



Chances Are

Traci Hunter Abramson

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Maya Gupta is a survivor. After escaping an impending arranged marriage in India as a teenager, she has thrived in America. But now she faces her greatest challenge yet—cancer has invaded her life, and unless she finds a way to participate in a clinical trial in Washington, DC, this may be one battle she loses. When Maya's best friend Kari offers Maya the lifeline of a place to stay—her brother's currently vacant DC apartment—the young woman eagerly accepts and goes to meet her fate . . . Ben Evans's plans have changed, and he's heading home for some much-needed rest and relaxation during his off-season in the major leagues. Upon arriving at his DC apartment, however, Ben is shocked to find Maya—his sister's friend, who he hardly knows—in residence. He soon finds himself trapped between protecting his above-reproach reputation and searching for a way to help a woman he is coming to admire. When Maya's fight to survive her disease becomes more complicated than ever, she and Ben scheme an extreme solution to her predicament that tests to what lengths they're willing to go together to save Maya's life.

Chances Are Details

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From Reader Review Chances Are for online ebook

Cindi says

I got so caught up in this book! Of course it's one of those romances where you know the guy and girl are going to end up together but this journey was CRAZY! Ben is a baseball player and Maya has cancer...we've heard this story right? Wrong! Maya also ran away from India when her father promised to marry her off to a man three times her age (when she is only 13 years old btw)! She left with her grandmother who died just before her senior year of high school so she is left alone. The solution is for Ben to marry Maya so she can stay with him in Washington DC for a new trial treatment. This will help her get rid of that crazy Indian suitor and avoid deportation back to India. I was definitely taken on a journey I never expected and enjoyed every minute of it! Ages 12+ just because it wouldn't interest young kids (it is for older readers after all)

Shauna says

What a PHENOMENAL read!
SO. SO. SO. GOOD!

Maya has cancer and her only chance of surviving is a trial clinic in Washington, DC.

She has no money...she has no family...she has no way to do it...

Then her best friend, Kari, gives her hope in saying that she knows of an empty apartment just a few blocks from the hospital.

What she doesn't tell Maya is that the apartment belongs to her brother, Ben, and she hasn't asked for his permission.

So what happens when Ben comes home months earlier than expected?

Ben was suppose to stay in California during his off-season.

But he quickly became tired of the LA scene and his girlfriend who only wanted to be with him because he was a big baseball star.

Now he is home...only to find Maya living in his apartment.

Not wanting a scandal he turns Maya out on the street...not knowing her full story.

When the facts come into full light he pulls together a very unusual plan to help Maya.

A sweet, tender, life-altering, romance.
LOVED. LOVED. LOVED. IT.

Mara says

This book is different than all the other Traci Hunter Abramson books I've read, but it's a great read. Maya has a tumor at the base of her skull that has to be reduced to half its size before the doctors can operate. This isn't the first big challenge she's had in her short 20 years. When she was 13 yrs old she fled her homeland of India to escape an arranged marriage; when she was 16 yrs old her grandmother, who had helped her escape the arranged marriage, died and she was put into a foster home with people who didn't care about her. Despite all this she gets a full ride tennis scholarship to Vanderbilt University.

Despite rounds of chemo and radiation the tumor isn't small enough to remove. Maya's only shot is to be accepted into a clinical trial in Washington D.C. She quits school, but she's too sick to work so she has no income, and no place to live while receiving the treatment. Her best friend Kari comes up with an idea but fails to tell her brother, Ben, a major league baseball player, about it. When Ben comes back to D.C. to train in the off-season he's more than a little shocked to find this girl he's only met once before in his apartment. Both of the main characters are very likable people who are genuinely kind. Ben feels the solution he comes up with to solve all of Maya's problems is inspired, if unconventional. Maya is a person who deals with everything life gives her without complaining and wants to take care of her problems by herself without burdening others. This story completely illustrates how serving others helps you to love them. I wish there had been another chapter or a short epilogue that takes place a few months later to catch up with them after Maya's surgery.

This is a wonderful heart warming story. Totally clean read with a few chaste kisses near the end.

Michelle says

I am a fan of Abramson. I enjoy her adventure/romance novels. This one was okay. The characters were sweet. However, I did miss bad guys and FBI agents and Navy Seals and things blowing up. I'm sure she just wanted to try a different genre, but I hope she goes back to the other genre. That said, it's a sweet romance with nothing objectionable and with characters that are too good to be actual humans, but we all want to believe people like this exist!

Fiction Aficionado says

This is definitely a story that tugs at the heartstrings! Maya Gupta has a large tumour at the base of her skull, and her only hope of survival is treatment to reduce it to an operable size. Chemo and radiation have been unsuccessful, and the clinical trial in Washington DC is her last chance. But even that presents problems. She has no one who can stay with her during the treatment, the side effects of which are nausea, and extreme fatigue and muscle soreness. The one thing she does have going for her is the fact that her best friend's brother doesn't need his DC apartment, meaning she has somewhere to stay. Except... her best friend didn't exactly get permission from her brother, and when he returns from LA much earlier than expected, suddenly Maya doesn't even have accommodation anymore.

I confess there were a few times I begged Maya to just speak up for herself rather than trying to cope with everything by herself, but I could also understand how she would feel like she didn't have the right (or the energy) to do so. For that reason, Ben nearly missed learning just how precarious Maya's situation was, but once he knew, I loved watching the gentle growth of their relationship as he cared for her. And I can't forget to mention Henry, hospital orderly of the year! What a gorgeous heart he had!

The challenges Ben and Maya face aren't limited to the effects of Maya's treatment. A desperate attempt to contact Maya's family in India has unintended consequences and could see her deported, her financial situation is dire, and Ben's growing popularity as a rookie in the major leagues makes it difficult to keep his relationship with Maya out of the public eye. And even if they manage to deal with all that and make it through the treatment, there's no guarantee that the tumour will be reduced enough to operate safely.

The characters occasionally seemed a little too 'nice', and there was a tendency toward telling in some of the writing, but it was impossible not to get caught up in Maya's story as she struggled to overcome the odds stacked against her.

Lisa says

This is a very good book, although not your typical Tracy Hunter Abramson novel. The Saint Squad is missing in action (I hope they're back soon) and the characters are Christian but not LDS (maybe in a sequel?). I knew that going in, and so was not expecting the typical. As it was, I thought the book well-plotted--certainly the author has done her research on cancer and treatments. As always, Abramson takes an incredible situation and makes it credible. I enjoyed the characters, and would like to know them better, including Kari and Ben's parents. Maya's situation is tragic and in some aspects frightening, but the book strikes a balance between her troubles and good humor and lessons of friendship and watchful care. More like this would be great--although I hope to see the Saint Squad and similar books again, too. (I'm making a lot of work for the author, I guess, but at least she knows I'll buy all her books!)

Lucinda says

4.5 stars.

What I liked the most about this story was the gradual way Ben developed feelings for Maya. Their relationship is not a conventional one, and it starts under the stress of Maya's illness. The more Ben serves her, and helps her in the little things she can't do for herself, the closer they grow together.

It's a very emotional read, especially from Maya's POV with everything she has to face.

The ending was a bit too fast, would have loved to read an epilogue.

Nellie says

So, I cried through the first 1/3 of this book. Not typical for me. It was heart wrenching. Very clean, no cussing, no steam, just a genuine love story. This did not feel the same as Abramson's other books. I've read all of her others, and this had a different spirit to it. The aloneness Abramson portraited in the beginning of this book was very intense. I've never read that emotion so strongly. A bit frightening. I would have sunk into despair, and given up. Incredible story.

I love the characters, and the storyline was original. I really like it, and will let my teen daughter read this. I have to say, I don't like the book cover. That was a turn off for me at the beginning.

Katie W says

When I was a teen, I loved to watch movies (like Beaches or My Life) and read books (like Lurlene McDaniel) that made me cry. I loved to see a story unfold about a doomed couple or person and just sob my heart out. Now that I'm older, that's not my most favorite thing to do--in fact, I hate to cry. I saw this book arrive on the shelves and thought, "It's one of those teen books that I used to love so much" and I didn't rush to pick it up. Wow, was I wrong in waiting! This one was amazing! Yes, there were some sad parts, but they weren't overwhelming. I wasn't grieved, I was full of hope and completely engrossed in the story.

Maya has had a lot to deal with in her young 20 years. She is now fighting for her life and does so with such grace and dignity. Her best friend, Kari, offers a way to help her out of a hopeless situation--she can stay in Kari's brother's apartment while he's living in LA during the baseball off-season. But Maya finds herself in quite a predicament when he decides to move back home and back into his apartment, completely unaware that Maya is living there. Determined to protect his squeaky clean image and to help Maya out, he comes up with an unusual plan--a crazy one, but one that just might work.

I completely fell into this story and loved every minute of it. I loved the sweet, sincere, and unselfish nature of Maya. I loved the confident, caring, and personable image that Ben was and portrayed. This book is completely different and opposite of any of this author's other books. My only wish was that the ending wouldn't have been so rushed. I felt that it was a little abrupt and I'm not sure if that's because there will be a companion book to this one to fill some cracks in or if this is it. I really, really hope there's more!

Content: no language or violence; clean kissing. Clean!

Rachelle says

Pulls at the heart strings but not in a sappy way.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

4.5 stars

This book tore at my heartstrings. The characters are lovable and kind. The main characters, Ben and Maya, portray hope and acceptance in impossible circumstances.

The premise of the story is that Maya has cancer. She has a tumor at the base of her skull that must shrink before it can be removed. Her budding tennis career abruptly ends. She is very ill. She cannot work and her bills are piling up. She ran from her home country, India, to escape an arranged marriage with a man who is much older than her and very creepy.

She is given an opportunity to participate in a medical trial in Washington DC. The problem is that she has nowhere to stay and doesn't have the means to support herself. Fortunately, her best friend has a brother who has an apartment in DC he is not using, he's a professional baseball player and it's his off season.

The friend seizes the opportunity to have Maya live in the house, without her brother's knowledge. The

problems begin when he comes home unexpectedly to find Maya living in his home.

The book is a story about hope. I love that Maya keeps a positive attitude even though her odds of living are 50/50. This book is about looking beyond ones self and finding ways to help another person. I loved the characters, I loved the story.

This book is squeaky clean. There is a small amount of mild kissing.

Andrea says

This was a 3.5 star book for me. The only reason it wasn't 4 stars is because the second the big obstacle is figured out, the book ends. Perhaps she is leaving it open for sequels. I just felt rushed at the end and I was disappointed for it to end so soon. This author does a fantastic job of building awesome characters, and I found myself really enjoying this book. I think the pacing could have been a little faster in the beginning and middle of the book and then slowed down a bit at the end.

It was fun to read this novel, definitely a little different than what Traci Hunter Abramson usually writes. I enjoyed it. Read it in one day, between doctor appointments, and dropping kids off to baseball practice.

Alyson says

I have enjoyed nearly every book by this author and this book was no exception, but it is not a typical book for her. So far the books I've read have all been action and adventure. There is a mystery to solve and the main character is running for her life, while being assisted by a handsome young man. Very fun. This book was a more serious. The main character's challenge wasn't trying to solve a mystery before being killed, but was dealing with cancer. I really love Traci Hunter Abramson, she managed to pull me right into this book as well and to love the main characters. Perhaps it was too light hearted for such a heavy subject but I think she pulled it off.

Susan K says

Romance, clean, Christian Faith elements

More of a 3.5 for me as a reader, but loved the baseball setting. This was a cute read with the baseball setting, but very serious dealing with Maya's cancer. The misunderstandings, Maya's illness, and of course Kara's trying to get things set up to help her but not quite telling her brother what was really going on. Ben's prompting to marry Maya to solve some of her problems, it all came together for a fun read. The major league baseball setting was fun, and made for an interesting side story. Their fall, was lovely, and loved how their hearts gradually wrapped around each other as they got to know each other better. The prompting would probably be the one thing that might throw off some readers who don't enjoy faith based stories, but it still was a fun, romantic read. Loved how it all came together, Ben's family, the hospital characters were nice background characters for the story as well.

Charity Bradford says

Quick Reread Don't know why, but I needed a sweet romance after the holiday. Still loved this one about a woman fighting cancer.
