



As Tears Go By

Lydia Michaels

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Sometimes love speaks without a word and throws the world into color.

Braydon McCullough has spent his life searching for the perfect woman. When a shy beauty propositions him, he assumes he's found her. Blindsided by their chemistry, his life takes a bewildering turn when she vanishes as quickly as she appeared.

Becca Stevens can't afford to take risks, but when persuaded by friends to commemorate her divorce by approaching a gorgeous stranger in a bar, common sense abandons her. After an unforgettable night of passion, she panics, running back to her methodical life, promising never to be so reckless again. That is until her Braydon unexpectedly tracks her down.

Braydon's unwelcome persistence is a complication to Becca's already challenging life. As a single mother of a son living with autism, she has no room for personal affairs. Braydon's determination tempts to show Becca how vibrant life can be if she'd only dare to dream again.

As Tears Go By Details

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From Reader Review As Tears Go By for online ebook

Trish says

4.5 stars

ARC given to reviewer for an honest review

I cannot rave enough about how much I love the McCullough men. Lydia Michaels has created a series I have grown quite fond of and knowing it is reaching its conclusion has me a bit sad.

Okay, truth? I'm totally devastated.

That being said, As Tears Go By is an emotional read dealing with heart breaking issues. Something Michaels has done throughout the McCullough Mountain series. She knows how to tug at your heartstrings and sucks you inside her world--a world where family loyalties and romance shine.

Braydon McCullough has had his heart broken once. His girlfriend, Sammy, ended up marrying his older brother, Colin. His search for finding that perfect someone has left him alone in the big city and wanting what others in his family has found. He wants a woman who will choose him above all others and, until then, he plays the field like any typical male would do.

Becca Stevens is just coming off a failed, ten-year marriage. The ink on the divorce papers is barely even dry. Her best friend and boss convinces her she needs to approach the sexy man sitting across the bar and have a one night stand.

Not looking for a relationship, she approaches Braydon McCullough. And they share one night of hot, sweaty sex that leaves both unprepared for what follows.

As Tears Go By is a tale of forgotten dreams, broken vows, and inner strength. One of the core themes I loved in this story revolves around Becca. She is a single mother struggling to take care of her son, who is autistic. Being a parent is soul-draining, emotionally harrowing at times, and the most thankless job on the planet. But having to raise a child with autism has a trillion different issues--ones that Becca has met, and surpassed, with each turn. Her entire world centers on her son and there is no time for a relationship in her life.

Braydon is amazed by Becca's strength, her love and devotion to her child, and the passion hidden deep inside a woman afraid to follow her dreams. He wants to give her everything. Be the man her husband failed to be. And more importantly, Braydon wants Becca to choose him over the man who originally claimed her as his wife. But fears and the past continue to plague Becca's heart and threaten to break the delicate connection the new lovers share.

Be prepared to experience an emotional journey as you read As Tears Go By. It has all the components of an addicting series: laughter, love, and a sizzling chemistry between the hero and heroine.

Favorite moments:

"Special like you like him a lot or special like he has an IEP?"

"What would a kid be doing with a bomb?"

"Not an IED, you ass. An IEP. An individualized Education Program."

"I'm sorry," Carla said, leaning close, but keeping her eyes on Kelly. "My vagina's in some sort of spasm right now. I couldn't quite make out your words."

"Smurf sex is when you fuck until you're blue in the face."

"Why are you trying so hard?"

"Why are you waiting for us to fail?" His shoulders drew up tight. He shook his head. "I guess I thought trying was what people did when they cared. I've never experienced so much opposition in my life."

Tamara says

I've been wanting to read this book for so long, and just haven't had the time. I read it in one sitting! Lydia Michael's never disappoints. I loved Braydon and Becca's story, but in my mind, Hunter stole the show.

Another great McCullough Mountain story! I love how this family pulls together no matter the challenge, I can't wait for the final book.

Hugs, Lydia, you did a great job depicting Hunter's autism realistically. (From the mother of an autistic child)

Cyndie says

Loved it but just one little quibble that took me out of the story every time I came across it. The word is intentions not intensions. Not sure how a spell check wouldn't have caught that. But great story and loved seeing the McCulloughs again.

??.?:*?°?Love2Read?HEAs?.?:*?°? {Anne} says

Rated 4.25 Stars

Lauren at Live Read and Breathe Reviews says

4.5 Compassionate Stars!!!

Source: eARC for Honest Review Courtesy of Author and Secret Cravings Publishing

Well this book finally comes full circle with the golden child Braydon. I wasn't sure who in the end would

win Braydon's heart but in the end it couldn't have been any more perfect for him and this family.

Braydon has always looked for perfection so why not have the perfect partner. The problem is that all those girls are great on paper but not in real life. Since he can't find his elusive perfect he dabbles with relationships like with his boss, until a proposition of a one night stand no strings attached changes his life.

Becca, just finalized her divorce and her best friend forces her to live a little for herself for once and have a nice fling. After picking up this golden haired stranger and proposing one night, she has a moment of surrender and happiness but the moment it is done she has to return to her real life which is full of responsibility and no time for relationships.

As luck would have it, their paths cross again but Becca keeps trying to keep Braydon away but he is persistent, even after Braydon finds out that with Becca she comes up with a bigger package. Braydon has always been more about himself and does what is easier so committing to Becca and her son is not his normal pattern, but there is something different about Becca that he feels is worth the risk.

Becca is scared to have this relationship but Braydon makes her feel alive for the first time ever, unfortunately though she has her own baggage with a self defeating sense of failure for her lost marriage.

"Becca, I'm not afraid of commitment. Nor am I afraid of your circumstances. Stop expecting me to bolt at the first glimpse of chaos. I was raised in chaos."

As Braydon , Becca and Hunter try to make it work, Becca's past and insecurities are put to the test while putting poor Braydon through the ringer. Even though I loved this book and the series, Becca's issues drove me the most crazy, since I don't have kids I couldn't relate to her struggles in the end. I got them I just didn't fully get the conflict or her waivering. I'm sure if I was a mother and a divorcee then I would have different feelings towards this but since I am neither it made it a bit more hard to relate to.

Thankfully Braydon won't settle for anything less than what he wants. So he builds his future and hopes that it works out for the best. In this book so many elements come together beautifully and with the help of Becca's crazy friends, Hunter and the McCulloughs they make Becca and Braydon see what they truly need which is ... each other.

Great book! Amazing Series! I so recommend this series. ;)

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AJ's book-reMarks says

Braydon's story gutted me at one point I was so angry with Lydia for making him go through all that. However, his deeds, failures, and love is what made the story.

Fiona Summerville says

Another beautiful tale from McCullough Mountain. Lydia Michaels has an uncanny ability to make you believe that a happily ever after is waiting for everyone, regardless of their circumstances. Her characters are real as are their struggles, which, while not always insurmountable, are tempered and made just a bit easier because of love...just like real life.

Such is the tale of Braydon and Becca in As Tears Go By. Autism is not usually the stuff of romances, but as usual, Lydia handles the stark, harsh realities of the disorder and those living through it with grace and dignity. Couple that with the beautifully woven love story between Braydon and Becca and you have the perfect mix for a completely relatable contemporary romance.

This, like the other McCullough Mountain novels, is a stand alone, but I encourage you, if you have not read the first five, to do so. The McCullough clan are a fun, lovable group and the more you get to know them, the more you will fall in love with each and every member of the family.

Carla Dragon says

sniffle My favorite family. It is sad to see the end of the series but such a great story. One of the reasons I love this series so much is because it is so real. Real life issues, good and bad. This book touches the lives of children with Autism. Even if you don't know anything about it, you will learn what some parents go through. Then throw in the best book family, The McCulloughs. Thank you for giving me a mountain full of big hearted, funny, beautiful Irishmen. I feel at home on McCullough Mountain and will always go back to visit.

Crazychriss889 says

A timid heroine who has wasted years of her life with a guy who didn't appreciate her. And a hero who is determined to find her and make her a part of his life after one night.

So far so good.

Didn't like, though, that she didn't get out of a relationship that didn't make her happy... Why does she put up with a guy who doesn't satisfy her? And don't tell me it's because she is used to that life etc. cause that's just bull. I hate heroines whom it takes ages to develop a backbone...

But that's not even the worst thing about her. She also put up with a husband who doesn't respect his own kid, who is no help whatsoever in challenging situations... Why? Why would she be fine with that, why would she try to teach a grown up that she should be in love with that their son is not broken?? Why?

So yeah our heroine wasn't my favorite female MC. She had to battle her own insecurities and I would have loved for her to be more in charge towards the ending when she finally got that the hero is a grand fella.

Let's also talk about gender roles. It is once mentioned that boys are messy. Ahm yeah not all of them and girls can be messy too!!!

Also, I could have done without the derogatory comments about Miranda. So Becca is quiet but capable and Miranda a vixen who speaks her mind. And our hero realizes he is more fond of the Becca cause she is more feminine. Ahm yeah thanks for that!

Sure, in a way, the impact of what he said to and thought about Miranda is a bit weakened later on when he (view spoiler); yet, that just didn't placate me 100%.

Why does this upset me so much??? Simple. Cause there are so many sensitive topics in this one and some of them are dealt with wonderfully. Autism? The way Becca talks about it is so authentic, the struggles she has to go through in a day to day basis are heartbreaking and yet also heartwarming.

Plus, our hero's family is super diverse and I love his attitude ...

Yet there were also instances in which I came across clichés and traditional role models ... It's just... the McCullough family is described as non judgmental and Oh so accepting. But the at thanksgiving the women are "clucking" in the kitchen while the men are watching the game... Again, really???

Yeah, but let me sum this all up quickly.

Plot?

Pretty amazing. If it weren't for all the insecurities our two MCs had, there would still be a great plot. I was a bit annoyed in the beginning cause there were so many intimate scenes and that was a bit boring but that changes then and I was very glad.

Towards the ending, I had to cry. Like, really, I was weeping. That was awesome.

Writing style?

Good.

The whole Irish thing? Well, instead of a lot of lassie (which is pretty Scottish and def. not often used in Ireland) and lad (which used to be common but is now a fella) and wee once (which, again, is Scottish or Northern Irish) there wasn't much Irishness in there ;-) Oh, yeah, the surname, sorry. That as well. But other than that, don't expect to find characters in there who actually talk like people from Ireland.

MCs?

They definitely had their flaws, both of them, but in a way, I still liked them.

maggieandteddy says

I have read all of The McCullough Mountain series books - except Luke's book (book 5). I might still go back & read it - since I'm pretty happy with Luke & Tristan in this one. They have a very small role in book 6, but I had "some closure" with the Sheilagh issue- sorry for the cliche' - Anyway, about book 6- As Tears Go By----LOVED IT - FROM A TO Z !!

Really strong start... Braydon and Becca meet in the first couple of pages- when Becca's friend dares her to go up to hunky stranger- Braydon. They have great chemistry and have one night & then don't see each other for a while. I loved the flow of the story. NO SLOW parts for me. Everything, IMO, is necessary to their story.

Becca is newly divorced and the main custodial parent of an 8 year old autistic son. Details unfold in a very

natural order. Becca's friends Nikki and Carla, are OTT in the wacky assertive dept, and the opposite of Becca's soft & sweet personality.

Becca seems like a sad puppy sometimes. She's a great mom to Hunter. She's exhausted all the time. Wow, I can relate. When she does some bitchy moves, it seems like a natural part of her personality & I could understand- considering what she's going through. Becca's ex Kevin- is extremely immature and self-centered. Even though they've divorced, Kevin still has an influence over Becca- this is where I want to smack her then hug her. I loved the dialogue between Braydon & Becca- they really talk things out- especially the first 70% or so. The discussion about autism seemed more like an interview, but then Braydon genuinely was interested and asked A LOT of questions.

There's some appearances from the McCullough family. Wow do I LOVE Maureen (Mom). She's so tender with her kids & also with Becca & Hunter. Maureen was my favorite supporting character. I also thought Hunter's character was very interesting & IMO was an interesting element to the love story. There is a BIG complication at 80% which could have been overly angst, but the friends/siblings swoop in and pull a prank that lightened up what could have been a big wtf & head banger for me. Braydon is an awesome leading man- very giving and sweet. He's very strong with Becca, and helps her open her eyes & not be so rigid. I liked the grovel- needed and well done. The end seemed to have too much going on wrapping up tid bits for the siblings. The epilogue was PRECIOUS- wish it was a little longer & more into the future. I was right there - a fly on the wall & I just thought "awwwwwwwww"

I'm giving 4.99 stars- since there was a tiny detail at the end (before the epilogue) that confused me regarding Sheilagh & other tiny details. LOVED THIS & WISH THAT I HAD NOT WAITED SO LONG TO READ IT.

thanks to JLC for started me on this series &

thanks to Ms Delilah for the recco & the reminder

Jessica says

3.5 stars

Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says

This was a bittersweet read for me. The last of the McCullough clan finally finding love. I had thought Braydon would be one of the first to find his soulmate. Even as a young man, he seemed to already have his idea of the perfect mate and life. What a treat to see him discover that perfection is boring. It's life's beautiful imperfections that make the journey so worthwhile.

I already loved Braydon before his story. He was a good guy just starting to figure life out. I felt for him when his "girlfriend" ended up with his brother, but truthfully, he wasn't in love with Sammy. Still, I think he harbored feelings that he wasn't good enough just because his life wasn't going in the direction he'd planned.

Becca's life wasn't going as planned either. Recently divorced and caring for her autistic son, Hunter, she was physically and emotionally drained. Throughout her marriage, her husband, Kevin, had left everything to her to do. If Hunter's own father couldn't handle her life, why would someone else. Dating didn't fit in her life. It was too chaotic. But being a McCullough, Braydon thrived in chaos.

Braydon wanted a relationship with Becca and that meant a relationship with her son as well. I loved how he threw himself into learning all he could about autism. He worked to take some of the pressure off Becca. Simple things like walks, movies, just relaxing. He interacted with Hunter and put himself in Hunter's world.

Things Kevin had never done.

When Becca continued to let Kevin manipulate her life, I was so aggravated with her. Like Maureen, I put Becca on my list! I had to really consider Becca's life. Raising kids alone is stressful enough. Raising kids with special needs takes even more out of you. Autism wasn't just something Becca coped with. It was her life. Hunter was her life. Living with something so powerful alters your existence. It certainly altered Becca's. Hunter came first in all decisions. As he should. But Becca failed to consider her own happiness. A happy Becca was a better parent for Hunter. Braydon made her happy. While I really sided with Braydon and wanted to shake Becca for the last third of the book, this story really depicted being a parent and living with autism realistically.

Kudos to Lydia Michaels for again writing with sensitivity and realism about a prevalent topic. In addition to page turning romances, she takes on important issues that don't always get the attention they deserve. Not only does she write an entertaining story, she raises awareness and understanding on these issues along the way by giving those issues a personal side. All the characters in this series have their own strengths and weaknesses and their own battles to face. Through each of their stories, I love that Lydia Michaels gives me a new vantage point to consider. This entire series is so much more than romance. It's life in all its perfectly imperfect glory.

starsaga says

OK, not great.

I had to think about how to rate this book. I liked the first half, 2 stars and the last 30% or so 4 stars, so I averaged to 3 stars. This book was not romantic, it featured the ex-husband and son as dominant characters in the story, more so than the hero. I found that sad because although the subject matter was serious, I think the hero was somewhat shortchanged by the heroine's inability to separate her past from her future. She was tired and sad and I could not see this as a romantic book, and it started with what seems to be a tried and tested romance trope now, the one night stand between strangers, yukkk. I thought that this was going to be erotica because of the beginning but it turned into a family drama, so once again not romantic at all. A sweet story towards the end when the heroine had had enough and then finally made a decision, which we all knew was coming, it was just a matter of when. All in all, a passable read, but only vaguely romantic.

Joyce says

This story, on so many levels, touched me. As a single mother of an autistic child, I could relate with Becca as she went through so many of the same struggles I have gone through. The "I can never die..." sentiment is one that I share and one of my greatest fears that there will be no one to take care and watch after my son when I am no longer here. I cried, I laughed, and at times had to step away as what was written on the pages had hit close to home. This is an incredible story....and maybe one day, I'll find my own Braydon.

Patricia says

I have been so ready to ready Brayden's story and here it is . In installment 6 of the McCullough saga we find Brayden getting propositioned for a one night stand by Becca a recently divorced woman . He finds her intriguing and oh so cute so he takes her up on her offer. But little does he know that she is going to run

away with his heart and make him want more . Will he get his girl and will they survive what everything comes with falling in love truly means .

Becca is a strong woman who is deeply loving and has her hands full with her ex husband and her autistic son . She is strong but oh so weak at the same time . You can sympathize with her through out the book and you want to hug her tight when she needs it . She is also just tired of being not happy and the only one that really cares for her son . She works hard and really needs some fun in her life . Brayden well is Brayden , he is kind of cocky and knows what he wants . He is also a really good guy that would do anything for those he loves . I think the character that actually stole my heart was Hunter , Becca's son. Even though he was autistic he had his own way of making Becca smile . He was sweet and loving when they were all together . Brayden just melted my heart when he researched all about Hunter to understand more and to help Becca out . Most men would of run the other way but Brayden stepped up and became the man that Becca needed and wanted The funniest characters were Carla and Nikki . Carla fawning all over Kelly at the bar was so funny . Then the scene where they lock Brayden and Becca in a hotel room is a hoot .

This was a great way to end the McCullough story with the one we all thought wouldn't settle down . The clan was there in the end and all rallied around and everyone has made amends for past mistakes and Sheilagh and Luke had a bit in this installment at the end . They all get their happily ever afters too . I must commend Lydia on writing this series , you made me laugh, cry and want to throw my kindle a few times . I have come to love the characters and all their quirks and silliness . You showed us what a a big family could be like and how everyone pulls together when the chips are down . So if you want a great series that will take you to a place that will break your heart and at the same time make you giggle this is the series for you .
