



Waiting For Spring

R.J. Keller

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The pain in Tess Dyer's heart stems from a lifetime of rejection: by her distant mother, by a string of one-night stands, and by her husband, Jason. He promised to love her forever, yet here she is, divorced and shunned in her own town. She tries everything to dull the pain: sex, work, and endlessly cleaning the house. Finally, in a fit of despair, she abandons the small town of Brookfield, Maine, for an even smaller town, determined to start over with a clean slate. But she can't run from the demons in her head, and she soon falls back on her old habits, this time with the help of her sexy new neighbor Brian. Though she tells herself he is just a warm body to dull the pain, his kindness has a soothing effect on her bruised heart. But the fear of losing his love is always there, and before long, Tess's past threatens to destroy her fragile new happiness. Ultimately, she must make a choice: continue drifting through life, or confront the cruel realities of her past and start living. A dramatic departure from contemporary chick-lit, Waiting for Spring is a moving novel about a real woman struggling to find her place in the world.

Waiting For Spring Details

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From Reader Review Waiting For Spring for online ebook

Helen Smith says

I liked the warm, flawed, funny heroine in Waiting for Spring. Tess and the situations she found herself in felt authentic, as if the writer was writing from the heart if not actually drawing on episodes from her own life. Tess deals with tragedy, love, sex, work , heartache and loss during the course of the book - and all of it feels credible.

On a separate note, the author has made a series of funny short films with her fellow author Kristen Tsetsi about 'the writer's life' which I enjoyed very much - it's what persuaded me to read Waiting for Spring in the first place. You can find them under 'PaperRats' on YouTube.

Cribquilter says

This book has captured raw emotion like no other I have ever read. I wept many times while reading this. I ached for the leading character. It was a good book I liked it

Elena Aitken says

I loved this book. From the very first page, I was hooked by the writing style and couldn't put it down. I started it thinking that I knew how it would play out. I was wrong. The author surprised me countless times. I laughed, and I cried. A book that can do both has my vote!

I've recommended this one to all my friends.

Good stuff.

Misty Baker says

When I read a book I become emotionally engrossed in it, sometimes this habit is good, because the book will brighten my mood or make me a stronger person, while other times the words that flow from the pages (to create the movie in my head) leave little burn marks, like a projector that was wound to tightly. "Waiting for Spring" was the later.

I have read so many books lately that focus on peoples inability to control, rely, or believe in themselves that it's starting to make me wonder if this is how the majority of humanity actually feels on a daily basis. So my new motto is this: We are human, we make mistakes, we are damaged but we are beautiful.

"Waiting for Spring" was a difficult book to read, not structurally, because in actuality the writing was undeniably masterful, but the plot was so emotionally torturous (on so many levels) that it actually made me want to kidnap the characters and take care of them myself.

Tess is a whore, or so she has been told since she was sixteen. Emotionally damaged by her mother, and the

scrutinizing eyes of a small town, she has forgotten how to love...even herself. With one life ending and another life beginning, (in a town miles away,) Tess thinks the slate is clean. Start over, eventually forget the past, and start a future...even if that future only consist of cleaning other people's toilets and having enough cash for beer. But what happens when being invisible is impossible? What happens when you fall in love with other damaged people...people with drug problems, daddy issues, and years of missed opportunities? What happens when the worst case scenario happens, and the second life you've worked so hard to build turns to rubble in less than 2 hours? What happens when the glue that keeps you together melts?

“RJ Keller” penned a story about denial, rage, hatred, addiction, abandonment, loneliness, love and acceptance. “RJ Keller” wrote a piece of literature that defines the phrases “Giving Up” and “Learning to Live” and she did it with some of the most beautifully descriptive paragraphs I have ever read. She had an understanding that “love” and “sorry” are simple words for strong emotions, and that people hold on to guilt as easily as they do money, but most importantly she let the reader experience what happens when there is an overwhelming loss of control.

The first couple of chapters seemed a little apprehensive...like “Keller” was searching desperately for a way to express her feelings, and I thought that the preface was completely unnecessary, but regardless of the initial missing depth, the rest of the novel was so deep that at times I felt like I had to take a break just to learn how to breathe again.

This book was NOT in any way shape or form a quick read, it is roughly 480 pages and believe me when I say you feel each and every one of them. There was also a rampant use of the “F” word, but once it was said more than 200 or so times, it pretty much seemed like second nature, and to be perfectly honest... I don’t really think there could have been a better word to use.

This book is definately not a light hearted read and therefore I do not recommend it for everyone (especially younger audiences) but I do whole heartedly recommend it for those of you who like a serious, well crafted story.

Happy reading my fellow Kindle-ites and remember: Yankees rule...Boston sucks... so just deal with it!
(*wink*)

Erin says

This is a tough one to review because I was sucked into the story and wanted to know what happened, but I felt like the book was way too long and just wanted it to end. I got annoyed at the mopey main character--think Bella Swan times a hundred. She hates herself because her mother hated her and because she had sex with tons of guys to try to make herself feel better. There were also see things I found unrealistic. On the plus side, I felt like I was rooting for the main characters, and I could empathize with them. So I guess the author was good at creating characters I cared about, she just needed to cut about 100-200 pages of nonsense. Also, this book contained lots of graphic sex and language (not that there's anything wrong with that.)

Sgrefe says

Couldn't put it down - first time I've finished a book in 2 days in about 5 years

Karen says

Actually, I guess this book could be a 2 1/2 star book, because there were many places where the writing very good.

My disklikes: Too much adult language (very distracting), and too much sex, that didn't add to the story. The book was too long, if 100 pages had been edited out, it would have been better. The ending was very good. I think my biggest problem was that I couln't sympathize with the main character, I didn't like her. I almost liked the other characters better.

My likes: Some of the prose was wonderful. The setting was a good one as well.

Scott Collins says

While this book doesn't fall into my normal reading genres, I'm very happy I went outside my comfort zone and read this book. I found the characters well developed, even the ones I didn't like. The story kept me engaged and I even engaged the text to speech feature (which I don't really like) so that I could "read" in the car. I was very moved by this book, both positively and negatively. I found myself saddened by some of the trials of the characters and filled with hope by others. Thank you RJ for your story. It was very enjoyable.

Tami says

Should have listened to the other reviewers. It is much more violent than it appears in the summary etc. And this author uses waaaay too many words. In one paragraph says the same thing 5 different ways, over and over.

Astrid says

I really enjoyed this book. The story felt so real I couldn't put it down even when I was too tired and sleepy to hold my phone in front of my face. It was an emotional roller coaster, I could feel not only Tess' pain, but the whole range of emotions every character went through. Thank you so much for it, Kel!

Bud Mallar says

Another Kindle Daily Deal - okay, so they suck you in on a \$2 price for the first book of a 20 book series - each of which is at least \$10.99 - but they also offer some new authors, and occasionally an established author - which gives you a chance to try something new/different.

And, although I live in Dallas, TX, my heart belongs in Maine, so 'anything' Maine draws my attention.

You can go read the story line somewhere else, this is a book about people with problems/challenges and just trying to make it through another day.

This is a book about strong emotions, what they feel like and the impact they have.

This is a book about hope and understanding sometimes we have to change something, or deal with something we'd rather avoid, to take the next step forward.

This is a book about real people struggling to help others, help themselves, and the impacts they might, or did, or could have made.

This is a book about human failures and successes.

Yeah, it's chick lit, but not off the deep end, but a story about what become very real people.

I did read that some reviews didn't like it because there was too much sex - although part of the problem of the main character is how she uses sex - so not sure you could just leave it out - and it's not too graphic, and usually makes sense.

And some reviewers didn't like the 'language' as in 'cuss words' Should we elect to only read books which do or don't contain certain words - although I'm not sure how one would know- but there must be an app for that.

The author of a story, or a song writer, must choose the words they think the characters would use, or choose the words which best fit a description/circumstances, or choose the words they believe will have the most impact on the reader/listener.

A young singer friend of mine once asked the audience if it was okay to sing a song containing a 'bad' word, because if not she could use a different word.

I talked to her later and suggested they are her words, carefully chosen to 'present' to an audience her thoughts/feelings and it was up to her to choose which words she put into the lyrics - not the audience. And if she felt it was inappropriate to sing that song because of children in the audience, for example, to just sing a different song, but don't change what she initially wrote.

Words are powerful things and we should care about what they are saying, not which ones are used, but that's just my two cents worth.

Cheryl says

Generally I like a little chick lit now and then. And to be fair, the pace and flow of the book was great and, whether you liked them or not, the characters were full blown and alive so kudos to the author for that. It's very possible the timing of my reading of this wasn't great but I honestly really didn't like it. I think I am just personally getting tired of stories about women that are almost 40 acting like they're in their late teens. Maybe today's society is just way more juvenile than what I grew up with. I don't know - I get that most of us don't have perfect lives and that we all grow up at different rates but honestly by Tess's age she should have

way outgrown the "I hate my mother, my life sucks, I'm divorced with no prospects so I think I'll run away" syndrome. And I also think I started to count how many times the word "f*&&" was on each page....which is another bad sign.

I'm just so done with these types of stories.

If she'd been in her late 20s I might have liked it better and bought off on the whole premise more.

For me -- this was bleh.

Readforlife says

This book could benefit from serious editing, 30 percent of it could and should be deleted. Length does not always equal quality. Excess can (and did) result in a very annoyed reader.

Kathleen Crowell says

I thought the beginning really captured the sadness and pain of the main character Tess. But it never ended and just seemed to get worse and worse. I hated the constant "counting" the main character did--from the steps to her apartment to how many days since something bad happened. Maybe I missed something there. I obviously got that Tess used sex for validation, etc...but the sex in this book (usually called f--ing) got old really fast. For someone who supposedly thought in terms of color, and creative colors at that, there was nothing bright and colorful about Tess or this story. I thought the drug dealer and Rachel story was bizarre and anyone could see how that was going to end. I hated the stupid story about the broken pin...I feel terrible for being so mean, but the ending was so neat and tidy and unbelievable I just had to cringe--I think it might have been better to end like "Looking For Mr. Goodbar." I think this was a first novel, so I have to say, I couldn't have done it, but maybe streamline the story next time. I'm still "Waiting for Spring" No pun intended--well actually yes it was!

I Read says

To begin with my expectations were low of this book but I am glad I persisted as the author surprised me by producing a work that, although quite unlike anything I've read in the past, produced deep characters and a plot that kept me read till the end. I enjoyed the style of writing; the way Tess experienced and viewed the world and people around her. Another aspect which I favoured was how each item mentioned turned out later to have a significance and meaning beyond it's initial appearance.

The minor qualms I had on my journey through this book were: at times it felt like life centred *far* too much on sex!, and I also had a nagging feeling that Tess never really fitted into her 'new world' at New Mills...she was too middle class, whereas the place she moved was more working, however, the conclusion resolved my unease about her character and I ended up feeling she was living in just the right place.

There was one serve in this plot which I never expected or saw coming and I felt it was very much out of Tess's character, but it added a bit of spice to the story and the author had clearly researched the topic well as

her knowledge came through in her writing - essential for it to have been believable.

All in all, a good book. I usually avoid romances as I find them dull, but although this book centred around love it was anything but dull...there was enough going on throughout the story emotionally to touch the reader and get you thinking, plus there was a certain one-liner contained within which I found particularly moving. It hadn't been something I had been expecting but at times I *felt* the pain and almost laughed aloud at the humour which peppered the plot despite the hard times experienced by the characters...for a book to do that is a sign of a good writer as I am certainly not the sentimental type to cry at movies!
