpresso Book Tours for free in exchange for an honest review. Even so, we're far too opinionated to let a freebie influence our thoughts or the contents of the reviews we post here.

Kaitlin says

Source: I received an e-arc of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I DNFed *Come Back to Texas* because I wasn't enjoying reading it. There was something about it that annoyed me. I wasn't a fan of the dialogue and the story wasn't very interesting to me, so maybe that was it. Maybe I just wasn't in the mood to read a contemporary like this one. I just . . . didn't like what I read very much. This book wasn't for me.

Heather / Obsessed With Myshelf says

This book is adorably romantic. i.e. it caused streams of tears to flow down my cheeks. thankfully my dog doesn't judge.

Nate's a Marine who suffers a debilitating injury while on tour in Afghanistan. If that wasn't enough to kill me (my husband is a former Marine), he starts making YouTube videos while in rehab to try to reach out to his high school love, Hayley. They broke up after a mutual butting of heads and a terrible set of events that left each of them desperate for change – unfortunately they each had a different idea of what was to change....then Nate was shipped out, Hayley graduated, and the two of them physically drifted apart.

But not emotionally. never. Without knowing it, they each clung to the love they held for each other even though they weren't sure the feelings were reciprocated.

Hayley graduates and goes to college. That girl works HER ASS OFF. I have to hand it to her – she is extremely motivated to not become a permanent fixture in her hometown and is willing to deal with the worst of children to make money. BLESS HER HEART. She's part of an amazing a cappella group of girls who are super supportive. I loved them.

The book flips back and forth between present day and the love story between Hayley and Nate. The transitions are well done and I never felt unsure as to what time period I was in. I loved learning the sweet things that they did for each other, the warm and caring words, the loving touches. When I say this book is adorable, I really mean it.

There's nothing graphic in here – sorry, kids. But there's plenty of emotion to see you through to the end. Definitely enjoyed this one!

[I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review]

This review looks prettier on my blog: <http://obsessedwithmyshelf.com/2015/0...>

Rachel says

3.5 out of 5 stars

Something about Come Back to Texas just called my name. Maybe it's the Southern setting--though I've always felt like Texas is rather a different kind of Southern than my good ole' Mississippi (Maybe I'm wrong! Heck, all I've seen of Texas is the Dallas/Fort Worth airport.)--or maybe it's the promise of a happy ending that I can't resist, but it was simply one of those books that got me excited.

Come Back to Texas is not the speediest of books, when it comes to plot--though it did feel shorter than its near 300 pages. For both Nate and Hayley, life is just about getting through the day. It's much more character-driven and introspective, which is fine for some of us and not as fine for others--just depending on who you are. For me, that's enjoyable. Not only do we see Hayley struggle with leaving her small town for a university many times its size, but Nate's whole days are filled with rehab and finding ways to pass time. This felt largely organic and lets you get to know the characters.

What I wish I saw was a bit more development of the Beats--not the characters themselves, who I got a good hold of--but what they did. It felt like Hayley's life was spent flitting back and forth between things and never spent enough time in one thing. Focusing on the Beats, who are supposed to be the kind of center of the series, would've felt better. There were also a couple of things that weren't quite correct, such as a mention of the "Mason-Dixie" line, instead of the Mason-Dixon line, that were such small things but so glaring to me. Not much of a detraction, but still something that pulled me out of the reading experience.

Even so, I quite enjoyed Come Back to Texas, as I fully expected to. It's filled with sweet moments between Nate and Hayley, and the ending is just so rewarding. I'll definitely be revisiting Nate and Hayley in A Different Kind of Fine and the other Beats in the rest of the series.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

You can find this review and many more fun things on my blog: Paper Cuts.

Olivia-Savannah Roach says

This review can originally be found on Olivia's Catastrophe: <http://olivia-savannah.blogspot.nl/20...>

Thank you to the Xpresso Book Tours for the review copy

I think whether or not you like this book really depends on what kind of reader you are. Being a character driven reader, I know this is something I would love. But some other readers may find it draggy.

I loved Hayley as the main character. I loved her voice and how it really shone through Hendin's writing. I thought her character was awesome and even though she was having a hard time getting over Nate, she was trying her best. It wasn't easy being the poor girl who finally had a chance to break out of the ways of her family – because there was a lot of pressure on her to do well. And even though she wanted to do well, it was hard for her to focus on much when her heart was still breaking.

Then we have Twelve Beats in a Bar, and they are an a Capella group who sing together and found each other at the university. Even though they weren't the main focus of the novel I liked all the secondary characters here. They were each unique and it was easy to see this. I think that future books will be told from one of the other girl's perspective and I would very much like that idea. Oh, and one of the girls is called Olivia so this book obviously gets bonus points for that.

When it comes to plot it was mostly about the breakup. We got to see flashbacks from the start of their relationship until the end, and the reasons which led to the break up gradually become clearer. And we're also seeing the present tense where Hayley and Nate are separate. And I will tell you, in the beginning of the book Hendin uses the chapters to build suspense. You will see what I mean if you read it ;) There isn't much of a plot apart from the love story, so if you don't like no plot twists or stories that drag a little, this might not be for you.

Nate was a guy I liked. In the first few chapters we see him he swears far too much, and that put me off a little. But he grew on me, I guess ^^ The themes in this book are about death, war and love. I thought Hendin did a great job with the theme of death most of all. Seeing as I myself have lost someone close to me I could easily relate.

I am looking forward to the novella which tells Nate's war story in more depth!

MLOW says

I got this as part of the Up All Night collection

Kirke says

3.5 stars

Hayley and Nate were high school sweethearts, but when he turned eighteen he enlisted and left her behind. That was three years ago and they haven't talked since. Hayley is now starting college, a fresh start and a whole lot of new friends. While managing her classes and work isn't easy, it is a great distraction from all her thoughts.

It's been three years, but it's very clear Hayley hasn't moved on at all or hasn't even tried to. Not just that, it seems more time passes the worse it becomes. Now I understand she loved and might miss him, though for me it was at times a bit too much. They were together for one year, and in the way they broke up it's clear they still loved each other. It's rather the fact that Hayley hasn't even really tried, that mostly bugged. As a person I think she's pretty wonderful and a great girl, with an amazing sense of humor. So while that whole connection with Nate is very sweet, I felt it was holding her back from living for the past three years.

Nate hasn't had much time to think about Hayley. His upbringing was very unloving and when that last person left, he turned into an angry jerk. No idea what to do with all those feelings, he takes it out on the wrong person. Enlisting might have been part of his salvation, but it was never complete without Hayley. When getting back state side and as the only still living member of his unit, this gets him thinking about and mostly about Hayley. Realizing he made a huge mistake, he sets on to get her back to Texas, sort of. Instead

of just trying to call her or her parents, he starts making this online video's convincing her to come back to Texas and to him.

While the idea of that was certainly swoon worthy, it kind of missed as there was no way in knowing that she was seeing these video's. I did like the flashbacks of how they met and the different moments in their relationship that led them to this point. It did give me a better understanding of their feelings, though that doesn't mean I always fully agreed with their action.

To me this was a story that very much focused on the past. A sweet blooming relationship and we got to see where it went wrong and the aftermath. It definitely had a nostalgic feeling to it. The ending was again very sweet, but it felt more like a beginning to me than an end. Therefor I am curious about the novella that's coming out as I hope it tells us about new beginnings.

I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review

Kelly says

Hayley and Nate are two souls who seem to need each other no matter the time, the hurt, or the stupid mistakes they both made. It is about second chances and it is about healing and righting the wrongs you make as teenagers.

Hayley lives in a small town in Texas. She lives in a trailer home. She is quiet and kind. One day, Nate moves in the house next door. When Nate and Hayley meet they forge a strong bond. But Nate is not from a loving family and when the only relative that was left who kind of loved him died, a part of Nate died too and he didn't know how to handle it.

Nate enlists in the Marines and Hayley gets out of Texas to go to college. Hayley tries to move on for three years without anything from Nate. She is part of an Acepella band of girls and they are everything to Hayley. But they notice she isn't happy about something and eventually they get out of her what is wrong and that she is missing Nate terribly.

Nate is also missing Hayley, something fierce, and wants her back. But he is in Afghanistan and when he is the lone survivor from his unit after an explosion he slowly comes back to life without part of his leg and one eye that sort of works. He has carried with him a picture of the two of them throughout Afghanistan. As he goes through rehab, he starts making you tube videos that he hopes Hayley would see. They become very popular but Hayley doesn't yet see them. He puts out there reasons she should come home to Texas. He interviews various people (asking them why she should come back to Texas) that range from rehab to a homeless man on the street and he posts their answers. Dang, that is sooooooo sweet and what girl wouldn't want someone doing all that for her!??

As time moves toward Christmas where Hayley will go home and when Nate may get to go home too, what will they do?

I am so glad she wrote a follow up of their story (which I just found out while posting this). Because it would really be hard to just move on with your life after all Nate has been through. And K K Hendin wrote...

So, when I first started writing COME BACK TO TEXAS, I had no intention of writing a sequel. It was going to be one book, and that was it. But the more I wrote, the more I realized that Hayley and Nate's story couldn't possibly fit into just one book.

And then I curled up in a corner and cried because direct sequels are scary, man. They are super scary.

But I love Hayley and Nate, and I love their story, and so off I went to finish their story. Which involves a bit more heartbreak and drama, because Happily Ever After is never as simple as we want it to be, is it?

...

You can add ADKOF to your Goodreads TBR right [HERE](#)- and remember, for every add, I donate more money to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Tina Lynne says

Come Back to Texas is a sweet and emotional story of two high school loves that allowed life to get in the way and their journey back to each other. This story focuses on our two main characters, Hayley and Nate, who met in high school and fell in love deeply. This story takes us through the highs and lows of their relationship, both in the past and the present.

I loved how this story would bounce back and forth from Hayley's POV and Nate's POV. It was interesting to see where they are in the present and where their minds wander to in the past. Hayley is a freshman in college, trying to make ends meet and leave her past behind, but it seems like moving away from home and her memories has brought Nate to her mind more than ever. Her emotions are so frazzled from her new environment, new life, and old pain. Nate is serving in the Marines in Afghanistan and doing anything he can to survive and come back for Hayley, to right the wrongs and tell her that he loves her.

One of my favorite parts about this story is the way that the story will bounce from present to past. It could be from a triggered memory or just an active train of thought and one moment we are in the present and transported to the past. These moments in the past allow the reader to see their young love and how deep their connection was, to understand their past relationship, and the heartache and drama that contributed to who they are today.

In this story, we see a lot of secondary characters. At first it was hard to keep up with everyone. You have all the people from Leland, Texas, and then at college with Hayley, including her a capella group, teachers, and those she works with, as well as Nate's military friends and the many hospital staff members that he interacts with. It was hard to keep everyone straight (especially from Hayley's a capella group) for a while but once the story began to progress it was easy to pick out the different people based on their personalities and story placement. Each character plays a role in this story that is important and meaningful to our two main characters, giving this story a full and vibrant cast of characters.

The YouTube videos from Nate to Hayley made this story stand out among the military romances you find today. It added a level of cultural relativity and the videos themselves are sweet, emotional, and at times you cannot help but smile. I loved the intensity of what is going on and the moment when Hayley finds the videos, your heart has a moment of peace followed by the anxiety to see where things go.

This story is sweet, heartfelt, and raw. It spans the course of a year, allowing the story to be paced and not rushed. You will find yourself cheering on Nate and wondering when they will finally be reunited! KK

Hendin did a great job of adding some new flair to the military romance and bringing to light some hard moments and questions through the themes she presented!

Southern Belle Book Blog says

I am reviewing both Come Back to Texas and A Different Kind of Fine at the same time. I'm going to write one big review, reviewing both but I needed to get a little bit down now.

I just finished Come Back to Texas and I have to say its amazing. I love the way KK Hendin wrote it. Its a mix of both Hayley and Nate's POVs and its going back and forth between present and past. I love seeing them in the past and seeing how their relationship began. And I love seeing where they are at now. I also love seeing how both Hayley and Nate are doing in the present. Neither one is in the best place but you can see them working with what they've got. In many ways this book is heartbreaking. Young love and the fall of their relationship. And then the present which is 3 years later. So much has changed but so much has stayed the same. I wasn't sure about this book in the beginning. I really wasn't. But then, I got into it and I just couldn't put it down. And now I can't wait to read A Different Kind of Fine.

~Katie
