



Between Seasons

Aida Brassington

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Patrick Boyle dies in the fall of 1970, just days before he's due to report for the Vietnam War draft, which seems like a good thing until he realizes he's stuck in the house with no indication of when he'll be escorted to heaven. And after his parents leave the house, he's trapped without company -- until a mysterious woman who can channel his memories buys the house forty years later. The spring brings with it new life, but falling in love with the new owner may only bring heartbreak to them both

Between Seasons Details

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From Reader Review Between Seasons for online ebook

Sheri says

Between Seasons (Aida Brassington)

Paranormal/Romance

In the Fall of 1970 Patrick Boyle dies right before he is to report for the Vietnam War draft. His parents are heartbroken over the loss of their only son, and move out of the house. Patrick is still there, he is stuck in the house, unable to leave, waiting to enter heaven, or the return of his parents.

Forty years later a beautiful young woman (Sara) buys the house. She has a troubled past and moved across the country to try to start a new life for herself. Patrick is no longer alone in his home, and it seems Sara is able to feel Patrick's presence. Patrick is thrilled with the possibility of companionship and starts to fall in love with her.

Soon Sara starts to question her sanity when she finds an old picture of Patrick and begins to feel she is not alone in the house. She also finds herself able to piece together events of his past, is this just a coincidence or something more.

Fast paced, emotional page turner, a definite all night read. I found the story line unique with true to life characters. I also enjoyed the references to the 70's, some laugh out loud pages, as well as childhood memories (for me). I could feel Patrick's confusion and awe as the decades passed and the times have changed. I was totally engrossed up until the perfect ending. I look forward to more work from:

Aida Brassington

Amy Lichtenhan says

I was hooked on Between Seasons from the very first page. How could I not be, when Ms. Brassington dives right into the descriptive fall and death of Patrick, a 19-year-old young man who is just on the verge of being shipped off to Vietnam. You can't help but fall in love with Patrick as he watches his parents' reaction to his death, his confusion at being a ghost, and the heartbreaking fact that he's stuck in the same house he died in when his parents decide they can no longer live there after their loss and move away, leaving the house empty with only the few personal items Patrick had hidden away before they'd gone.

For forty years Patrick wanders the house alone, watching the seasons change from the windows, though he has no idea how much time has passed until the house has finally been sold...to Sara, who was one of the most unique, endearing characters I've read of late. In the times I had to put the book down, I couldn't wait to get back to watch how their relationship grew. Sara had a feeling that she was not alone, and the more she accepted that fact and opened herself up to it, the more she could really experience him.

Ms. Brassington does an amazing job of bringing these two together in a very surprising way. I was impressed by the fact that the book takes place entirely in one setting-the house where Patrick died-yet it never became boring. The only disappointment I had was I would have liked to have seen a little more of a progression in the relationship between Patrick and Sara before it was wrapped up, but that was only because I enjoyed the two so much. Here's to hoping for a sequel!

Marran says

[Nate offed him self oh well tried to off himself because he didn't want to kill a woman....I'm I waaayyy out of line here? So if her f

Autumn says

It's rare that you find a book like this. One that makes you laugh, cry and even ask the question "Is there life after death?" In it's heart, Between Seasons is a ghost story. In it's soul, it is so much more.

Full review on Open Book Society -

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/ai...>

Sam says

Nineteen year old Patrick Boyle gets up one morning to the smells of his mothers pancakes and while rushing down the stairs trips and falls breaking his neck. Although they come and take away his body he stays behind. Distraught over losing her only child his mother convinces his father to move to a different state but she can't bring herself to sell the house. So Patrick, who can't leave the house, is by himself left to wonder why God hasn't taken him to heaven. The one day a young woman moves in and Patrick finds out that it has been 40 years since his death, that his parents have died, and that he has a strange connection to Sara.

I was so excited when I won this book from Goodreads and it didn't disappoint me. From the very first page you are hooked. I love Patrick and he and Sara are so cute together. You feel his pain at not being able to move on, or have people see or hear him. I felt so sorry for him when he found out his parents had both died. I read this in one sitting because I couldn't put it down. Everyone should read this book. It is amazing.

Sandra says

The review can also be found on my book blog

Wow. Just...wow. Rarely does a story grip me like this one did. From the first word to the last, I was riveted to the pages, my eyes glued to the words and my heart breaking and rejoicing for Patrick and Sara.

It's a ghost story at the core. Patrick Boyle, 19, on the cusp of his 20th birthday, a day from being drafted into the Vietnam war, gets up one morning, gets dressed and heads downstairs for breakfast, anticipating and salivating over his mother's pancakes, the smell of which have made it up to his bedroom. In his haste, he trips over the loose carpet on the stairs and breaks his neck during the subsequent fall. And just like that, he's

dead.

For some odd reasons, none of which are clear to him, he's now a ghost, but he figures that God will come get him soon and he just needs to wait a little. God is busy, it seems, and Patrick has no choice but to watch his mother and father fall apart over his death and ultimately leave him behind, packing up the house and moving. At this point, I'm sobbing big fat tears over this poor boy as the author makes me feel his emotions so clearly. He feels abandoned, trying to get his parents to notice him, begging them not to leave him. I'm snotsobbing as he runs after them, only to be foiled by the door and his inability to leave the house.

Seasons come and go, Patrick waits, watching life pass by through the windows of his house. He's alone, left with a few things he can actually touch (only things that belonged to him before he died) and without much to do. Still waiting for God, he's reduced to reading and re-reading the few books he managed to hide before his parents packed up and left.

The writing is so descriptive that you actually feel his loneliness, feel his desperation and his yearning for someone to see him, to realize that he's still there.

You need to suspend your disbelief in certain areas when it comes to ghosts and such things, but this story is simply amazing. There are passages where Patrick dreams (yes, ghosts apparently do sleep on occasion), and the things he dreams are actually a hint of things to come but at the time you read them, you are left to wonder what the purpose is.

Some things that happen in this book made me angry and frustrated and it is a credit to the author that her words drew me into her story in such a fashion that I sat here with my fists clenched in helpless agony over what was happening to her characters. Patrick's loneliness and desolation, his tentative hope when Sara moves in, his inner musings and pervy thoughts, his confusion at modern things like cell phones and laptops - it's all so brilliantly described that you feel as if you're right there with him. His joy when Sara sees him for the first time, his disbelieving elation when she can feel him - absolutely amazingly written.

There are funny moments that made me giggle. There are moments that made me sigh and scenes that made me cry with frustration. Patrick is a typical teenager in many ways and his musings about his past and the possible reasons for being stuck are spot-on for someone his age. Sara is also well described, from her pain at her recent divorce to her inability to stand up to her sister (who's a complete bitch, by the way, and I'd like to get my hands around her neck) to her tentative steps towards believing that Patrick really exists.

Even the solution to their obvious problem is perfectly done. Again, suspend disbelief but the elation and joy was palpable and jumped right off the pages. It's somewhat open-ended but that leaves the reader to imagine how their future might unfold, which is not a bad thing at all.

The book is well researched - I can tell that the author took her time to make sure she got everything right. The characters, including the supporting cast, are well developed and have a plausible background that explains their actions and reactions. None of them acted in a way I didn't expect or couldn't explain.

Congratulations, Ms. Brassington. You've delivered an exceptional book that will stay with me for a long time to come. Please write another.

Rachel says

[It was as if they were stuck between seasons, half in one world and half in another. (hide spoiler)]

Kim (Bookishly Me) says

The story starts off with Patrick's dead and Patrick trying to figure out why he's stuck in the house and not in Heaven like he's supposed to be. The real story starts when Sara comes and lives in the house. Without knowing it Sara gives Patrick the feeling he isn't alone anymore and the fact that Sara talks to herself makes for some entertaining conversations between the two and Patrick starts to fall in love with her.

This is a sweet love story which made me laugh out loud and also made me sad at times. Aida Brassington did a great job with the characters. Patrick is a teenager from the seventies and everything he says/thinks reflects this. He's also a really sweet guy. You can't help but feel for him when he's trying to figure out why he's stuck there and when his parents leave him. Sara had a nasty divorce and moves to escape her past and to try and start over. Being in that house gives them both the feeling they are not alone and that is where this impossible relationship starts to blossom.

The story takes you on a rollercoaster of emotions and is written in a way that makes you flip page after page just to see if Patrick will ever be able to get free from the house. The ending of this story is a big surprise, I did not see this coming and it's a great twist to the story. The sad thing is it ended so abruptly. But there will be a sequel so there is more to come.

Roselover24 says

I read this and I really really liked it I would give it a 4 1/2 stars if I could

the characters are so real which is not easy for a paranormal

the confusion of the ghost Patrick everything from his death to WHY he has not gone to heaven as he was told he would when he died he is just stuck there to seeing the things in our time after his 40 years alone is so neat and the details that go into this version of a ghost story are just so involved and interesting without being distracting

I fell in love with Patrick he was such a sweet character

The female lead Sara you just want to make her all better but you love her as a quirky girl that walks around her new home talking to herself

when their worlds start to combine you the reader will be yelling at the book saying SEE HIM SEE HIM he is real not a figment of your imagination !

at least that is what I did

as time goes on you wonder if Sara is descending into madness or if Patrick is really bridging the gap between the spirit world and that of the living

overall I loved it and I hope you read it and agree with me

Romantic sweet funny sad makes you think overall a very enjoyable read

Kristin (These Pretty Words) says

Reviewed on These Pretty Words Nov 4th.

Descriptive. That's the one word that comes to mind when I think of Aida's debut novel – a touching tale of a nineteen year old young man who dies on the very first page. What comes after that almost disturbingly detailed account of a simple fall down a flight of stairs is a beautiful and unique look at life... and love... after death.

Patrick haunts his childhood home for decades, alone and isolated from the rest of the world... until the day Sara walks in the door. Almost immediately she seems to have a sense of something or someone in the house, watching her, interacting with her. She does what many of us have probably done at one point or another – she talks to the nothing around her. And she absolutely captivates the dead young man still roaming the shag-carpeted halls.

This book absolutely drowns you in the emotions of its characters. From the loneliness and sorrow of a long-dead Patrick, trapped in the same house he died in, to the anguish of the heartbroken Sara. Through the sweetness of falling in love and the bitterness of lost dreams. From the pain of feeling disconnected from everyone to finding that special someone who gets it... gets you. Even if he is dead.

The bad: Take everything you think you know about ghosts and throw it all out the window. The world Aida builds includes touching... kissing... sleeping. It's a fresh view on life after death, and I absolutely loved it!

The characters are written true and bold, with flaws and quirks that make them stand right up off the page. The plot is intriguing and keeps the reader engaged right from the first page. The writing is witty, a bit snarky at times, and utterly captivating. I definitely recommend buying this lovely, unique, wonderful novel and giving it a read. It's well worth the time. I'd love to see a sequel written, Miss Aida.

OpenBookSociety.com says

Review by staff member Autumn:

It's rare that you find a book like this. One that makes you laugh, cry and even ask the question "Is there life after death?" In it's heart, *Between Seasons* is a ghost story. In it's soul, it is so much more.

Patrick Boyle dies tragically when he's nineteen and just about to be drafted into the Vietnam War. He watches as decades pass and wonders why he is not able to move on and his only company is the few possessions left from his life that he can almost actually touch.

He is not your stereotypical ghost. He is funny, introspective and even sweet. His expressions reflect the 1970's era and this only adds to the overall charm of the story.

Sara is herself is a bit broken. She buys Patrick's house and soon discovers that her new writings are strangely similar to his very real life memories. She feels his presence in the house and soon is able to see him. The relationship that develops between them is quite innocent by modern standards but feels feverish just the same. The obvious differences between them lead to questions about love, life, death and possible rebirth.

I found myself laughing and crying at the same time while reading *Between Seasons*. The dialog is so smart and real that you feel their loneliness, their desperation and their hope. This book is such a breath of fresh air. No one should miss out.

Jennifer Barry says

I wish I could put 4.5 stars on here, because I really did love this story. There were a few places where I just wanted so much moooooore! I've learned there may be a sequel coming, and that could change my rating to the full 5 stars. I look forward to anything Aida Brassington releases in the future!

Lisazj1 says

I was so excited to get this book. I got to read an excerpt when it was being written, and I was very much intrigued with the premise then.

I have to say first that I loved Patrick. He just might be one of my fave characters ever. He was so easy to 'know'. I really did feel like I knew him, and there were times that my heart purely ached for him. I felt so bad for his being trapped where he was, particularly when he would think about the fact that he could never have what he truly wanted with Sara.

I thought the book was very well written, and the world created for Patrick (i.e., his "rules") was very well done. Enough to be interesting and to make you feel what it was like for him, but not overly done as it could easily have been. Enough detail to hook you but not enough to drown in.

I liked most everyone in the book. Sara was likeable, and Ginny as well. And as much as I loved Patrick, I loathed Jules. She dressed up all her reasoning as "helping Sara" but I think the only thing she was helping was having things ordered exactly as she wanted. She wasn't even really concerned about what Megan overheard, that was just leverage to get what she wanted. Her real concern was that Sara refused to think and act like she wanted her to. I did an actual fist-pump when Mom put Jules in her place and told her about herself!

I saw this morning where Aida tweeted that she was working on the sequel, and boy am I glad to hear that, 'cause I got lots of questions about the Nate/Patrick thing. Maybe that's why God "forgot" Patrick all that time, waiting for the moment that he could actually be there for Sara? I need to not even start that, I'll speculate myself to death, and then still be wrong! I'll just wait for the sequel. :)

Between Seasons was a great story, very enjoyable read!! Loved it!!

Eleanor (The Book Hammock) says

Oh my wow!! That was beautiful. I almost felt like I'm in the house with Patrick and Sara.

Aida's writing is very descriptive, touching and unique. The story is so heartbreaking throughout most of it

and you so desperately want to help Patrick find a solution for his predicament. Then your focus moves to Sara, and her crazy, religiously fanatic and annoying as hell sister.

The story wraps up almost unexpectedly, but definitely doesn't leave you hanging.

Amanda Lyons says

Between Seasons isn't going to be at all like you expect. Its not really a romance, not a traditional ghost story and not something you're going to expect to pull you in (its such a subtle little tale) but it really does!

Patrick died at the age of 19 in the year 1970 and he's been stuck in his house ever since. Lost and drifting in an abandoned house (His parents moved shortly after his death and there's been nothing but the occasional visit from the caretaker ever since.) with so few things he can touch and feel connected to he doesn't know how much time has passed but he feels like its been forever.

Then one day a woman he thinks he remembers (but who seems much older than she should) walks into the house and behind her is a curious young woman with spiky blond hair. Suddenly he has someone he can connect to even if its only through his following her around the house and watching her as she talks to herself about her life. And soon he realizes its been forty years since he died, his parents are gone and everything about the world has changed while he's been trapped right here.

At first he's depressed by these events (who wouldn't be after so long being in one place for years?) but his connection to the girl (a woman not much older than him) bit by bit offers him a new focus and before long he's really invested in the girl who's taken over his parents house.

I can't go too much more into the plot (what would be the point of reading it then?)but suffice to say its a great little story with a subtle strength worth the time if you're willing to take it. Patrick is such an interesting character on his own that you keep getting sucked into his story over and over as he gets more and more invested in Sara being in his life he gets just that much more endearing.
