



Running Against Traffic

Gaelen VanDenBergh

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Paige Scott spent her childhood shuffled between relatives who ignored her, and her adult life hiding in her crumbling marriage to wealthy David Davenport. When David suddenly thrusts her into a remote, impoverished world, Paige is forced to face the betrayals of her past - not to mention the colorful townies of her present. Unexpected friendships and her discovery of running propel her on a jagged and comical journey toward learning how to truly live.

Running Against Traffic Details

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From Reader Review *Running Against Traffic* for online ebook

Rebecca Graf says

I have to admit that I had this book for a spell before I read it. Why? I'm really not sure. Something about it just didn't pull at me whether it was the synopsis or I just wasn't in the mood to read that particular book. I finally decided to read it and was so glad I did.

Running Against Traffic is the story of a big-city woman who is dumped by her husband in a small town and told she has to fend for herself. Her own past and her attitude has caught up with her. Unsure of what to do or how to do it, Paige fumbles about learning how to wipe down a kitchen table, earn her own living, and discover who real friends are. This is a life she is very unfamiliar with. The friends she discovers in this small hick town aren't the high society ones she had back in the big city. They are small town people with backgrounds that are hard and sad. They are real people who show Paige that friends will do anything for each other and don't have to have price tags attached.

The story moves along at a steady pace as the reader moves with Paige through her emotional trauma. The storyline is very deep, moving, and realistically comical at times. There were moments where I laughed out loud as I envisioned the scene and others where I began to cry as I felt the characters' pain. Speaking of characters...

Paige appeared to be shallow and one-dimensional until other characters in the small town began to appear and reveal her true depths. I found her to be someone I could relate to as the story progressed and I got to see more of her soul. She could represent anyone who had been moving through life just doing the motions and not feeling it. Sometimes we all need to be kicked in the rump to get us really moving. As for the rest of the characters, I fell in love with each zany one who had hearts as big as the wide open sky. Each one was severely flawed but was more of a friend than the 'perfect' ones she had left in the city.

The writing was well done and kept me entertained. The very beginning was hard to get into, but it picked up quickly and I honestly had to keep reading to see what would happen next.

There is some language, innuendos, and topics that can be disturbing such as drug abuse, family abuse, and such. They are not graphic, but they can pull at you and could be disturbing for those who have been through it. I know many times I cried as I watched a character struggle with their own inner demons.

I have to say that this is a great read and one I'd suggest for a book club. You could have many deep discussions about it. Check it out.

Note: I received this book as part of a book tour with no expectation of a positive review.

Glenn Davis says

As a man I was surprised when this novel was recommended to me that I would actually enjoy it. My normal genre of book is suspense, thrillers but I found myself invested in the characters and wanting to find out what

eventually happened to each of them. The author did an incredible job of not only telling the story of the protagonist but as well of the other leading characters in this novel. Quite a few times I actually caught myself laughing out loud at some of the antics that went on in the book, and that has not happened in a long time. At first glance I thought this was typical chic-lit and would be turned off by it but to my surprise there are deeper issues that are delved into with the main character Paige as well as the supporting characters of Al and Bryce. The bottom line is when a book can keep you up later than you wanted to because you want to find out what happens next, its truly a winner. Impressive debut novel for this author.

Kathleen says

Running Against Traffic is the intriguing story of a woman's journey of self-discovery and the rebirth of her life. Paige Scott Davenport was living a privileged life in Philadelphia with her wealthy husband David, until her world was turned upside down when David literally dumps her off in front of a dilapidated house in Wells Lake, a small town in western Pennsylvania. Paige finds herself in a downward spiral of depression and relies on alcohol to diminish the pain, but when she takes up running through the town of Wells Lake, she makes friends with the townspeople who help her on her journey to rebuild her life.

This is a wonderful story of second chances, as Paige's journey of self-discovery is filled with trials and tribulations that teaches her to stand on her own two feet, helps her heal, and learn to live again. I loved the author's metaphor of the renovation of the tired, crumbling house bit by bit, as it reflected the gradual rebuilding of Paige's life. With the support of some quirky caring townspeople, Paige develops friendships and learns to care about herself and others. I really enjoyed the inclusion of local Philadelphia landmarks and the mentioning of my hometown of Brigantine, NJ, it made me smile and appreciate the richly detailed descriptions of the setting. I loved how Paige's story gradually unfolded, the author sprinkles bits of Paige's past throughout the story, interweaving it with her journey of self-discovery, I think that was very clever and kept me turning the pages. I loved the quirky townspeople of Wells Lake (Al, Deidre and Brice), their humor and antics made me laugh, it was so easy to connect with them, and cheer for them and Paige as they face the hardships that life throws their way.

Running Against Traffic is a touching and poignant tale that has a great mixture of humor, drama and inspiration, you can't help but cheer on Paige as her journey teaches her valuable life lessons. This is a wonderful debut novel for author Gaelen VanDenbergh.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Pump Up Your Book! Virtual Book Publicity Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Krystal Milton says

While I did not fall madly in love with this novel, I did enjoy reading it. There is just something fresh about starting over, especially in a quirky small town where everyone knows every minute detail about its inhabitants and their lives.

I had a couple of issues with the beginning as Paige found herself deserted by her husband. I mean, at first

she thought it was a joke, laughed it off. And not a minute after when it dawned on her that he may not be coming back she immediately fell apart. For me, this gave me an instant dislike of her. I would assume that anybody deserted in a foreign town would immediately call someone for help, advice, call their jerk of a husband and ask for some details as to what the heck he was trying to accomplish by making this devastating prank. I mean, it would have been great to know, as a reader, at that particular moment, that Paige could not call David because he never talked on his cell while driving, or that she had no real friends or family. We didn't find this out until almost a few days later when she decided to call her uncle. And we didn't find out that David didn't talk while driving until the book was almost over. Another issue I had, was the fact that we later found out she could call one her Uncle's old maid whom she called a friend and maybe she could have helped...like in the beginning and not towards the end?

I hated that Paige seemed so helpless and simple minded not to mention lack of common sense to have even tried to reach out from the beginning. She did nothing but skulks and mourns for a husband she sure as heck wasn't in love with, hadn't been intimate with in a while. I mean, I just didn't get it and I had to re-read the beginning to make sure I wasn't missing anything. I wasn't. Same scenario ten minutes later and I was still peeved.

I found at first it was hard to connect with Paige because she instantly pissed me off, I wasn't as a reader given any reason to like Paige, relate to her plight, be pissed at David instead of her. In that instant I sided with David. Paige was just...just...very very maddening.

I mean that is no reason to desert your wife but I could see his point, when we later found out why he left her although there is more to his reasoning.

Besides this first setback for me in the book, I continued although skeptically. But I came to love other characters in the book and found myself wanting to know more about them. Soon Paige redeemed herself by becoming more human and relatable, but it was like a roller coaster. One minute she was a good strong solid lead character and in the next I was pissed at her again for some reason or another.

But who could not love Deidre the neighborhood mother hen who took in stray children off the streets, fed the hungry, and showed Paige how to look for meaningful things in life. There was also Darnell a well rounded (literally) bar keep who had a troublesome younger brother whom he cared immensely about.

And who could not love the horribly broken Bryce or Al who Paige took in off the streets to help with home repairs in exchange for shelter and food.

Once I connected with the cast of miscreants who lived in the small desolate town, I began to understand Paige a little. I followed her story of discovery and began to get into it.

This wasn't my favorite read, but it wasn't horrible. It had a nice pace, good flow and the Author has a great writing technique. If only Paige had been more developed in a way that connection could be maintained, it would have been an awesome read.

Fran says

Running Against Traffic:
Gaelen Vandenberg

Running Against Traffic is a unique novel that brings to light many issues that most of us hope to never have to face. Appearances are often deceiving and although Paige Davenport on the surface or outwardly appears to have what some might say it all, she learns that life can change in a flick of let's say a car ride. Married to David for many years, a wealthy man who enjoys living in the right place, driving the right car and attending parties with the right people, but underneath he had another side and agenda hidden from Paige until he decided to release it or bring it forth at the right time. Some marry for love and others for money, class and station living life in order to have the advantages others could give them and truly giving nothing of him/herself. Paige spent her life pretending to be the person she wanted others to see, rich, full of class and never thought to see past what was right in front of her. So, why would David lure her into his Lexus, pack up all of her things and pretend to take her on a vacation when in reality he decided to leave her at Wells Lake, a one horse you might say town and forced to live alone in a run down house. Turning on the utilities, providing her with a bank card and some of her possessions he forced her out of the car and sped off leaving you might say the dust in the road in her face and in his wake. So, how would she survive? What would her next step be? What lessons will she learn? When someone has always put her own self first, what happens when you might need others to sustain your life? Faded in the background is her life in Philadelphia and the wealth her husband took with him.

Think about falling into quicksand and slowly sinking without anyway to get up until the quicksand envelops you and you are completely covered. Think about living life as if you are going through the motions, feeling sorry for your plight and then one day finally realizing that unless you changed you would sink deeper beneath the quicksand. Paige spent most of her time thinking about her life, crying, lashing out and then finally seeking professional help. Writing down her feelings, expressing her thoughts helped to a point but one person's simple remark just might snap her out of her blue funk. Living in this town might just be the best medicine for Paige. Finding and forming unique and unusual friendships priceless as she takes the first steps to rising up the sand. Meeting Al, one persistent man, Bryce, Deidre and some other residents she just might learn the true meaning of friendship, understanding and being independent. Living in a house that if the wind blew on it might fall down like the sticks or straw house of the first two pigs in the fairytale the Three Pigs.

While Paige was wallowing in self -pity she was fortunate to meet Al, Bryce and Deidre. Wells Lake might be a small town but the people she meet would teach her many lessons that she never would have learned married to David. As you get to know Deidre, her daughter Carmen, Darnell, and Al you learn that appearances are often deceiving and sometimes more than what you see or meets the eye is really happening. Al and Bryce move into Paige's house with the stipulation that they would fix it up and make it livable. Then something finally happens and Deidre's one comment changes her perspective on life. Just think about something that makes you happy if fake it. Deciding to do something positive she orders running shoes and the fun begins. The first run was painful but the rest would not only invigorate her but encourage both Al and Bryce to join in. Eventually they formed the Wells Lake Running Club. But there is much that happens before that as lives intertwine, feelings come out, Bryce and Paige bond on many different levels and she just might learn that David might have done her the biggest favor of her life.

Author Gaelen VanDembergh takes reader's inside the life of what some would call a back water town to meet people that are special, will endear you to them and whose qualities are often overlooked because of who they are and where they come from. Struggling to find her own way she does not realize that she might have done that already. Helping Bryce when he over doses or drinks too much. Supporting Al when things go wrong and hoping to start something positive to help those in need. Imagine starting a support group for those on drugs, alcoholics or just need to talk out their troubles.

Paige becomes more involved in the lives of those living in Wells Lake and friendships form but she is still not sure where she belongs or the direction her life is taking. Learning more about Bryce and his past along with Al's the reader understands that they are not all that different and when Al relates that she needs to forgive those that ignored her and left her, the dialogue is quite compelling and the outcome you have to read for yourself.

Although Paige had fallen into some type of routine her heart is not in Wells Lake and she wants to return to Philadelphia. Not realizing that she has changed, found her way and improve her life, that money is not everything and for the first time she has real friends. As the meetings took shape and more arrived to join, Darnell who ran them would introduce the newest member and hope they would share their story with the rest of the group. But, I would be remiss if I did not include what I call the brief interlude where we learn about Jeremy and Lucien two men in her life that she cared for in different ways. Getting to know her relationship with them, the innocent flirtations that made her feel special we begin to understand why her life with David was so stark, cold and incomplete.

With her boss and lawyer Mr. Hackney she managed to get her bills paid and money from David. But, her friendship with Hackney's wife was different or odd you might say but what happens when Mindy does not call her? What happens next would change more than just Hackney's life. As we learn more about the meetings, and the special Wiccan group that lives in this town, we turn back to Paige the 10K race that is going to be held in this town. Amazing how she set this up and encouraged people to run and get healthy. A race that you will cheer for all of the runners and one woman named Paige that just might win in a different way.

As more truths come out, many lives are changes and Paige makes a major decision. Will she remain with these people or will she return to Philadelphia? What about her house and what about her one shot at revenge? When things finally heat up and the ending is near you won't believe what happens and what she decides to do?

Author Gaelen Vanderbergh teaches everyone that life might be hard, things might seem like they will never get better and then one simple incident just might turn your life around. Friendships, loyalties, hope, trust and a small town named Wells Lake filled with people that everyone just might wish lived in their community. So, what about the garden she created with Deidre? Will Al finish the kitchen? Will she return? Who knows maybe the author will bring them all back for one final chapter to let us know what happens to Paige Davenport/Scott. Running Against Traffic: sometimes you need to change directions.

A definite must read.

Fran Lewis: reviewer:

Let's dedicate this review to those that ran the Boston Marathon

Candace says

Running Against Traffic, by Gaelen VanDenbergh, is a witty and sarcastic novel focusing on the worst (or maybe best?) year of Paige Scott's life as she begins a journey of self-discovery. Materialistic Paige lives in a world that includes a rich husband, a swanky home, and more money than she knows what to do with. Her days revolve around ignoring her husband David, relaxing at the spa, shopping for things that she does not need, and then ends with dinner and drinks with said husband and other elite members in her social circle. Not wanting anything more or anything less, Paige is content with her vapid lifestyle.

Unfortunately, Paige's world is turned upside down when her husband dumps her in the middle of nowhere at a dilapidated house that he announces is now hers to do with as she pleases. With a quick speech saying they are over and feel free to date, he quickly peaces out and leaves her stranded with nothing more than the crumbling house's keys, her luggage, cell phone, and a debit card to a local bank. Paige slowly realizes that her husband is not playing a joke on her and that she is truly without anyone for the first time in her life. After a week of stewing in her own misery and eating the food that David had stocked in the falling apart and outdated kitchen, Paige snaps to her senses and realizes that she needs to wander into the little town for more food and to figure out just what she is going to do.

Paige soon finds herself under the wings of Deirdre, the town mother hen whom everyone can count on for food, advice, and comfort. Slowly placing a plan in place, Paige learns that she does not have enough money to hire a divorce attorney so accepts a job as the secretary of the town lawyer in exchange for his legal services and a small salary. Paige also realizes that there is not enough money in the bank account that David left her to hire someone to fix up her house AND to keep herself alive. Not having any other option, Paige allows sexy Al, a contractor, and his younger friend Bryce (preferred to be called Starfire) to take the two guest rooms in exchange for labor. And so begins Paige's new life.

In Running Against Traffic, Paige must go on a personal journey in order to discover just who she is before she can become whole and find happiness. With quirky new friends, Paige slowly begins the process of beginning again in Wells Lake. She must find both her self confidence and self worth. Also, Paige sadly realizes that she has no hobbies, her former empty life was full of drinking top shelf liquor and socializing with women she didn't like. Trying to piece together who she thinks she is, Paige unknowingly starts a Wells Lake Running Club and begins to grow a green thumb as she embraces growing a garden. Paige takes Deirdre's advice of faking a smile seriously as she finds herself fitting into Wells Lake and growing close to her new set of peers.

I absolutely LOVED VanDenbergh's Running Against Traffic. It has an original plot, spunky dialogue, and great characters that sprung to life with each page. VanDenbergh's characters are very realistic with their own flaws. I believe Bryce was one of my favorite characters. Born to a young drug addict mother, Bryce grew up to be a troubled young man. Turning to drugs and alcohol for peace, entertainment, and everything in between, Bryce at times finds himself hooking for money. Seeing a kindred spirit in Paige, Bryce is able

to open up to her and allows her to try and help him face his demons.

If you are looking for a great summer read, Gaelen VanDenbergh's novel, *Running Against Traffic*, is definitely the book for you. You will find yourself rooting for Paige and her friends as they face the hardships that life throws their way head-on. I dare you to try and put this book down!

*The author has provided me with a complimentary copy of her book, *Running Against Traffic*, for the purpose of review. *

Susan (The Book Bag) says

Running Against Traffic is a wonderful story about self discovery, gaining independence, and finding out who your friends truly are. Paige gets dumped out her car by her husband, in front of a run down house and is told to get on with her life. After several days of self pity and numbing herself with alcohol, she decides to do whatever it takes to get herself out of this hell hole and back to her glamorous life.

'At times her insides twisted in knots and she would break out in a sweat, and then move to a state of numbness again, and then she would sleep, deep and dreamless, or fitful and splinters by waking several times long after dark, and then she was up and prowling again. There was no purpose to her life, nothing to do, no one to talk to. Paige Davenport had disappeared, and her silent phone told her no one was looking for her. It was a hollow realization. A few times in her murky mind, flashes of her parents came and left as quickly, little waves, clear water that slides up onto the sand and as quickly slips back into the dark ocean.'

Well, things don't go as she thinks they should and getting out isn't so easy. I really do love stories like this, when the main character has to go through a process to find out what and who it really is that will make them happy. And the journey that Paige has to take is filled with a lot of ups and downs, and somewhat odd and unusual character. But that's what made this story one that just made me want to keep reading ~ I loved the world that Paige was forced to live in.

'Or maybe there was something to it, this meditation, self-awareness, inner strength-witch -power thing. Maybe it was within everyone, lying dormant and all you had to do was tap into it. Like running, you just lace up your shoes, take a deep breath, and plunge forward; repeat the process over and over and that part of you can open up, revealing something you can feel and examine, and no one really knows about it but you, and a new, pliable skeletal support could begin to grow around it as it nurtured and grows stronger.'

As you can see from the quotes I pulled from the story, Gaelen writes beautiful words which contain wonderful wisdom for us all. We can all learn life lessons from this story.

'These small desires become small accomplishments, which are the bricks in the road that will take you where you need to go. Don't focus on the end of the road, focus on building the road. Brick by brick. Each day is a new day. Every day that you wake up, alive, is a fresh chance to get it right.'

I absolutely loved this story, Paige and all her accomplishments, the wonderful, quirky characters, and the wisdom within the pages of the book. I look forward to reading more of Gaelen's stories!

And I will leave you with one last bit from the book ~ I love this one! And it is so true.

'Women, she thought, we have the supple ability to fool ourselves, so cleverly and intricately. We don't want. We want, but we don't need, We need, but we can't bury it. We can't bury it, but we can bury our hearts, and we don't want, anyway. As a reward for our success, for fooling ourselves, we become fools.'

Victoria Sawyer says

Running Against Traffic is a small town novel about finding yourself when you have been living life going through the motions. Paige Davenport had it all on the outside, the rich husband, the parties, the idle lifestyle, but all that changes when she is dropped off to fend for herself at a dilapidated house in Wells Lake, a small town.

We follow Paige as she struggles to discover who she really is and what she wants out of life. The town is a big part of her discover as well as the colorful townsfolk and Paige soon realizes that she is not on her own in this new place. This book had moments that touched you with the beauty of the description as well as moments that were laugh out loud funny. VanDenbergh nails her descriptions of people and there are so many quirky characters that you fall in love with in this story.

This isn't a big dramatic story, it's like a small town, on the outside it appears that not much is going on, but within the framework there is certainly a lot of soul searching, questioning and growing as well as laughter and big topics to be tackled, like drug/alcohol addiction. And much like the colorful townsfolk this book will bring you into its pages and make you feel like one of the family.

My only criticisms of this book were that I wished I had known a bit more about Paige's backstory in her "old" life sooner in the book or more interspersed with the rest of the tale. There were a few mentions but we don't find out much of the other story until a bit later in the book when old emails are revealed. I think I wanted to step into that world a bit more, to know a bit more about what was going on in her head at that time and maybe instead of just emails, I would liked to have "been" there with her.

Secondly, I loved Al, however I wish I knew more about him. He is so mysterious! I thought he would be revealed at the end and he was to an extent, but still I feel that much of him is hiding under the surface. I think I've read that there will be a second installment, so perhaps we'll get to learn more about him and why he holds Paige at arm's length.

Overall this was a great read. I was pulled in by the warmth of the story, the friendliness and just plain quirkiness of the townsfolk and I rooted for Paige to find herself and discover what she wants out of life. I think she did discover some things, but I feel there is more growing for her and I'd like to find out what happens next. Definitely a solid first book by Gaelen VanDenbergh.

Angie says

Not high literature, but I enjoyed this. I particularly liked the references to Philadelphia, where I live. These references included Paige, the main character, living a block from me at one point in her past.

This book reminded me a bit of *Good in Bed* by Jennifer Weiner. Both tell the tale of a woman who experiences a metamorphosis during a time of loss. It also reminded me a lot of the movie *The Station Agent*, a favorite independent film of mine. That film chronicles the lives of a unique group of very disparate people who form friendships in a small town. I liked the quirky characters in this novel and could see them easily fitting in the the movie as well.

I'm adding an extra star to my rating because I'll read a sequel to this novel, if one becomes available.

Caren ~ the misfit geek says

I absolutely loved this book. It sucked in from the start. I literally didn't want to put it down. I wanted to remain immersed in this little town with these wonderfully quirky characters. It was a quick read but I really didn't want it to end.

The story felt realistic in the way it developed. There was not a lot of backstory to begin the story but it was interspersed into the story as it was necessary. The parallels in the story are cleverly used. It was both heartbreaking and heartwarming. At times it was laugh out loud funny.

Character development was masterful. I felt like I got to know Paige as she was getting to know herself. I connected with her from the start. Her reactions to what happened to her seemed quite natural. Al and Bryce were very colorful supporting characters and added depth to the story as a whole.

Read this book! It is a breath of fresh air. It would make a fantastic summer read! This is a stunning debut from Ms. VanDembergh. I hope she will be writing a sequel as the ending kind of lends itself this and I would love to spend more time with these great characters.

Ian says

After her husband abandons her in a back-water Pennsylvania town, leaving her in a dilapidated house, Paige finds herself in a downward spiral of depression and alcoholism. Realising that she needs a focus she takes up running, and through that and with the help of her neighbors she gradually starts to rebuild her life.

Running Against Traffic is a pretty good first effort with one or two missteps. There were twenty-something pages of e-mail correspondence right in the middle of this book which really didn't work. Honestly I skipped through most of it. I got the gist of what was going on and then just tried to get past it. There is an awful lot going on in this book....a lot of characters and a lot of stories. By the end it seemed like the author was rushing to tie up all the loose ends.

That said, I enjoyed this book a lot. The author has a lot of raw talent and she'll go along way if she can learn to pace herself.

Anna Tan says

Paige Davenport had it all - a rich husband and an easy socialite life - until her husband drives her out to the

middle of nowhere and abandons her at a ramshackle house. For the first time in her easy life, she realizes that 1) she has no true friends, 2) she has never appreciated all the good things in her life until then and 3) she has never actually really lived.

Running Against Traffic is a humorous story of how Paige slowly starts to pull herself together with the help of Deidre, Darnell, Al and Bryce - even if Al and Bryce need just as much help as she does! Paige was annoyingly useless in the beginning - I wanted to slap her silly - but grew over the pages of the book, even though she lapsed a few times.

Al was a conflict of sorts - one thing that bugged me a little was how VanDenbergh left so many questions hanging about him - like what was stopping Al from just sleeping with her? Was he just being gentlemanly? Did he have a problem with it? There were hints and strange conversations with Darnell, his brother, but nothing really concrete - or maybe I was too dense to pick it up. (Or was VanDenbergh trying to keep it clean? If she was, then she shouldn't have even gone there... lol. It felt confusing. Like, I'm going to have you two in compromising situations, but no, not sex. We can't have the two of you actually having sex.)

Overall, Running Against Traffic was a light, interesting read. True, some parts felt a little contrived, but it was an overall uplifting story of how even a spoilt young woman can rise amid challenging circumstances and make something of her life.

* I received a free copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review.

Kathryn Romeo says

This book is a breath of fresh air. I loved it, which is surprising since I don't normally like this genre (women's lit.). But I found it to be witty, interesting, and addictive. It is a wonderful story of a woman rediscovering herself after being left by her husband in a small town.

Talk about character development, the story revolves around Paige learning who she really is and how to stand on her own two feet. She gets herself a job and takes in two boarders to help with the repairs on her house. But the bonds that form between the roommates become the strongest and most meaningful ties for each of them. They each have their own demons that they are battling. But instead of trying to face them on their own, they face them together.

The characters are relatable and lovable! I have to give this one 5 stars. Add this to your list for an up-beat read perfect for a lazy weekend or beach day.

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

4 Glowing Stars

Paige Scott lives in a beautiful home. She's married to a man with beautiful teeth. She shops. She plays her role within her husband's social life. Paige's life is not so bad. She can live with it. Fortunately, her husband can't. In a drastic change of events, Paige is taken on a long drive away from her cosmopolitan life to a dilapidated house. Then she's abandoned like an unwanted pet in a remote town. This pampered woman,

raised by nannies and house staff, is about to learn valuable lessons one step at a time.

Between the charming pages of this debut novel readers will find a heartening story about self-discovery, humility, friendship, and empowerment. Paige Scott does not choose a personal journey by stepping off a bus onto a Tuscan road ...

Read the full review for *Running Against Traffic* in the June 2013 issue of InD'Tale
(June 2013)

Rachelle Ayala says

This book will make you think about the friendships you have and whether anyone would truly miss you if you simply disappeared. Paige Davenport seemed to have it made. She had a wealthy husband, lived in the right neighborhood and attended the right parties. She went through the motions of a high class life and never questioned where she came from or where she was going--until the day her husband dropped her off at Wells Lake, a one stop-light town, in front of a dilapidated house.

After a few days of aimless wandering Paige meets Al, a hunkalicious, hot and helpful hero with a heart of gold. He and the rest of the townspeople force Paige to get involved, and before long, Paige began to exercise, care about others, worked hard to refurbish the house and learned to stand on her own. She became a fully integrated member of Well's Lake and made many friends, especially Bryce and Al, her two roommates, and Deidre, the local town matron.

The story hooked me from the beginning and as I got to know the townsfolk, I began to like them more and more. Paige's friendship with Al was frustrating and I felt sure they would finally realize they loved each other. And they did, in a sense, but there is more to come. A sequel, *Running in Circles*, will be out this summer and Al will be playing a prominent role in the story. Hooray!
