



Where We Fell

Amber L. Johnson

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Oliver Bishop is having a seriously bad day. With one diagnosis, his life suddenly has an expiration date. Confused by the numbness he feels upon hearing the news, he decides that he needs some time to come to terms with it. One decision to visit his favorite diner causes him to unwittingly put himself directly in the sights of a girl that just may give him a reason to fight - and to live.

Because there's a difference between living and just being alive.

Where We Fell Details

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From Reader Review Where We Fell for online ebook

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

ROMANCE+SICK CHARACTER/S = TRAGIC ENDING+UGLY CRYING, not with Amber Johnson though.

Yes, the story is told by **Oliver**, a young man who was diagnosed with lymphoma, a very treatable cancer but cancer nonetheless.

No, this isn't about a boy's battle with his cancer because Oliver chose to tell a different story. He chose to tell a story of a wonderful, gracious, most kind-hearted girl named **Hannah** (whom he luckily met at the worst time of his life) to show the reader that some battles, no matter how personal, couldn't be fought alone. We need someone else to push us, carry us even if it has to come to that. Can you blame the young man for instantly falling in love with a girl like that? <3

Despite a few clichés, I think the characters and the plot are as real as they could get given the limited number of pages but how many writers could manage to give so much meaning, feeling and inspiration in only 95 pages? Amber Johnson is a genuinely talented writer. You should also check out her Puddle Jumping. It's even more amazing!^^

Thank you my lovely friend, Melissa. You can see her wonderful review here.

Nicay ?The Nerdy side of a Queen says

Review originally posted at The Nerdy Side of a Queen

A more than 80+ pages story? With a 4/5 star rating from me? How? Simple, it was a realistic, inspiring kind of love story. I expected that I would end up not liking this because I thought it will be a cliffhanger blah.. Blah.. Blah.. But it wasn't.

A realistic life fiction of Oliver Bishop who suffered at that time because of his cancer. He never thought he wouldn't find an inspiration to live until he met Hannah and gave a reason to live and survived. No, it wasn't an instalove for me. And I'm thinking, you already imagined the ending? You already know what will happen? Yes, (view spoiler) But that's life isn't? You also experience what it called Happily Ever After, it made life easier to live, easier to face all the challenges.

I don't want to expect some kind of "plot twist" or some "swoony" guy over the story. I just want it simple. Amber L. Johnson didn't give me that, but she gave me more than I expected—an inspiration. No, I never cried in this story, but it gave me so much fulfillment that life—the life we have, we must cherish and fight it.

Jennifer Kyle says

"We're not guaranteed much in this world, but if you're lucky, someone might come along and will show you exactly how much life there is to live."

Amber L. Johnson once again delivered a well done short short story about Oliver Bishop who has recently been diagnosed with lymphoma at the time of his high school graduation. Oliver meets Hannah a college student home for the summer waitressing at the local dinner.

Hannah Hartwell was a wonderful character who was funny, thoughtful and is just who Oliver Bishop needs in his corner for his battle against cancer.

"You get better, and the first weekend you can drive up to see me, I'll show you my boobs. Rock your entire world. I will wreck you."

Overall, this was a well done short story (I wish it was longer) of second chances and new beginnings.

"It's an amazing thing, having a future. Knowing that tomorrow is going to come, and another tomorrow will show up after that, until there is no tomorrow left."

◆*Arianna◆* says

"Living is a tricky thing. Because there's a difference in living and just being alive."

Oliver's life is shattered at the time of his high school graduation. Not because he will go to college, but because he has been diagnosed with cancer, lymphoma. Only his family knows it's possible he may not have a future. He is numb, trying to accept his fate.

He meets Hannah in a local dinner where Hannah is a waitress. Hannah is the same age as Oliver. She's direct and funny helping him in every way - to accept, to fight, to move on. She will do anything to see a smile on his face. She's becomes what Oliver needs.

"Fine is not a way to live. Fine is something you tell your mom when you want her to leave you alone. You deserve more than to just live a 'fine' life."

What will happen when their feelings for each other change but Oliver's future is unknown.

This was a sweet, touching story and despite the premise not too emotional. The characters's development is kinda missing and in the end it felt a little rushed, but I really enjoyed it. The writing is clean and really nice. I really wish it was longer!

"We're not guaranteed much in this world, but if you're lucky, someone might come along and will show you exactly how much life there is to live."

Mary Elizabeth says

I wish I was amazing at writing reviews. I have no idea how to add pretty pictures or make specialized banners--words are all I have.

After a small amount of begging, I was given an advanced copy of this book from the author yesterday. I read it in less than twenty-four hours.

I've known Amber for a few years through the writing community; I'm a faithful fan of hers, and when she mentioned FINALLY publishing a book, my expectations were high. She did not disappoint.

Where We Fell is a story about a boy named Oliver, who's diagnosed with cancer, and the girl he meets, Hannah. Without giving too much away, this is not your typical "boy meets girl and falls in love" love story. Perfectly paced and wonderfully written, within it's short eighty-something pages, you take a ride through a variety of emotions: sadness, hope, despair, lust, happiness, disappointment, and relief.

I've read my share of cancer books, and this is not another cancer book. In fact, cancer takes a backseat to the contagious personality of Hannah, and the willingness Oliver has to entertain her quirkiness--her spunk and high energy "the cup is half-full" perspective.

There is no drag, no fillers, no unnecessary anything. I genuinely enjoyed reading Where We Fell, and if you're looking for something to make your heart beat a little harder, this novella is perfect.

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

3.5 stars!

Didn't quite get the characters' connection in the beginning + predictable drama in the end = 3.5 stars. I liked it :)

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

07/13/2014 --

Overall Rating = 5 Stars

Book Cover / Book Blurb / Book Title = 3 / 3 / 5 = 3.5 Stars

Writer's Voice = 5 Stars

Character Development = 5 Stars

Story Appreciation = 5 Stars

Ending = 5 Stars

Worth the Chili = 5 Stars -- [\$0.99 on Amazon]

Smexy [HEAT] Rating = Mild - suitable for YA audiences

95 pages

A short story that packs a Hell of a WALLOP!

Do you know anyone who hasn't been touched by Cancer? If you do, you are incredibly lucky. Me? Very personal experience. Amber Johnson captures the essence of the victim and their support group. All the little nuances. All the pain. All the joy.

This is a perfect story. I'm not sure how she gives us so much in 95 pages. It felt like it could have been 1000 pages.

In the end, I was smiling through my tears. I can only tell this author .. from the depths of my heart -- I thank you for reminding me of the incredible journey I took with someone so special to me. The battle we fought ..

Happy Reading!

ME -- thanks again. So glad I follow you!

Lucia says

Oliver has shortly before his high school graduation when his future is taken away from him. While lives of his friends continue like nothing happened, he has to come to terms with the fact that he may have no future at all. Then he meets **Hannah** - direct, straightforward, opinionated girl who seems to be interested in Oliver. But is this a right time to make new friends? Or to fall in love?

When I started this novella, I had NO idea what it was going to be about. *Where We Fell* is extremely

touching story with parts that even brought tears to my eyes. It may be short story, but definitely a powerful one.

Once I started reading it, I could not tear myself from this story. Last 20% were a little tiny bit anti-climatic but I was still able to enjoy this novella.

Amber L. Johnson is clearly a talented writer. I was pleasantly surprised by her debut novella and I cannot wait to read more by her!

ARC provided by author as an exchange for honest review

MORE REVIEWS ON MY BLOG **Reading Is My Breathing**

Betti Gefecht says

I have to admit I didn't really buy this book because I wanted to read it. I did because I wanted to support an indie author who is friends with me on Facebook. Basically. The book went straight to my TBR list on my kindle, which is actually a kind of pit for books I'm not really eager to read.

But then I happened to run out of reading stuff during a train ride, with still an hour to go, so I thought, "What the hell..."

I didn't even remember the summary that I must have read at some time, so I had no idea what this book was even about.

But I was inside the main character's mind immediately, the experience sudden and bittersweet and gripping. And I cursed when my train ride came to an end, because I really, really didn't want the amazing journey I was making in my head to stop.

The story is a quick read though, and I finished it the same day, right after I came home. I'm not giving spoilers, but after revisiting the summary I feel I have to say that the ending is not bad, like the whole story is not angst-ridden, despite of the mentioned "diagnosis".

Instead, it is just deeply human.

Oliver's POV shows you what it feels like when life is taking you on a sudden, bumpy, not-so-funny ride without a stop to get off... when you just have to go with it, and you do, while the drama is happening around you, but somehow not inside you, because... well, you just have no choice.

It also shows you that often the deepest and greatest love doesn't need words. It's not the "I love you" that makes a difference, it's being there. It's a person to be yourself with, it's a place to go to, it's an honest smile meant for you.

This book bristles with exactly that... you feel the author's honesty, love and her will to give a huge part of herself. It's a book that says, "Life, I love you!", without actually using those words. But it spoke to me, not loudly but intensely, and it seriously made my day.

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

★★ 2 underwhelming stars ★★

Where we fell begins when Oliver, a teenager who is about to go to college, is diagnosed with cancer.

So the blurb says this : *One decision to visit his favorite diner causes him to unwittingly put himself directly in the sights of a girl that just may give him a reason to fight - and to live.*

That's where I don't agree : *Where we fell* isn't the story of a boy who **fight** cancer. No. *Where we fell* is an instalove romance story where the main character appears to have cancer.

See the difference?

Basically that story was too blank. Yes, blank, and I'm weighing my words here. I mean, to switch in a romance? That's okay, I guess. **If** the romance is heart-warming. **It wasn't**. First I didn't get the connection between the characters - yes, *I know*, Hannah spills coffee on Oliver and decides to buy him a pie. *Okaaaay*. And then? **There isn't a single fact which can explain why she's interested in him**. Except the fact he has cancer. Yes, except *that* fact. And that sucks. As for Oliver, well, his interest in Hannah is easier to understand : she has boobs. But I'll come back to that later.

You know when you're not involved in a love story? **When the character says I love you, you roll your eyes**. Yep. I'm still shocked by my reaction.

Unfortunately **I found the plot really, really light**. I know I have a novella in my hands, but still that's not an excuse, you know why? Because I just read another novella from Amber L.Johnson, *Puddle Jumping*, which was **incredible**. Wonderful.

So, the plot. In my opinion the story lacks of descriptions of the *fight* Oliver is supposed to handle - with the exceptions of a few details, we're never really aware he has a cancer. Oh, he **tells** us it, but unfortunately telling is rarely the best way to express feelings. I wanted to be moved, I was willing to give him tears - it never happened. **Never**.

But **my main issue is Oliver himself**. Oh, dude. I'm a little embarrassed because *come on*, I'm going to rant about a character who has cancer. That makes me cold-hearted right? Ugh. The truth is, I spent the major part of the story **without knowing who Oliver is**, and the story is told in his POV, dammit! There's a moment Hannah says him she doesn't know him, and I was like, *oh.my.god*, you too?

I found myself waiting, and waiting, and waiting to learn who he is and you know what? When **finally** I got a glimpse of his personality, I didn't like him. I mean, hey, we have a real teenager here!

Real teenager fact # 1

I didn't count, but seriously, Oliver seems completely and utterly obsessed by Hannah's boobs. I mean, the guy is dying from cancer and what does he want to do? Feeling boobs. Seeing boobs. Talking about boobs boobs boobs.

Of course that's not the only thing he loves about her, fortunately, because she's pretty great, but all their relationship seemed a bit... hollow to me.

shrug

Real teenager fact # 2

"Sometimes I feel so small and insignificant when I look at the moon. It reminds me that there are bigger things than me out there."

Oh, *dude*. That's *so* deep. *Okay, I'm totally ironic here.*

Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the fact Oliver seems real and all that stuff, but what can I say? He annoyed me, and I really struggle to love a book when the main character either annoys me or I can't connect with him. In *Where we fell* I felt both.

Why does I give it 2 stars then?

- Because Hannah was an interesting and unconventional character who made me laugh and surprised me.
- Because some passages moved me - but I think that's because one of my relatives fought a cancer and I could see what was behind.

What was behind was what I sought out in that book. I never found.

Jeanne says

3.5 Sweet stars

I thought this was a lovely, hopeful story. I think the best info I can pass on is that this is a very short novella. It was very sweet and I loved it, but there just wasn't enough of it for real character development to take place. I also think that after reading Puddle Jumping my expectations were a little high. I really love Ms. Johnson's writing style, she just has a way of drawing you into her stories. I will follow her reviews, and hope she writes a full length novel in the future because I think she's very talented!

Rachel Maniacup says

This is a story of an 18 year old boy named Oliver Bishop, who is diagnosed with Lymphoma(blood cell tumors) a few days before his high school graduation. Hearing this news is the worst day of his life so to ease himself for a while, he stopped by at his favorite diner and there..he met this very awesome, fascinating young waitress who spilled coffee and ruined the sandwich he just ordered. And this is where a wonderful story begins.. "that you should all read!"^^

It's not often that I encounter a first person narrative from a male's POV, so I find it really cute when I do chance upon one..

And as usual, I loved the main characters from the first moment I met them, 'til I finished reading this book.

This is my 2nd book of Amber L.Johnson(the first was Puddle Jumping),and I think this author did it again! She has a way of shaping a story in a creative,realistic way that makes the story so beautiful..

Thanks a lot to my dear little sis Aj,for this recommendation. I am forever in your debt.^^

Jean says

LOVED IT, LOVED IT, LOVED IT! Thank you bev for reminding me this was on my TBR!

Another short book by Amber Johnson, but don't let that deter you. The substance makes it all worth it!

Oliver is in a downward spiral after being diagnosed with an illness. He's not planning a future....not if he can't be sure he'll have one. But then we meet Hannah, an excitable, charming, and charismatic girl, who has the ability to make Oliver smile. She becomes a major support for him, but she is heading off to college soon, while Oliver's not sure where, when, or what he will be doing.

I just love that Ms. Johnson has the ability to put so much into a short book....one that will give you the feels and have you grinning like a loon at the end!

Kathie (katmom) says

FYI~ Where We Fell is FREE today (1/29/2014).

To be perfectly honest, I edited this book for Amber. I have to say that I loved it. I had to keep going back to do my "editing thing" because I realized that I was "just reading as fast as I could."

Oliver and Hannah read "real" to me. Real emotions, real situations, real friends, real more than friends.

I was on the verge of tears more than once. I wanted to smack Oliver a couple times...he was such a GUY! Loved his mom giving him the 411 on his dad.

I just LOVED it, and I hope you do, too.

FIVE BOOKMARKS!

Janie says

4 You Make Fighting Worth It Stars

Oliver has just gotten some of the worst news a kid his age can get. He's just numb and everything is "fine". Until Hannah walks into his life and shows him there's something worth fighting for.

These two were so adorable. Their banter was funny and sweet. It had a cute epilogue even though I wanted more. I'm greedy like that though. Definitely worth the read when you want something sweet. This book could've been depressing but the author wrote it to where there was a good mix of the sad and unknown to hopeful and fun.
