



Puddle Jumping

Amber L. Johnson

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When it comes to love there's no such thing as conventional.

Everyone thinks Colton Neely is special.

Lilly Evans just thinks he's fascinating.

Once friends when they were younger, their bond is cut short due to her accident prone nature and they go their separate ways. Years later, they meet again and Lilly learns that there is something special about the boy she once knew, but she has no idea what it all means. And she's not sure if she's ready to find out.

When he walks through the corridor of her school the first day of her senior year, she knows that it's time to get to know the real Colton Neely. The more she learns, the deeper she falls.

Their friendship grows into love, even as Colton does not express it in words. But one decision threatens to break down the world that Lilly has tried so hard to integrate into and she must figure out if the relationship can survive if they are apart.

Puddle Jumping Details

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Author : Amber L. Johnson

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From Reader Review Puddle Jumping for online ebook

Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says

(Full review posted)

***5 Stars* ... A beautiful love story with a refreshingly unique plot!**

It's been a while since I've read a book in one sitting. *Puddle Jumping* was fairly short, but it held so much power in its minimal pages—I was barely able to put it down.

I knew after the first line that I was going to love this read:

It begins with a boy and it ends with a boy, but what story doesn't?

I've felt that way a few times before, only to end up eating my words, but in this case, it was true. I adored this book from beginning to end.

This young adult story was flooded with hormonal teenagers but offered almost no angst. ***Not much angst, people!*** What a concept. I adore an angst-filled plot, but this didn't need it. Its honesty and tenderness singlehandedly carried this book without falter. There was depth and intrigue without the need of additional tension. **Happy sigh**

Lilly and **Colton** meet as kids and form a connection their young minds cannot yet define. Even after years of separation, that connection remains; only now they are both teenagers and mature enough to see it for what it is.

Colton lives with a condition called “Aspergers”—a high-functioning level of autism that impairs his social skills and makes it difficult for him to express himself emotionally, as well as recognize the emotions of others.

Lilly was a phenomenal heroine: patient, kind, understanding, and utterly in love with Colton. The story is told through her perspective, as she looks back. I appreciated the raw portrayal of her initial judgments of Colton—and the way she corrects those judgments as she relays the story, sharing what she's since realized in the process. It was easy to love her for her honesty and growth in character. Readers have the ability to learn right alongside her. Her voice was relatable and powerful, and just a great representation of this story.

The romance was gentle, heartwarming, believable, and age-appropriate. There was not much else going on outside of the love story, but that seemed to be enough since I found myself quite addicted to their connection.

However, I do wish the story would have *shown* a little more through dialogue. I adored the narrative, but Lilly would often describe conversations which I found myself longing to see play out. It felt like I was

receiving a glossed-over account from only one perspective, at times. I loved the hero, as well as the secondary characters, and I wanted to know them on an even deeper level.

I also felt that Aspergers could have been explored just a *little* bit further. Yes, the story completely revolved around the condition, but I felt it was largely a representation of acceptance and how surrounding loved ones adapt—which was remarkable, but left me at a slight disconnect with Colton. He was an amazingly original character. I didn't need his perspective, I just wanted a bit more access into his complex and beautiful mind.

That said, this inspiring story was bursting with originality, and its content, as well as writing, was simply **beautiful**. The fact that I wanted a bit more didn't alter my rating or enjoyment for this book. A topic such as this needed a love story, and I can't imagine a better one than *Puddle Jumping*. **An unforgettable MUST READ!**

Book Stats:

? **Genre/Category:** Romance/Young Adult

? **Romance:** Sweet, tender, and heartwarming.

? **Characters:** Patient, understanding heroine. Lovable hero dealing with Aspergers.

? **Plot:** An inspirational journey of two teens in love dealing with obstacles.

? **Writing:** Powerful and profound

? **POV:** 1st Person: Heroine

? **Cliffhanger:** None. Standalone.

destini mia says

cracks knuckles and does finger dance over keyboard let's begin . . .

And maybe some people would say that I loved him too much and forgot myself in the process, but from what I've seen of relationships, there's always that one person who does.

This was the *cutest, sweetest*, most *precious* book I've had the pleasure of reading ♥

When it comes to love there's no such thing as conventional.

Everyone thinks Colton Neely is special.

Lilly Evans just thinks he's fascinating.

Once friends when they were younger, their bond is cut short due to her accident prone nature and they go their separate ways. Years later, they meet again and Lilly learns that there is something special about the boy she once knew, but she has no idea what it all means. And she's not sure if she's ready to find out.

When he walks through the corridor of her school the first day of her senior year, she knows that it's time to

get to know the real Colton Neely. The more she learns, the deeper she falls.

Their friendship grows into love, even as Colton does not express it in words. But one decision threatens to break down the world that Lilly has tried so hard to integrate into and she must figure out if the relationship can survive if they are apart.

I just had to add that gif^^ If you've read *Puddle Jumping*, you know that is so Colton ;) ♥

Puddle Jumping was such a beautiful, **unique** story about love and I never wanted it to end. I **completely** loved it. Sometimes you need a book that makes you smile, giggle, and just make you feel really good.

"You'd love to think it's a choice to love him, but it's not, Lily. You've already decided. I can see it on your face."

Lily was absolutely amazing. I loved how caring and devoted she was to Colton. She knew what and who she wanted and never let anyone bully/pressure her into changing her feelings. She was never embarrassed about her love for Colton.

There is no doubt that **Colton** has my heart. **Completely**. He was the **sweetest**, most amazing and talented guy. It's not easy to be with him, and Lily's patience was admirably unwavering . . . and in the end, it was worth it. *He* was worth it.

"I do . . . love you. If you needed me to say it before you should have told me so. I know what it means." They way he said it was like the words were forcing themselves from him mouth almost painfully, his face contorting as they left his lips and his eyebrows drew together. "This emptiness inside me here," he placed my hand on his chest, "means I love you. When you're not here, I can't focus. It's too loud . . . but my heartbeat does this when you're close."

I never stood a chance at not falling in love with him.

This book, at times, was heartbreaking. I just wanted to **gather Colton into my arms and never let anything hurt him.**

The only complaint I have is that I want more! But that's not really a complaint . . . more like a request/plead/me begging on my knees. *Pretty please, can we have more Colton? *puppy face**

Plans change.

Life changes.

And as an after effect, love changes too.

This is a story I'd recommend to *anybody* .

You want the **cutest** story? *hands you book*

You want the **sweetest** book boyfriend? *hands you book*

You want something with humor? *hands you book*

You want mystery, erotica, fantasy, or something dark? Well you won't find that here but . . . *hands you book, anyways*

This is my story. Our story. It's about an incredible guy who changed my mind about everything I thought I knew. And maybe I helped change his world, too.

♥ My casting for Colton and Lily ♥

.

Brandi says

"You're my beautiful Lilly. The one who makes everything right in my world."

I don't know how to express how much I loved this story. *Puddle Jumping* is a beautiful, sweet, unique and enduring story. A beautiful portrayal of a young girl who falls in love with a boy, who may is considered a little different, but is perfect to her.

"It begins with a boy and it ends with a boy, but what story doesn't?"

Lilly first meets Colton when she is asked to babysit him. She finds it a little strange since she is only a year older than him - but Colton has Aspergers and his mother is just trying to give him the opportunity to spend time with someone his own age. Unfortunately after a number of mishaps, Mrs. Neely decides that Lilly's adventurous ways may not be the best thing for Colton. That it may best for them to part ways.

"I was seriously afraid you were going to kill yourself on our property..."

But fate has other plans, and they are reunited when Colton shows up at Lilly's high school. Lilly is drawn to Colton, and he has never forgotten her. As their relationship grows they face challenges, but they don't give up. These two stole my heart. I had a smile on my face and tears in my eyes throughout this one.

"The one thing I wish I could explain to people is he's not what they think he is. Words he's been branded with could never describe him. He's not special. He's extraordinary. To me. And I feel like I am, too, when I'm with him."

I highly recommend this heartwarming story about two extraordinary people.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

"Love, for those lucky enough to experience it, is extraordinary."

I'm pretty sure I have a cavity from all of the sweetness that was contained within the pages of *Puddle Jumping*. This is the story of Lilly and Colton who met when their mothers arranged a playdate. At said playdate Lilly proceeded to tell Colton he should color in the lines . . . and then encouraged him to go outside to play in a thunderstorm where she was promptly struck by lightning. After a series of near-death experiences, Colton's mother decided maybe it would be for the best if the two *didn't* play together any more. Fast forward to Senior year where Colton and Lilly cross paths once again and Lilly learns that, although she was a danger to herself and everyone around her, Colton has been missing from her life due to being homeschooled. Due to his Asperger's syndrome it was easier for him to not be surrounded by all of the stimuli that comes with a school setting. Lilly doesn't see a diagnosis when she looks at Colton, though. She just sees that the friend she has been missing for ages has returned to her life and he's the same awkward, charming boy she liked spending time with as a kid . . .

"It felt like the beginning of something incredible."

This is Lilly and Colton's love story and how sometimes it's necessary to color *outside* of the lines . . .

"When you love someone, their differences fall away."

Puddle Jumping gets 4 Stars for being such an adorable yet important love story (and also for that cover - boy oh boy is that a pretty cover). My only *real* complaint was that it read very young to me (Lilly's 9 year old voice and Lilly's 17 year old voice were exactly the same) so I was a little uncomfortable with the two "hitting a home run" if you know what I mean. However, since I'm not the target demographic for this book I'm overlooking that personal little peeve and simply appreciating this book for what it was . . .

"I don't believe there's such a thing as conventional love. Love is bending. Love is breaking. Love is

constantly learning about the other person until you go crazy because it will never be perfect, but there's no fault in trying."

Hulya Kara Yuksel says

God, this book was so damn beautiful. I loved it too much. Such a sweet and innocent love story. You should read it asap! :)

"This emptiness inside of me here," he placed my hand on his chest, "means I love you. When you're not here, I can't focus. It's too loud . . . But my heartbeat does this when you're close."
Under my palm, the erratic cadence was more apparent than I'd ever noticed before.
"I dream of you. And I don't like it when I can't talk to you or see you or touch you."
His eyes found mine again.
"That's love."

Mysza says

This one reminded me Reclaiming the Sand very much, but it was much softer and sweeter. If you've read it and liked it then you'll probably be a fan of Puddle Jumping too.

I'm sitting here, thinking, what should I write to make you see how fabulous this book was? Sure, I could say that the characters were wonderful, that their love was beautiful, no matter what and in spite of their differences, that the story was captivating, etc..... But still, it wouldn't do it justice. So, instead of writing what it was about and how it made me feel, I decided to share my favorite quotes. And maybe after a sample of this exquisite writing you'll decide to read it yourself. Enjoy!

"FRIENDSHIP: A true friend in one soul in two bodies."

"I wish you were like me. (...) Because then you would understand."

"The one thing I wish I could explain to people is he's not what they think he is. Words he's been branded with could never describe him. He's not special. He's extraordinary. To me. And I feel like I am, too, when I'm with him."

"I have to ask. Why do you like me? (...)

I don't understand the question. You're my Lilly. You've always been my Lilly."

"Talking with you would be much more enjoyable than talking to Talia, Lilly. She's paint by number; you're a watercolor."

"I dream of you. And I don't like it when I can't talk to you or see you or touch you. That's love."

"I don't believe there's such a thing as conventional love. Love is bending. Love is breaking. Love is constantly learning about the other person until you go crazy because it will never be perfect, but there's no fault in trying."

"You're my quiet, Lilly. For as long as I remember, you've been the one to calm me down. You're my beautiful Lilly. The one who makes everything right in my world."

Christy says

5 Stars!!!

Love is bending. Love is breaking. Love is constantly learning about the other person until you go crazy because it will never be perfect, but there's no fault in trying.

I love stories like this. Stories that make me feel, make me think, make me love and leave my heart happy. Acceptance, friendship, beauty and love. *Puddle Jumping* was a fantastic tale of two childhood friends named Colton and Lilly.

Lilly is such an endearing character. Even from her childhood, she's fun and spunky. I love how she sort of marches to her own drum. She doesn't care what others think of her or her relationship with Colton. She only cares about what's important... him. She has an endless supply of patients and I completely adored her. More than anything, I loved looking at Colton through her eyes.

The one thing I wish I could explain to people is he's not what they think he is. Words he's been branded with could never describe him. He's not special. He's extraordinary. To me. And I feel like I am, too, when I'm with him."

Colton was such a lovable character. He has Aspergers, but that doesn't define him. He is an artist, he's a boyfriend, a son, a smart guy. He is kind and he is exactly what Lilly says he is. Extraordinary. He always kept a smile on my face. I loved his kissing comments.

I've said it before but it bears repeating: Colton is very literal. I told him he could kiss me anytime. He did just that.

He might not have always understood Lilly's emotions and what she was feeling, but he did his best and she was always understanding.

Colton and Lilly were two amazing characters. But it was more than that. They were even more amazing together than apart.

Another character I adored was Colton's mom. I thought she was great. She was good with Lilly, was always there for her and tried to support her. She never gave up on her son and pushed him to be the best he could be. She loved him unconditionally and just wanted him to have the most normal life as possible, to be able to fall in love and follow his dreams like any other teen.

This author's writing and story telling ability was wonderful. The story was profound. I loved how the author was able to tell their story with love and kindness, yet still showing some of the difficulties and hardships these two had to endure. It was a refreshing story. It didn't take long to read, once I started, I read straight through. A fun, beautiful and emotional read I would highly recommend!

Life is meant to be lived, and if you're offered the chance to experience exceptional things with an extraordinary person, then there isn't one reason in the world to say no.

Lola says

I don't believe there's such thing as conventional love. Love is bending. Love is breaking. Love is constantly learning about the other person until you go crazy because it will never be perfect, but there's no fault in trying.

I could quote the whole book. That's how beautiful it is. Meaning: the story, writing, characters, themes, and everything else...

This isn't your run-to-the-mill fairy tale. It's not some Harlequin romance.

Because I'm not the kind of person to fall in love.

And neither is the guy I'm head over heels for.

I never thought a novella could be so complete, as in there's actually an important story and characterization that will impress us, readers. Puddle Jumping is not your typical YA romance story. I mean it. The love that is contained in this book is honest, true, faithful, powerful and meant to last. A love story that I, without a doubt, believed in...and I know it will make me dream these next few days. If I'm sure of one single thing about this, is that I will not forget what I just read soon...or maybe ever. Which may sound like an exaggeration to you, but I can't help but feel it.

It would be hard for me, since I was used to being able to have people read the tone of my voice, or the look on my face. This was completely foreign to him. But it was a bit of a rush knowing I would be on the same uncharted ground as he was. We were almost on a level playing field at the point and it was scary but refreshing at the same time. I could learn right along him. I could learn *him*.

Lilly met Colton at a young age, while babysitting him. They always had this 'connection' that makes it wonderful to watch their friendship and, later on, love, grow and develop. Colton is one love interest that you can't help but smile when he's around. He's pure, honest, passionate about art and...autistic. I may not be familiar with this disorder but my best friend's brother is autistic...so I can understand how hard it may be to approach with understanding sometimes and try to interact with autistic people. Yet, Colton is someone with whom you would try anyway, I believe. I know that I would, because getting to know him throughout the story was something I would do over and over again. He's everything I would like in a friend, or more...

With a small sigh he squeezed my hand tighter. "I wish you were like me."
The breath in my body just rushed out all at once as I asked him why.
His gaze traveled my face again before he focused on my hair, saying exactly what he had on his mind. "Because then you would understand."

Speaking of friendship, it is one very important theme, along with love, of course. Lilly and Colton don't start their relationship by a romantic one. It takes time to get there and, the fact that there is no insta-love in this made it all better. I do admit that they are very different from each other, and you make think so as well, but that's what made it all more interesting, in my opinion. It may be sad that Colton wasn't necessarily interested in what Lilly was, but that is to be expected since he is in his own bubble...but tries to open up with others. I guess I'm a little disappointed that Lilly thoughts – and talked to us - about his physic so much but, at the same time, when you're in love, that's a normal thing to do. Even constantly.

"I have to ask. Why do you like me?"
He shifted away from me then, his brows pulled together making him look ever cuter, if that was possible. "I don't understand the question." His hands were squeezing mine tightly as he looked down at them. "You're my Lilly. You've always been my Lilly."

Definitely the best short story I've read so far. The writing was a good one that softly invited us to feel so many emotions that we weren't necessarily expecting to affect us – in a positive way. I surely can't compare

the writing to...a flawless one, but that irrevocably doesn't mean that it wasn't an appreciative one that was fitting the story well. The narrator, our protagonist, was a voice that was enjoyable to hear – read. She never tried to mislead us into thinking something that turned out to be false. On the contrary, I don't recall her lying to herself – and so to us, by the same occasion.

I've always heard the best match in life is the person opposite of you that makes a complete whole.

Truly a book you should read if you want a cute, sweet and smile-worthy romance that will likely fill your heart with joy and love.

Ashwood (?? ??). says

'Love, for those lucky enough to experience it, is extraordinary.'

How the hell do I put into words what this book did to me? Here goes.. this was an amazingly, astoundingly, lovable and the cutest love story ever, that twisted my emotions and heart into whichever direction it chose. Lily and Colton are the cutest, strongest, most supportive and understanding, plus loving couple I think I have ever read about. Ever since they were kids Lily was the accident prone daredevil and Colton was the quiet, blue eyed boy, who loved to paint. When they grew up and came back into each other's lives they became instant best friends, not caring what anybody said about their friendship or how Colton was 'different' from everyone else.

'Friendship: a true friend is one soul in two bodies'

Lily was his inspiration, his light at the end of the tunnel, his everything and he was her safe haven, her quiet after the storm and her breath of fresh air.

Even though Colton was special and took everything in the literal sense, Lily was always, patient understanding and loyal to a fault. I loved her so much in this story. Colton stole my heart from chapter one, with his innocence, plain speaking, and just being him. Their love for each other is the kind that's been through hell and is still unbroken and unshakeable and all enduring, no matter what.

'You're my quiet, Lily.'

How is that even possible?

"I'm a mess, I am chaos"

'No,' he whispered.

'You're my beautiful Lily.

You're the one who makes everything right in my world.'

I've laughed and cried so hard, equally, while reading this book because they are beautiful and lovable and perfect. They are who they are and it's enough.

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

5 stars!!

How the author packed so much in so little pages truly astounds me. I think this is one of the few times I can say I loved this book from cover to cover: Qwen Salsbury's quote on the front gave me shivers and the dedication and acknowledgments had me tearing up all over again. The story itself is like a diamond of the first water. Strip away all the drama and other unnecessary plot twists and you get this book – the most heartfelt, touching, and purest kind of romance all girls dream of and boys roll their eyes at.

Lilly and Colton are childhood friends and first meet when she's paid to watch over him. However, Lilly's accident-prone personality gets the better of her several times and eventually Colton's mom decides it's too dangerous for her to come over. They lose touch for several years but fate has something else planned for them and finally, in Lilly's senior year in high school, she sees Colton a locker away. All her bottled up old feelings come loose, and she's determined to be there for him, in any way she can.

"I would do whatever it took to be what he needed me to be. He was worth it even after only one day."

I was extremely worried about reading this book and had to be repeatedly assured it was "Feifei friendly." First it's YA and that genre is just not my cup of coffee 99.999999999% of the time. Then, Colton's Aspergers is a delicate subject matter. What if the author butchered it? But no, she didn't and she rocked the YA part too. I could not stop highlighting the book, and there wasn't one moment where my heart didn't feel full of emotion. Lilly is such a gem! She had so much patience and love for this extraordinary boy and Colton was equally as wonderful. Though he didn't always understand Lilly's thoughts and feelings, he did the best he could and seeing how well these two complemented each other yanked *hard* at my heartstrings.

Their love is unconditional and sweet, and their story is profound and meaningful. It's a really easy book to read and even easier to love. I highly recommend it!

P.S. I really have to thank all the friends who urged me to read this or I would've missed out on this awesome book!

Aestas Book Blog says

"It begins with a boy and it ends with a boy, but what story doesn't?"

Wow!! What an incredible story! It took me by surprise in the best of ways and definitely was one of the most beautiful love stories I've read!

This is a mature YA standalone romance about two childhood friends, Colton and Lilly, who are reunited in the senior year of high school. Early on in the story, we discover that Colton has Asperger's and we also see that Lilly loves him unconditionally for who he is. This is their love story.

"I'm Lilly Grace Evans and this is the true account of how I ended up falling for a boy who made me believe love is anything but conventional."

I read this in one sitting and did not want to put it down even for a minute! The writing was so fluid and just drew me right into these characters' journeys. We're told the story through Lilly's eyes and the writing perfectly captured the voice of a teenager telling us the story of how she fell for the boy she now loved.

Colton stole my heart! He was such a sweet guy! The author did a fantastic job of portraying him in a sensitive, yet realistic way. He was smart, talented, and kind, but also socially awkward, incredibly literal, and said whatever he thought. But deep down, he was just a 17-year old guy falling in love with a girl who'd stayed in his heart since they were kids. My heart really went out to him as I saw him try so hard to fit into a world where most everyone was different from him and where few people understood him.

"With a small sigh, he squeezed my hand tighter. "I wish you were like me... Because then you would understand."

But at the same time, I was so impressed with Lilly. The world would truly be a better place with more people like her in it. She was incredibly kind-hearted, open-minded, accepting, and loving. She saw Colton for who he was, without labels, and more importantly, without judgement.

"When you love someone, their differences fall away. I don't look at him and see anything but HIM."

Puddle Jumping has a lot of depth and a very powerful message. On the surface, it's a very sweet and beautiful story of first love. But beneath the surface, it also delivers a very honest and profound commentary about society, and acceptance. The author really dealt with the subject matter in a very respectful and sensitive way. It was truly a joy to read.

"The one thing I wish I could explain to people is he's not what they think he is. Words he's been branded with could never describe him. He's not special. He's extraordinary. To me. And I feel like I am, too, when I'm with him."

I want to reassure you that this is a feel-good story. There's no bullying or extreme-drama or anything strongly negative in it. Yes, there are natural hardships stemming from the situation at hand, but it's a gorgeous journey to go on with these characters.

This book leaves you with a wonderful feeling and my eyes were filled with tears by the end. The powerful message of unwavering love and acceptance we are shown is universal and I think everyone will be able to take something beautiful away from this story.

Rating: 4.5 stars.

Standalone. Mature YA romance.

For more of my reviews, book news and updates:

◆ **Main blog: Aestas Book Blog**

◆ **Facebook Blog Page**

◆ **Twitter**

♥Sharon♥ says

5 Sweet and Amazing Stars

This was such an amazing story and I just loved it. Though it is a YA, something I don't read too often, I found Colton and Lilly's love story touching and passionate in a way of their own.

"I'm Lilly Grace Evans and this is the true account of how I ended up falling for a boy who made me believe love is anything but conventional. Love, for those lucky enough to experience it, is extraordinary."

Lilly meets Colton at the young age of 9. Lilly is 10. Even at that young age Lilly knows that Colton is different but special. But their time together is short and they don't end up seeing each other again until she was 15. It is then she finds out that Colton has Asperger's. Lilly still feels a strong connection with him and wants to be part of his life but it just doesn't happen.

Lilly thinks Colton is out of her life now forever. That is until the first day of her senior year of high school. This is when Colton walks back into her life. This is when their love story begins

Colton~ It was so easy to fall in love with him. He was kind, sweet and such a smart young man. Because he had Asperger's his ability to be social with others was awkward and his words were always direct. Colton knew how to love, he just loved differently.

"When you love someone, their differences fall away. I don't look at him and see anything but him, and how sweet he is." ~ Lilly

Lilly ~ She really was a beautiful person. She was kind, considerate and fell in love with Colton unconditionally. It wasn't always easy to be with Colton but being with him was more important than

anything else.

“You’re my beautiful Lilly. The one who makes everything right in my world.” ~ Colton

Lilly and Colton’s love story will touch your heart in so many ways. As I watched them try to fit into each other’s world my heart broke a little. But as they learn about acceptance, experience true feelings of love and realize love is unconditional, it was simply beautiful. As they flutter through their daily lives, going through typical teenager things, there were moments when I just wanted to tell them things would be okay. But they find their way.

Puddle Jumping was more than a sweet love story. It also dealt with matters of society and acceptance. I thought this author did an amazing job with such sensitive subjects.

There were some tears but mostly happy ones. Please take the time to read this story. It will leave you with a happy heart! ♥

Jennifer Kyle says

"Love is bending. Love is breaking. Love is constantly learning about the other person until you go crazy because it will never be perfect, but there's no fault in trying."

Amber L. Johnson delivered a wonderful story about Lily and Colton. This story is a well written tale of love and friendship.

Lily and Colton had a friendship as children and when their paths cross in their high school senior year, they embark on a relationship. What makes this story a tad different from other young love stories is that Colton has Asperger's.

"He trusted me implicitly to be his friend, and I was doing my best. But I was falling for him, and falling for him fast."

"You already saw me today." It was all I could take. "I wanted to kiss you some more, if that's okay." He smiled. "You should have said that first."

Colton and Lily struggle with the ins and outs not only of teens but with the added ingredient of Colton's condition.

Colton's immense talent for painting adds so much color to the story...

This short story is well worth your purchase and precious reading time. I found it completely endearing and the writing was just fantastic.

"Hollywood has to get their happy endings from somewhere."

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

"Love is constantly learning about the other person until you go crazy because it will never be perfect but there's no fault in trying."

The first time I met my friend, Melissa a lot of months ago, she urged me to read Puddle Jumping and one other book which I can't remember (sorry, Melissa). I didn't bother reading this then because I thought this was another cheesy romantic novel (sorry again, Melissa^^) but then recently, I have met a new friend, April, and she said if there's one book that changed her life in some way, it had to be this. So I thought there must be a reason these girls love this book so much. It didn't take me farther than the prologue to figure out that reason and consequently, to fall in love with the book myself.

To tell you frankly, this is the simplest, most genuine love story I have ever read and yet the story is anything but simple. Lilly is an ordinary teenage girl who has fallen in love with a very special young man named Colton who has Asperger's, an autism spectrum disorder.

Written in the genuine voice of a girl in love who like any other girl, has ridiculous expectations from the guy she loves, **the story tells us the true meaning of ultimate sacrifice, untiring understanding, true love and selflessness despite the reality of being in love with someone who doesn't have the emotional capacity to love her back.**

" It's a true story of a girl falling for a boy.
Nothing more.
Nothing less.
And I wouldn't want it any other way. "

It's taking everything in me to keep myself from gushing about the story but this is something that you have to read and discover for yourself so I'm holding myself back.

The story is short, at times bitter but mostly sweet, touching and definitely life altering. Highly

recommended!

Thank you, Melissa and April for bringing this book to my life. You can see their reviews by clicking on their names. ;)

Eda # Dax Lahn's Golden Tigress # says**

*** Full-review#3 of Eda's US Trip Reads ***

*** 10+++ "You're my quiet, Lilly." STARS ***

"Why do you like me?"

"I don't understand the question. You're my Lilly. You've always been my Lilly."

My heart was his forever when he spoke those words. HOW COULD IT NOT BE?
~ LILLY

I have a 12-year-old cousin that loves playing volleyball. But only if the ball is green.

I have a 12-year-old cousin that loves eating chocolate-chip ice-cream. But only with his silver spoon with white stripes on it.

I have a 12-year-old cousin that looks with a blank face when someone drops a pencilcase on the floor and gets up to get it. To go count how many pens there are on the floor. Because he HAS TO know.

I have a 12-year-old cousin that has never told me he loves me. But I know just how much he really does, when he hugs me a little bit too tight, when he smiles at me with green toothpaste dripping from his mouth, when he tugs on the sleeves of my shirts whenever he gets excited near me.

I have a 12-year-old autistic cousin. He rarely looks into my eyes, but when he does...*God, when he does,* my world just stops spinning, my heart fills with a feeling of bittersweet contentment and my stomach feels like a thousand butterflies suddenly started flying around in it. He is my favorite person in the entire world and is the reason for me to believe in the goodness of people.

And **Colton Neely**, this boy with Asperger's Syndrome, reminds me so much of him.

"I wish you were like me... Because then you would understand."
~ COLTON

I had **NO IDEA** what this book was about before starting it. I have never read any of the reviews about it or the blurb itself. I just vaguely remembered seeing it around a lot once and learned that it's quite short, so I said to myself "*Well...why not?*"...

THANK GOD FOR THAT! Because I feel like this book filled some kind of an emptiness inside me. Because after reading **Colton** and **Lilly**'s story, I look at the world with more strength and hope that my sweet cousin, and all the other kids just like him, will find happiness somehow. He won't always be alone. He will live a happy life and flash that sweet smile of his that I love a lot more. I sincerely believe that now.

I don't believe there's such a thing as conventional love. Love is bending. Love is breaking. Love is constantly learning about the other person until you go crazy because it will never be perfect, but there's no fault trying.

*I loved a boy who was **EXTRAORDINARY** beyond words, in my eyes. I don't think I'd ever wanted to live an exceptional life before him. A life filled with **COLOR** and **KNOWLEDGE** and feeling **BEAUTIFUL**.*

But for a little while, I had it.
~ **LILLY**

OVERALL: A story that will stay with me forever. I'll always remember **Lilly** and **Colton**'s incredible love story with a small smile on my face, maybe even a few tears on the corner of my eyes, and thank Amber L. Johnson for the priceless gift of hope she gave me.
