



## Rock and a Hard Place

*Andrea Bramhall*

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Expert mountain climber Jayden Harris has the world at feet until an avalanche at Everest base camp sweeps it all out from under her. She wants nothing more to do with the mountains, and turns her back on it all.

Rhian Phillips is a successful London marketing executive who has the chance of a lifetime fall in her lap.

She's sent to produce a reality TV series on competitive climbers, while showcasing the stunning beauty of a Patagonian glacier and the Cerro Fitz Roy range.

An accident brings Jayden and Rhian together, and outside pressures keep them at each other's sides. When you're stuck between a rock and a hard place eventually something has to give. The one thing they never counted on was them both wanting to stay together.

A lesbian romance about pushing onwards and defying expectations.

100,000 words

lesbian romance · mountain climbing · Patagonia · reality TV series

## Rock and a Hard Place Details

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Author : Andrea Bramhall

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## **From Reader Review Rock and a Hard Place for online ebook**

### **Anja says**

Wow, what a ride, or more what a climb ;) I loved this book from the beginning. Adventures, mountains, competition, great story. Great characters!

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### **Carrie says**

Jayden is a master rock climber that shuns the mountains after a terrible accident.

Rhian works for her stepmom in an advertising firm. They need a guide and host for a new reality TV show to market a major outdoors brand.

Personalities collide. Crazy things happen. Some intense mountain scenarios are experienced. Fake romances are established to control the media.

I really liked this one. It was more than just a romance. There were real family conflicts that I was invested in as well

Of course, it was extremely well written. That is what you can expect from this author.

4 stars. I feel like Carlos just vanished from the story. And I kind of wanted him to play a part toward the end.

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### **Sandra says**

A great novel with a slow burning romance in an adventurous surrounding.

Bramhall describes the places and beautiful landscapes, where the novel takes place, very detailed and pictorial. You want to go there, to see it by yourself. I'm not a climber but I love very much to be in the nature.

I loved both main characters from the beginning. When Rhian and Jayden met for the first time, they both are still struggling with some issues from the past. For that they start on the wrong foot to work together.

Jayden has to overcome her demons from a disastrous avalanche on a trip to Mount Everest. Can she trust herself and her abilities to keep the other climbers as safe as possible? And also will she take the risk to lose her heart again?

Since her father throws her out of his life, Rhian has to overcome the pain and anger of the rejection and starts to trust other people again. But sometimes that's easier said than done. Can she trust her feelings or are the doubts stronger?

Both are fighting with insecurities and that leads to misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Sometimes

you want to shake them. But as it's in the real world, people don't always say what they really thinking or feeling.

And I also liked very much the secondary characters. They were very important for the storyline, to keep up the tension for the competition and the interaction between the characters. I'm not a fan of reality tv shows, but maybe this one I would watch.

The romance is slow burning, but this makes her more believable. I was impressed of Bramhalls ability to bring the feelings and struggles between the pages. There was not much sex, but there was a beautiful and hot love scene.

I recommend this book for everybody who loves aromance in a breathtaking and competitive surrounding with people who get to your heart.

My rating 4,5 stars

Thanks to Ylva for receiving an ARC for a honest review.

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### **susan says**

#### **Hmmmm.....**

I love books where the storyline is about climbing a mountain. This was different from some I have read and I liked that. I like the characters of Rhian and Jayden two women deAling with issues. The secondary characters where great. Rachel, Fen, Mel they all made me laugh. The only thing I can say I had a problem with was the going back and forth of she hates me...no she hates me. But I did enjoy the book. I would definitely recommend this book.

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### **Farah says**

Fans of adventure - family - romance, this should not be missed. The stunning cover had a story to match, it kept me entertained from the prologue to the last page.

After the hs got over their initial dissatisfaction towards each other, they got along pretty well, they shared the same love/passion towards mountains and became an agreeable pair to all the decisions regarding work except for the affairs of the hearts.

Jayden and Rhian were amazing characters. They each had a shoulder to cry on - Jayden had her sister, Fen while Rhain had her mum/boss, Rachel. Adding the family element into the story was a brilliant move by Ms.Bramhall, the local food mentioned had me googling several times and added into 'to be cooked' list.

Please note that the romance did not come surging after a few pages. When they first officially met, it was through Rhain's POV and the usual eyes description was missing too .. I failed to see the importance of such. I was mesmerized with the adventure element and halfway through, I wondered how was the author going to setup the love connection, how was she going to make Jayden and Rhian see/accept that there was something greater waiting for them onced they minimized their insecurities and misunderstandings.

I felt that she waited until the extra time to score the romance goal, giving me limited time to enjoy the hs as a couple but that was just a minor setback. Loads of wow factors, A Rock And A Hard Place should be added into your tbr list.

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### **Tiff says**

Romance novels that have a sport of some sort tend to draw me in just on the premise alone. Rock climbing especially when you bring in climbing the major summits like Everest, Annapurna or Denali I am beyond intrigued. The thought of people willingly putting their lives at risk for their passion is both badass and terrifying. No desire to do it, I'll keep my feet on the ground, thanks, but read it oh hell yeah.

The premise is tricky though. You either are going to weave the romance perfectly in with the sport or you tip too far technical and it becomes way more sport related than I need. The line is pretty thin here. Unfortunately, the latter seems to be the case in Rock and a Hard Place by Andrea Bramhall. While I liked the romance, too much time was spent on tieing knots, safety measures, and climbing techniques.

Overall, the rating of this book was kind of a conundrum to me. The writing overall is done well. I thought the relationship development was based on too much miscommunication, but not bad. I also thought that there were too many dramatic, unnecessary conflicts that didn't make the story more enjoyable. I wished it had focused more on the budding relationship between the two main characters with less dramatic interferences. Now with that being said, I would pick up an Andrea Bramhall book with zero reservations any day. 3.75 stars

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### **Jane Shambler says**

Wow, what can I say that would do justice to this book. If I could give 10 stars I would. Maybe if I could work out how to make the stars flash. Yes, I'm serious. This book is beyond excellent.

The story line is good, the scenery breathtaking and the characters are really likable with the exception of one or two. I really didn't know Argentina had such a beautiful glacier. Nope, no pictures. Bramhall describes it with such precision that you can't help but picture it in your mind. I even looked it up and yes it is spectacular.

The two main characters are Rhian a marketing consultant and Jayden a very experienced and skilled mountain climber. They have chemistry even if they don't see it. There is action, adventure, and so much that will make you laugh. Some of the secondary characters are colourful. It is a really good 'feel good' novel tinged with bad memories. Both the main characters are dealing with their pasts. Both are reluctant to trust. But together with the help of Rhian's stepmother Rachel and Jayden's sister Fen they finally learn to trust each other.

There is so much I want to say, but honestly if I start I'll end up telling you everything. You need to read this book. As you can probably tell I loved it and really hope Bramhall brings out more like this. She has definitely moved up my favorite authors list. Enjoy!

\*ARC provided by publisher via Ylva Publishing\*

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### **Marilyn says**

This was a unique book. I loved the setting and the characters. I feel like I might be unfairly removing a star, because it could have been spectacular. My favorite books feature stories in settings or professions that I don't know very much about, and let me learn and live a new experience. This had that potential -- IF we had more rock climbing/challenge details. But, I know other readers complain when authors spend time on that instead of characters, so maybe it's just me. Even so, I'll be reading this again. And maybe Bramhall will do a sequel where we get to experience The Great Climbing Challenge.

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### **Ted says**

The vast majority of the angst driven romance arc sports the a-typical ingredient list of bad feels because of lack of communication, or outright lies between the MC's. It's all pretty draining to get through it and once the page flipping past all the bad feels it's usually the death knell for me and a book. But out of loyalty to both author and publisher I pushed on. Otherwise this would have easily been a DNF for me.

There's also a side order of father issues with Rhian. Which considering it's the second book in a row with father issues makes me wonder what the universe is trying to tell me. Cause last I checked I was an all right guy. Heh.

As far as the climbing aspect goes in it's own plot arc it's done really really well. As a certified rescue climber I can relate to a lot of what she researched here. And it's well done.

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### **Jasmine says**

You know an author is talented when they create an intense emotional bond with the characters at only 20% of the way into the book. When you start crying on the bus in broad daylight because of the strength of the story and connection to the characters and depth of emotions portrayed in their words. Some books take longer than that to even get into the story, some books never get such an emotional reaction. But this one....damn.

Rhian is offered the opportunity of a lifetime, a marketing job wrapped up in a reality show, showcasing Patagonia clothing and the incredible glacial peaks of Patagonia, Argentina. She's tasked with creating The Amazing Climb, finding contestants and camera people and guides, but most importantly to find a host for the show. Jayden comes into Rhian's life when it seems they need each other most. Jayden and Rhian tackle the drama and the work head on, and run right into each other's arms. Is it real? Or is it just for show?

I can be a sucker for reality challenge TV shows - add some lesbian romance, a couple extra doses of drama, a beautiful setting, and an incredible writer - and you really can't go wrong at all. I really loved all the details into the challenges, the eliminations, and all the inner workings of the show and what goes into making a show like that. I kind of wish this part had been longer because I wish I could have watched the show. I loved all meeting all the contestants, even the ones I loved to hate. I definitely cheered when the Canadian

showed up!! Everyone was unique and multidimensional. In fact all the secondary and all the background characters had great depth and created a rich and well rounded story.

Gosh as I neared the end, I lost it. My girlfriend watched me burst into tears and she asked if I was happy or sad. I blubbered and sniffled and finally got out that I was so happy, of course I was. I had to put the book down and cry a few more minutes before my poor little heart could keep reading. Damn these characters really freaking stole my heart! Andrea Bramhall has written some of my absolute favourite lesfic books ever and this one is definitely joining that list. She's so incredibly talented.

The story was fascinating, the romance destroyed me in the best possible way, the setting was gorgeous (and a little terrifying), but most of all the characters in this book found their way into my heart and took this story to the next level.

I know this is a book that I will read over and over again - I loved it so much! (I'll stop gushing now but to say) I'm buying the paperback first chance I can get my hands on it.

I received an ARC from YLVA in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Diane Wallace says**

'Ylva-Publishing ARC received in exchanged for a fair and honest review'

3.5star!

In no way is this book an easy read; it is moody and often lovely but exhausting to follow at times. Been a huge fan of this author since i read her first book(Clean Slate) so when i started off with this book why was the storyline so difficult and impossible to connect with,maybe because of the sad/prologue and the slow start but eventually it picked up and turned into a remarkable story about grief,friendship,family,love,redemption,rediscovery,realism,ownership and self analysis. Despite an occasional wandering and unfocused bit of narrative here and there,it is well-written,very descriptive and extraordinarily insightful. The dreamy writing verges on steam of consciousness as characters' thoughts spring up and disappear under new ones quickly as they panic or try to puzzle out what is happening as well with its unique plot. A setting that's also fascinating,thrill-seeking,adventurous and dangerous at times with completely believable characters who were in turn sometimes annoying and absorbing with strong personalities. Pitch-perfect clever dialogue,lots of humor,angst add to readers enjoyment to the very end..recommend to everyone

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### **Lex Kent says**

I have always been fascinated by mountain climbing books. Everest, K2, fiction and non-fiction, I have enjoyed them all. Maybe it's because very few people ever conquer these mountains. Maybe it's the danger and excitement, whatever it is mountain climbing books appeal to me. I'm glad to say this was another good book by Bramhall.

The story is about Rhian, who is a marketing executive constantly trying to prove to her boss and stepmother how good she is at her job. When the chance to produce a reality show about climbers in Patagonia comes

by, Rhian jumps at the chance. Rhian is paired with expert climber Jayden, who is dealing with her own issues. Can the two of them work together to make the show a success? And what happens if feeling get involved?

One of my guilty pleasures is watching the occasional reality show. Mix that in with climbing and a romance, this book was checking off plenty of my likes. I really got sucked into the storyline and was enjoying the read. I do have to admit, I wish there was more ice climbing. The climbing scenes were interesting and exciting. I have a feeling Bramhall didn't want to overwhelm readers who might not be interested in such things, but I wanted more.

When it came to the main characters both were likable. There was also a good cast of secondary characters. Ones to enjoy like Rhian's stepmom and some of the other climbers, plus characters that purposely got under your skin. It was a good mix.

The romance is very slow burn. I enjoy slow burn romances, so that didn't bother me. But what did bother me was the reason why. There was a lot of miscommunication. In fact there was no communication at times. It was like the characters would forget how to talk. I found myself yelling at the book "just spit it out already". A lot could have been smoothed over with a few words. But the book did need some drama, so I get it, I just didn't like it.

I enjoyed this read but I do wish it was longer. Just when I was really hooked into the story, I look down and see I am at the 95% mark. No! I wanted more! I wonder if Bramhall would consider a book two. A second season of the reality show, and more of Rhian and Jayden, that is a book I would read.

If you are a Bramhall fan, a mountain climbing fan, or a slow burn romance fan, give this book a shot. This is the fourth book in a row I have enjoyed that Bramhall has written. I look forward to reading what she puts out next.

*An ARC was given to me by YLVA, for a honest review.*

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### **Netty says**

I'm on the fence with how to rate this, it wasn't brilliant nor bad, for me this book had lots of ups and downs, one minute being enjoyable even exciting then it just wasn't.

Witty and humorous at times but talk about miscommunication, "jesus it was just the worst for that" nearly got to me to a point of thinking "i DON'T give a stuff anymore".

The main characters were very likable until they got on my nerves acting like they were incapable of speech, the supporting characters were just the bee's knees, they absolutely made this book a better read for me, i loved the snippets of climbing action we got, i found that held my interest more than the romance at times but ultimately nothing beats a good romance, i just thought this particular one was rushed by the end, Plenty of chemistry, not enough sexy time though and i needed more of them to put the icing on my cake.

3.5 stars

ARC for honest review

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## **Gaby LezReviewBooks says**

Review of 'Rock and a hard place' by Andrea Bramhall.

This is a slow burn romance with some mountain climbing action on the background. I thought it was going to be the opposite so I was a bit disappointed about it, but this is just related to my expectations. Ms. Bramhall is one of my favourite lesfic authors (see here for my top ten <https://lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com/...>) and this is an enjoyable read but I personally think that she excels at writing mysteries. I recommend to read 'Collide-O-Scope', book 1 of her 'Norfolk Coast Investigation Story' series and continue with 'Under Parr' which is on my list of best lesfic books of 2017 (<https://lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com/...>)

'Rock and a hard place' is the story of mountain climber Jayden Harris and marketing executive Rhian Phillips who meet while filming a reality show in Patagonia. Jayden is recovering from a traumatic experience while climbing Mount Everest which made her quit the sport altogether. She's not happy when circumstances force her to a comeback. Will she be able to overcome her initial antagonism with Rhian to work together as a team and, moreover, find love in the process?

As a native Argentine I was very excited to see that this book is set in the area surrounding Mount Fitz Roy, in the Patagonia.

I found Ms. Bramhall's descriptions of the landscape and Argentine typical food very authentic. I was surprised to learn that the author has never visited the area. The action scenes are fast paced and full of tension but I wish there were more. The main characters' chemistry is sizzling and their source of conflict a bit frustrating at times. However, Ms. Bramhall manages to keep the reader turning pages and enjoying the story.

Overall, an enjoyable romance with a bit of action on the background. 4 stars.

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

See all my reviews at  
[www.lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com](https://lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com)

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## **Agirlcandream says**

When a book's focus is on mountain climbers it's only natural to expect some highs and lows. Thrill seekers are inspiring to watch because they rely on their physical strength and training to master goals few of us will ever achieve. We also watch extreme sports because of the element of danger, that one wrong decision or equipment failure which can lead to disaster for the competitor.

I loved the concept of the clothing company and tourist board coming together with Rachel's marketing company to create a reality show for mountain climbers. I'm a big fan of Amazing Race and enjoyed reading about behind the scenes prep work necessary to set up and film a competition in such an inhospitable environment. The physical challenges are often dwarfed by personality clashes in reality shows and the

author did not disappoint giving Jayden and Rhian plenty of crises to handle.

Rock and a Hard Place delivers on the extreme sports aspect of the story. The slow burn romance between Jayden and Rhian had its moments but thanks to some frustrating miscommunication their relationship was my least favourite part of the novel. I found myself enjoying other characters as they interacted with the mains more than the awkward one on one time shared by Jayden and Rhian.

The relationship between Rhian and her boss/stepmom Rachel was fascinating and well developed. I loved the way she pushed Rhian outside of her comfort zone because Rachel believed in her. As tough and demanding as she was, I was impressed with the love and pride she had for Rhian. Rhian's issues with her father were touched on and did help to form the person Rhian has become but I felt that thread was left unfinished. It had potential and I would have loved to see it explored. I also loved the relationship Jayden had with her sister Fen. The author captures that love-hate, loyalty mixed with sarcasm bond that many sisters share.

Frustrating romance aside, there is so much to love about this book that I would still recommend it for the captivating writing, the adventure and the dramatic moments that take your breath away.

ARC received with thanks from publisher for review.

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