



Against All Odds

Angie McKeon

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Our lives shattered... Our hearts broken... Our souls torn to pieces...

He was my world, my whole life. My reason for breathing. I had a perfect marriage, a baby on the way, and I felt fulfilled—almost invincible.

Until the day life hit, leaving me broken, vulnerable, and alone.

She was my life. My ray of hope on the cloudiest day. With her, I thought I had the ultimate safety. A love that would never hurt or betray me. I gave her my heart, my body, and my soul.

Until she broke me, destroying every dream and illusion I had about life, love, and marriage.

In our grief, we made a mistake. A mistake I'm not sure we can come back from.

Against All Odds Details

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From Reader Review Against All Odds for online ebook

Jessica (Angie & Jessica's Dreamy Reads) says

Against All Odds was my very first experience beta reading for an author. I was a nervous wreck, honest to God. I've followed Angie as a blogger forever, I've been friendly with her before she even created her blog. My biggest fear was hurting her feelings. I had no idea what to expect. This was her debut! This could be a train wreck. How could I be forthright about things I didn't like with sweet, sweet Angie? How could I tell her that writing just isn't her thing? But I committed myself to being honest, no matter what. Angie came to me because of my reputation as an honest, critical reviewer, and I owed her that honesty. So I jumped right in...

Well, now I'm a little pissed off at Angie McKeon. Imagine finding out that your next door neighbor baked delicious cupcakes every single day, ten feet from your house, and never offered to share them with you. Imagine finding out there was a hidden Starbucks right around the corner from your house that you never knew existed. Imagine finding out that your husband bought you a much coveted designer bag and then hid it in the back of your closet and never told you it was there. The cupcakes... the Starbucks... the bag... that is Angie McKeon. The hidden deliciousness that I just now discovered was unfairly kept from me for far too long.

I can't wrap my mind around the fact that this was a debut novel. The writing in this amazingly crafted story was so fluid, so meticulous, so well seasoned. I'm blown away by the abilities of this author to tell such an amazing story, to evoke the array of feelings that I did, indeed, feel. On her first freaking try!!!

During my read, I made some side notes, minor little details about the story that I felt were inconsistent, out of place... but I am so glad that I had the opportunity to read this book in one shot, instead of chapter by chapter as some betas do. Because by the end of the story, you see that those little details made perfect sense. They were part of a bigger picture that I just hadn't seen yet. A beautiful, painful, hopeful, heartbreaking picture that I can not stop staring at.

I live for an angsty read. I want to feel things. I want to feel everything. I want my heart to break over and over again. Sure, I love for my heart to be glued back together by the end, but I don't ever want a guarantee that it actually will. I don't know what it says about me, that I love the pain as much as the joy in a story, but it's true. I love the hurt. Probably more. And hurt, I did. I want characters to destroy each other. I want them to destroy me, as a reader. And they did. This book made me want to throw things... something so out of the norm for a reader like me. I'm so often disappointed in indie books of late. I'm so tired of the same story lines and unoriginality of authors being cranked out at warp speed. I spend so much of my time reading, noting the flaws in writing style, or inconsistencies in plot lines, that I tend to miss the feelings an author wanted me to feel. And that's not my fault... that's the author's. Suck me in and make me feel your book, or I'm going to be too bored and distracted not to miss all the areas you're lacking. Angie McKeon pulled me so deep into this story, I couldn't NOT feel. I felt things that I haven't felt while reading a book in so long. Maybe ever.

I felt the obvious heartbreak. The circumstances these characters find themselves in is absolute torture. A situation that doesn't seem like it could possibly get any worse, does. Cooper and Kylie's inability to deal with loss in a healthy way makes for the most heartbreaking journey. And I felt every awful step of it. I wasn't an outsider in this book, I was in it.

The characters in this story are perfection. Flawed, ugly, beautiful, tainted, broken perfection. Cooper. Kylie.

Grayson. Calia. Layla. It took me a while to decide if I liked them. Who I liked. If I could connect and relate to them. Any of them. Whose happy ending did I want to see? Did anyone deserve one? Even if they did, would this story allow for it? Who was the villain in this story? Was there one at all? It took me a while to juxtapose the present day characters with their flashback selves. These characters changed almost beyond recognition from who they were before tragedy broke them, to who they are now. It made for an amazing roller coaster of emotions and possibilities, wondering who these people really were, why they were behaving in such a way, and where they could possibly go from there...

I got goosebumps. Honest to God, real life, goosebumps. That never happens. I cried for three chapters straight. This is not me blowing smoke. I don't do that either. I don't cry. I have cried... in a handful of books that were just so good, it demanded it of me. But it's a rare thing for me. And it happened in this book. A lot. I was floored by this story, by these characters, but above everything else, I was floored by this author. Angie McKeon's beautiful debut story of love, loss, heartbreak, hope, redemption and forgiveness will stay with me indefinitely.

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

It's live!! >> <http://amzn.to/1pOVtwa> <<

I don't have one rating...I have TEN. They are listed at the bottom of this review.

What I looked like when I finished the book:

While I was reading, there were a lot of questions about the following three things so I'm just going to answer them right now and you can decide if this book is for you or not. But no matter how I answer them, remember they are taken out of context and may end up *not* being a big deal for you so if you were interested in this before, I still urge you to try it out.

Love Triangle: (view spoiler)

More details about the triangle - (view spoiler)

Cheating: (view spoiler)

More details about cheating - (view spoiler)

Ending: (view spoiler)

Bonus:

Angst: I don't even need a spoiler tag for this one...MOTHEREFFING YES!!!

Now for those that know me, all of those things combined + angst overload is literally my worst book

nightmare come true (as in I will break things/scream like a banshee/hands fisted like claws the entire time) but still...I chose to read it and as much as I hated the book for feeding me so much angst, I don't regret it. But I would not re-read it either. Once is enough. I agree with what Katy Evans said...this is a book I won't be forgetting anytime soon.

So the story begins with a heartbreaking prologue. *dun dun dun* Through this unfortunate ordeal, both Kylie and Cooper are physically and emotionally torn apart from each other; both use this experience to lash out at one another and it leads up to one huge betrayal on Kylie's part which kickstarts their open marriage agreement: they still love each other but it's *too hard* to be together so they need space. Now the way I say it here is so stiff, but when I read this part in the book it was quite emotional and I could sort of understand where they were coming from.

“Dreams have a way of shattering you when they don't work out. The illusion of hope is a very dangerous thing. Once you've lost that it's like a black hole that sucks the very life from your soul, making you doubt your purpose.”

So they work out their arrangement, but at the same time I could tell that it wasn't what they *really* wanted...both had endured so much for each other in the past it all tipped over so they're scared and apprehensive of giving their relationship another chance. But at the same time, they can't help but *feel* attached and responsible for one another. No matter how hard they try to lose themselves in alcohol, work, other people, etc...they're still connected and the author beautifully portrayed it all.

“We share a reckless, toxic love that feeds the brokenness in me, in us. Our love is an addiction. A love that I won't ever consider living without.”

In the midst of it all, Grayson (BFF to both Kylie and Cooper) is just *there* for Kylie and supports her through every. damn. thing. that. happens. to. her. In his eyes, there is no one more deserving of love and happiness than Kylie so it's completely understandable that he falls in love with her. While Kylie loves Grayson dearly and would even die for him, her feelings don't amount to love and definitely not the love she has for Cooper so she continuously turns him away and furiously works on mending her marriage with Cooper. At the same time, Cooper realizes how much he needs and wants his wife back, and so he too starts to work on his marriage.

Okay rant alert in the spoiler.

(view spoiler)

I was truly touched by Kylie and Cooper's healing process. They went through a lot to end up where they are now, and I liked how the author slowly reconnected them so that they had time and enough trust to forgive and move on.

However.

In the process, they **broke** Grayson.

Truly.

Utterly.

Broke.

His.

Fucking.

Good.

Full-of-life.

HEART.

And I will *never, ever* forgive them for that.

I don't care that he's a third wheel, an outsider looking in, or just their "friend." He was more than the two of them put together and to see him fall into his rock bottom made me want to punch Kylie in the tit and cut off Cooper's balls. Still, I have to give props to the author for making me feel elated and relieved that they got closure from their past and found the courage and strength to move forward, but that is all I am willing to feel for them. Really sorry about that, but what they did to Grayson (no matter how much it was in the name of love) was unforgivable in my eyes.

This author did a number on me. I don't think I'll ever recover from the story and I find myself thinking about the book almost daily and that scares me. Hopefully by the time I finish this review the voices will die down but somehow, I highly doubt it. Just the writing alone is golden and worth all the angst and heartache I went through.

"We've both learned that love is not perfect. It doesn't come in pretty packages. Sometimes it dents and bruises and does things it regrets, but it also forgives, shows mercy, and supports. It soothes and fights to the death."

I would recommend this book to people who adore angst and enjoy emotional rollercoasters. Looking back on the story and *against all odds*, I enjoyed this book to a certain degree...the rest is up for speculation.

Rating list (1-5 scale):

Writing: 10+

Story: 3 – not too plot-oriented; most of the story is focused on emotion

Emotion: 5

Concept: 2 – only because the book reminded me so much of (view spoiler)

Steam: 4

Believability: 2 - (view spoiler)

Kylie: 2

Cooper: 2

Grayson: 10+

Calia: 2 (view spoiler)

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Please note that all quotes are from an advanced copy and may be subject to change.

Anne OK says

In her debut novel, Angie McKeon says she strives “to make you feel.” I can guarantee that she met her goal with me. I’m just not sure they were the feelings she was intent on achieving – at least where this reader was concerned. I had a very difficult time with this book from start to finish. I think McKeon has strong writing skills and the makings of a successful author, but these characters didn’t evoke much sympathy from me – other than for the loss of their child.

I’ve had two miscarriages myself and through the years watched as family and friends lost children tragically. Never have I ever seen any of them deal with the sorrow and pain in such a manner as shown here. Of course they grieved, endured horrible agony and withdrew for lengthy periods of time, and some sought counseling. And yes, one couple even divorced after an affair. But none ever ran helter-skelter destroying lives of their partners, friends or innocent people who cared about them with the type of bizarre behavior these characters displayed.

I felt that Cooper took the worst of the wrap – and why, I’m not sure. His loss was equal to Kylie’s. Kylie, in my opinion, expected to be nurtured, placed on a pedestal, and kept on center stage. She came off as a selfish and self-centered drama queen. And the open marriage plot sickened and disgusted me. I can’t understand how anyone would, in their wildest imagination, ever think this would have a positive or healing effect for the problems facing Kylie and Cooper. And yes, I see it as cheating. If you choose to be with someone other than your spouse, get a divorce.

And then there’s the “love” triangle between Kylie, Cooper and Gray that frankly disgusted me (and I’m not a hater in general of the love triangle trope). I’m not letting Gray off the hook for his part in this ill-fated mess either. In my opinion, he turned his back on his best friend of over twenty years without anything but selfish motives. Yes, Kylie played, teased, and tempted him but, in turn, he was a first-class enabler where she was concerned. I’m glad I don’t have to choose any of the three for a best friend – but if I did, at this point Cooper comes out on top.

I realize I am in the minority on this one – but for me personally, this one stretches the scope of realism too far to accept, excuse or overlook.

**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince
Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

5+++++++ (There really aren't enough to express how much I loved this story) STARS!!!!

I can't believe just how much this story has affected me!!
I'm sitting here blown away by how much I absolutely LOVED it!
Angst is something that does not scare me.
I crave it!!!!
This one had an abundance of ANGST.
My heart broke time and time again.

This is the heartbreaking story of Cooper and Kylie Bailey.
They have suffered the most painful loss imaginable.
Their daughter died while Kylie was giving birth to her.
Cooper and Kylie were once a couple who had it all and who were truly, madly, and deeply in love.
Kayla's death rips these two apart.
They've both been so devastated by it that they fail to be there for each other.
Cooper feels like he failed his wife because he couldn't save their daughter and couldn't be the rock she needed to help her through.
Kylie let her grief take over and it was almost as if she died with little Kayla.

I felt that pain and that grief for these two!!
Months go by and Kylie tries to make a connection with Coop, but he keeps pushing her away.
After being rejected so many times, Kylie loses her mind, and proposes that the two make their marriage an open one, so that they both can find physical connections with other people.
The rules are, they always are to come home every night to each other, and they are not to get involved with each other's friends.

I'm thinking right from the start, this is a BAD idea!!
This is not going to help them get over their loss and bring them back together.

The story starts out with it being two years into this "Open Marriage" arrangement.
It's obvious neither is very happy.
Thank goodness the story is told in DUAL POVs because it was so beneficial to get inside both of their heads.

Things really get heated when Cooper's best friend, Grayson, makes his feelings known for Kylie.

He's been her rock the past two years but now he wants to be more.
He's done watching Cooper break her heart over and over.
Gray wants to swoop in and have his shot at love with Kylie.

What will Coop do?
The man who seems indifferent to his wife.

There are so many heart breaking moments and I cried several times.
This is definitely a story in which you'll need to have a box of tissues handy.

I never once hated Kylie or Cooper.
I was able to empathize with the both of them.

The sexy time is also SCORCHING, SIZZLING HOT!!!

I fell HARD for COOP!!
If the role of PRESIDENT for TEAM COOPER is open, I'd like to nominate myself!!
He had me both SWOONING and CRYING!!

Angie's writing was FLAWLESS and boy the way she tells a story doesn't make you feel like you're an outsider looking in. NO!
She made me feel like I was experiencing the love, pain, sorrow, and joy first hand!!!

I give a lot of books 5's but honestly, I don't always say that there aren't enough STARS to describe how much I LOVED the book!!
This book is definitely going in my TOP TEN of 2014!!

Yes, you know from my review, this is about cheating, and sort of a triangle, but damn if it wasn't just about the most PERFECT story I've read so far!!!!

Angie is definitely an author I will be following and would advise you all to take notice of her!!!
I will be one clicking anything this lady publishes!!

"I need you. I need you there. I know you're struggling. I know, but you're my air right now. If you're not there, I'm going to suffocate. Please don't do this to me. Please, I can't do this on my own." - Cooper

Things between us are broken, but I know without a doubt that I love him with all that's in me. I always have. - Kylie

He is the only man I've ever loved, the only man I've ever allowed inside my body and heart. I've carried his child within me, and the love I feel for him is interwoven with my very identity. Without him, I'm nothing. - Kylie

I'm overcome with emotion as I gaze at her. She's the answer to my every prayer, need, and want. - Cooper

My heart is this girl's for the taking. I want to make her happy. I want her to feel every ounce of love I have for her. She keeps me breathing. - Cooper

Mia Asher says

My God.

What a book. What a book.

What an emotional and gripping tale of love, loss, hope...everything.

I will write a review closer to release but seriously--seriously--add it to your TBR list if you want a book that will make you *feel*

Wow.

Jennifer Kyle says

Currently on Sale for 0.99 cents!!!

<http://www.amazon.com/Against-All-Odd...>

"Our spirits are slowly dying and I'm not sure we'll ever be able to heal from this."

Almost two years ago, Angie McKeon sent me the beginnings of this novel and thus my journey with Kylie, Cooper and Gray began. I'm saddened that it's over because I would actually squeal every time the next chapter appeared in my email. I was hooked every step of the way and have developed bonds with all the characters. A question a friend or two have asked me is... Can Angie write? The answer is OH YES she can!

The characters feelings were written to perfection.

"I needed and craved his love and when he stopped giving it to me, I lost who I was. I felt stuck. Stuck with someone who owned me; heart, body and soul, but didn't seem to want me anymore."

The story is told mostly in Kylie's pov of the tragic event that crushed her and her husband Cooper's souls and collaterally their wonderful marriage. Kylie proposes the unthinkable...an open marriage and the downward spiral of this couple is crippling not only to readers but to their best friend, Gray. Gray loves them both but his feelings for Kylie grow and if Cooper isn't interested in being what Kylie needs, than he is willing to be the man in her life.

"If you don't get your shit together, then I'm done. I'm not standing in the shadows anymore."

Cooper and Kylie run a successful business and even though their marriage is more than rocky the business for me seemed to hold that last bit of their dreams together for both characters.

When Cooper's pov is introduced, it was a huge eye opener and I rallied behind him in getting his marriage back on track. The lines of communication and trust have been shattered but this reader cheered Cooper on every step of the way while crushing hard on Gray.

Overall, this story is high the angst, high on the grief, high on wit and last but certainly not least it's downright **HOT**. I would recommend this read to anyone looking for something different so sit back and be prepared to feel!

*I was lucky to have had the opportunity to beta read for **Angie McKeon***

Brandi says

Against All Odds is a beautifully written debut novel. This compelling, emotional journey had me captivated from the start.

Angst ✓

Heartache ✓

Love ✓

Friendship ✓

Hope ✓

We weren't strong enough for what life handed us, and it's torn every piece of our lives to shreds.

Kylie had it all – until one day she didn't. After suffering a tragic loss, Kylie and her husband, Cooper struggle to deal with the aftermath. Overcome with grief and loneliness, and the distance between them

continues to grow – Kylie makes a proposal that changes everything, an open marriage. I know...WHAT?!?!?WHY?!?! But, I felt her pain – she is lost, destructive, and screaming out. Would I make the same choices, probably not - but I sympathized with her struggle.

Cooper loves his wife, but he needs time to deal with his grief and feelings of powerlessness. He is detached and unable to offer her the comfort she needs. So, when she suggests opening their marriage, he doesn't fight her. Will this agreement help them through the pain, or will it destroy what they have beyond repair?

And then we have Gray, the best friend - who ends up in the middle of this disaster Kylie and Cooper have created. Gray has been there for Kylie, never letting her down. After two years his feelings for Kylie have changed and he is tired of seeing her continue to self-destruct.

This is a painful story, I read a good portion of it with tears in my eyes. What Kylie and Cooper endure is truly heartbreaking. And the way they deal with it only causes them more pain. I lived this story with them - the sorrow, anger, hope - I was right there every step of the way. I was constantly frustrated with them - it was obvious they were both in pain, yet neither one would do anything to help the other. I wanted to shake them - beg them to open their eyes. Will they find their way back to each other? Can a marriage survive the consequences of their actions? The questions just continued to build up - I couldn't stop reading. This story packs a emotional punch, I felt so many things, good and bad - it left it's mark, and I love that.

“We’re a fucked up pair.”

?“We are. But we have each other. Even lost, we’ve had each other.”

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review

R. Scarlett says

I DEVoured this book! I loved Kylie and Cooper's story and I'm hoping Grayson gets his own book!

Anja says

[I was only at 3% when "the angst" hit me with full force O_o (hide spoiler)]

Vintage says

I am seriously considering changing my tag from **ARC reviewers are big fat liars** to **ARC reviewers are big fat fucking liars**.

It's lollipops and roses on these OTT, purple prose ARC book reviews until you get to people that actually bought it then it's 1 and 2 stars.

This is just from the blurb...

She was my life. My ray of hope on the cloudiest day. With her, I thought I had the ultimate safety. A love that would never hurt or betray me. I gave her my heart, my body, and my soul.

Really?

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

High angst....

Comparisons to Arsen and the Avoiding series...which means possible love triangle and/or cheating.

This doesn't sound like it's a book for me...

Fre06 Begum says

Edit update

I think in the years since I have read this book I have become so intolerant of cheating that even for the writing I can't give it a 3* anymore.

Chanelle says

4.5 STARS

Kylie and Cooper were two people in love, blissfully happy, with their future all planned out. Until tragedy came knocking at their door and split their perfect world in two, leaving them broken, battered and struggling with every breath to see through the aftermath.

This is a heartbreaking story about loss, betrayal, love and forgiveness. The toll that a loss like Cooper and Kylie's can take on a person and a marriage is unimaginable, unthinkable and this story will give you a heart wrenching insight into this kind of soul crushing devastation. The author almost dares you not to question, empathise, or feel with her evocative and descriptive writing style. It was just simply not possible while reading this story.

“I need to pretend my marriage isn’t broken. That my heart and soul aren’t lost”

In the midst of their sorrow and desperation, Kylie and Cooper decide to open up their marriage. The chaos, heartbreak and angst that ensues from this decision is enough to have your heart racing and crying out alongside theirs. The secondary characters are fantastic, adding a dash of humour and an extra dose of swoon worthy moments.

This is a story that deserves and needs to be experienced with an open and unclouded mind. So I’ll keep this relatively short. Just know that if and when you decide to give this book a chance, take a deep breath, as it's likely to sink its claws into you instantly.

“Sometimes loving someone’s a choice. When all the lusty feelings disappear and we’re left looking at cold, careless, and painful reality, we have to choose whether or not to love.”

I've read my fair share of books over the years, especially angst filled ones. *Against All Odds* really is unlike anything I've read before. Unique with its storyline and character driven plot, and truly unputdownable. So much so, you'll never guess it's actually Angie McKeon's debut novel. This is a must read for my fellow angst lovers!

MELISSA *Mel Reader* says

3.5 I Know Your Heart Stars!

(Copy gifted by Book Babes Unite/Christy B.)

(BR with Denisse)

Kylie Bailey is a 24 yr. old woman living in Tampa with her husband Cooper Bailey. They work together and co-own Cooper Bailey Corp., where they run a successful insurance office. They sleep under the same roof at night, and co-exist at work and home, but haven't really connected in over 2 years.

Two years ago their whole world shattered, and they didn't know how to cope. Instead of turning to each other for comfort, their marriage fell apart. They were together since they were 16, and still loved each other, so they weren't prepared to divorce. Instead Kylie suggests an open marriage.

This was the part of the story I couldn't wrap my head around. I just could never get on board with the open marriage, and was wanting to tell Kylie NO!, just NO!, get your shit together!!!

Through all Kylie's self destruction, she knows it's wrong, and can't stand the person she's turned into. Cooper and Bailey go about their daily life pretending they are ok, while avoiding each other as much as possible. They are both emotionally lost, dysfunctional, angry & lonely, but not willing to fully give up on one another, because the one thing that never changes is their love for each other. They continue to secretly suffer without the other.

Kylie just wants to be wanted, and to feel special, and will do anything to get that attention she's starving for. She continues to hold out hope that her and Cooper will one day be able to fix their broken marriage. As they continue to hurt each other they both turn to their best friend Grayson for support. Lines get a bit blurred between the friends, and things turn complicated, and kind of into a love triangle. I can't say who Kylie ends up with in the end, as I don't want to give the story away, but I was pleased with how things ended up.

-I'm going to take my time," he whispers. "I want to love you properly."

-Nothing's as good as this. Feeling you, feeling what belongs to me.

-Kissing him is like getting rain after a drought or having food after going hungry. It's life-giving, quenching that ache that pours through every ounce of my blood. His kiss breathes life into me.

-I've said a thousand times how much I love him, how much I need him. I need to show him with my body. I have to offer him my heart and be completely vulnerable.

-"Kylie." His voice is the gentle whisper of a lover coming home after years away.

-I feel a burden release from my shoulders as he opens his heart to me.

-All I need is him. All I want is him.

-Her face looks calm and peaceful, reminding me of the girl who stole my heart with one smile. The girl who took, claimed and owned it from the first time I stared into her luminous blue eyes. Eyes that saw right through me.

-"I love her. There'll never be anyone else for me. It was always and will always be her. Love's unconditional, but it's not perfect. I'm not perfect, and neither is she. We've made our mistakes, but she's my heart.

-"You, Mrs. Kylie fucking Bailey, have always- always- belonged to me."

Christy says

5+ picking up the pieces stars!

Dreams have a way of shattering you when they don't work out. The illusion of hope is a very dangerous thing. Once you've lost that it's like a black hole that sucks the very life from your soul, making you doubt your purpose.

What do you do when you're as happier than you ever thought possible... Married to the love of your life, getting ready to start a new and beautiful chapter, and then suddenly, everything changes. The life you knew was torn from you and all that's left are broken pieces of what you used to be? One shattering event changed Kylie and Cooper Bailey forever. And they're not sure if they can ever recover...

Our heroine, **Kylie**

Kylie is a broken woman. She is living with loss, regret, and heartbreak every day. She wants to fix her life, but at this point, she doesn't know how, or even if it's possible. Every day she lives with the guilt of what her marriage has turned into.

The truth is... when we start crossing boundaries, things get messy. Often times, one boundary leads to another and another, and before we know it, we've crossed so many, we're screwed.

Kylie isn't perfect. In fact, she's flawed and destructive. Yet, I sympathized with her. I didn't agree with a lot of her choices, but I felt for her. I think it's easy to judge someone on the poor choices they make, but unless you've been in their shoes, you really can't.

Then, there is her husband, **Cooper**

My feelings for Cooper were so conflicted. I wasn't his biggest fan in the beginning. The first half of the book, I didn't care much for him, didn't really know what to think. Then about half way through, I got his p.o.v. And it changed EVERYTHING. Kylie isn't the only one who has made mistakes. Cooper has too...

I've starved my wife... I've starved her of my love.

Throughout the first half of the book, I just kept yelling (in my head) at Cooper to wake up! I know he could feel Kylie's pain, see why she was doing what she was doing. Yet he did nothing. I'm so happy I could finally feel the love for Cooper. He really was a good man, but he was also blindsighted by grief and loss.

My man, and the best friend **Grayson**

“What’s that love costing you?”

?Along her path of devastation and destruction, Kylie had a friend she could count on. Someone who was always there for her. Who listened to her, loved her and didn’t judge her. That person was Gray, Cooper’s best friend. After two years of being that guy, of course some feelings are going to develop. Gray is sick of standing by and watching Cooper and Kylie self destruct. He’s sick of picking up Kylie’s pieces and watching her hurt herself over and over.

“I swore I’d never get between you and Coop. It wasn’t my place, and it’s never been my intention. When I started taking care of you, all I wanted was to support you guys. But it’s turned into a dysfunctional mess, and I can’t watch him hurt you anymore. I won’t allow it. I just want you happy, sweet cheeks. It kills me to say this, but I don’t think Cooper’s that guy anymore.”

?I swooned over Grayson. From start to finish, I loved this man. He was sensitive to Kylie’s feelings, of her relationship with Cooper. Two years is a long time to be there for someone like that. He’s an amazing man. One of the hardest things about this story was (view spoiler)

If you’re anything like me, you might wonder.... why? Why choose this ‘open marriage’, why not just divorce. It’s not as easy as you would think... in a normal situation that would be the perfect solution. For Cooper and Kylie, not so much. They need each other, they just can’t meet each others needs at the time.

We share a reckless, toxic love that feeds the brokenness in me, in us. Our love is an addiction.
A love that I won’t ever consider living without.

There were many times I wasn’t sure how this couple would survive, if they could make it. Is there a way to come back from something like this intact?

With everything they have going against them, can Kylie and Cooper make it? Against All Odds, will they pull through?

I know a lot of readers are going to shy away from this one due to the angst and the subject matter and that’s really a shame. It’s a shame because this is one of the better books I’ve read this year. It’s so beautifully written, original and refreshing. I would have never guessed this was a debut novel if I hadn’t known. The writing was phenomenal. I was impressed with how unique the story line was, I can’t say I’ve ever read a book quite like this. It evoked many feelings from me. Most of them weren’t all that good, especially in the beginning, but the healing process is a beautiful thing. Just like Kylie and Cooper started to heal, I found myself healing as well.

Now the questions I KNOW everyone will ask- Was there cheating? Was there a love triangle? Not in the

traditional sense. Due to their 'arrangement' all the lines are blurred. Personally, I would say yes (slightly) to the love triangle (view spoiler)... the cheating, I'm going with no. To me, it was a really fucked up situation, but I wouldn't call it cheating.

Against All Odds was a spectacular story about love, tragedy, loss, hope and the power of healing. It was an emotional ride... I was in tears for a good part of the book, but I love when a book can bring out those types of feelings in me. Even with some of their poor choices, the characters were likable and relatable. I was wowed by this story. This is a book I enjoyed from start to finish and one I would highly recommend!

"Never," I whisper. "I could never regret being with you. I've always loved you. That's never stopped. Even in the most painful moments when I wanted to hate you or when I didn't understand you, I've loved you."

"We're a fucked up pair."

"We are. But we have each other. Even lost, we've had each other."

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review
