



Beatless

Amber L. Johnson

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Mallory Durham has been left behind and it is making her feel less like an adult and more like an afterthought.

Divorce, sickness, educational aspirations being shattered, and her Aunt Sam moving into her home, have made Mal's life nearly unrecognizable to her.

When Tucker Scott re-enters her life along with his band, will they offer what she needs to once again find her voice and self confidence or will it strip her of it even more?

Told through the dual voices of Mallory as she navigates her new world, and Aunt Sam's letters to her niece, Beatless tells the story of two women at very different points in their life, fighting the same battles; proving that no matter what age a person is, there are always lessons to be learned.

Beatless Details

Date : Published February 24th 2014 (first published February 7th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Amber L. Johnson

Format : ebook 245 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Young Adult, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Beatless for online ebook

Lovetoread says

Don't listen to your head.Your heart is much louder.Can you hear the way it beats around him?

Wow I enjoyed this one and I was quite surprised with the ending. Some may say that it was predictable but I just didn't see it.

So here's why I liked it:

~~ Amazing characters.

Let's start with Aunt Sam. She was my all time favourite. She's funny, smart, strong and gives the best advice in my opinion. And man she went threw so much BS but she was still able to smile and look at things in a positive way.

Mal(Mallory): I liked Mallory. She seemed kinda desperate and whiny in the beginning, but I get it I mean who wouldn't when your life is crumbling down. She changed throughout the story. She became this confident young lady who wasn't living under her friend's shadow anymore and I liked that. She did a stupid thing (believe me I got mad) but she redeemed herself. SMH I still can't believe ONE (1) person could have such a bad influence on her.....moving on...

Tucker: I loved him. He was sweet, caring and he did not take it easy on Mal when she did that stupid thing I mentioned before (this is me trying to keep it spoiler-free LOL). And I'm glad he did because she really hurt him.

Lassiter: HAH.... A bitch.

Sara, Berkley, Mason: Loved them. I can't say anything bad about them.

~~ Music/Art

I liked that music and art were the 2 key elements in this book. Without the music Mal and Tucker would probably never have reconnected.

~~ The moral behind Beatless

Enjoy life and make the best of it because you only life once. Sounds cheesy but it's not. Also, listen to your heart. Be yourself, the true you and don't let anyone change you or try to change you or even tell you who you should be, how to act or live your life. And be with those whom make you happy.

So... that's it. It was one rollercoaster ride ... slow at first and then really fast. I liked it and the last chapter just broke my heart. Sad Sad Sad.

Mistress says

"Once upon a time there was a boy who didn't look at me like I was damaged. He saw all my pieces and wanted to put them together with his bare hands. As if I was worth the effort."

This story is beautiful. It has been a long time since I have cried this much while reading. This book touched me deeply and taught me many things. Such as, to live your life without regret, without trying to be what others think you should be, while hiding your true self. It also reminded me to cherish each moment, each day, each smile and interaction because truly you don't know when you it will be your last. Beatless also taught me about being happy with yourself, believing that you, yourself, are good enough without having to depend on others for your self-worth. I believe Beatless is more than a great story, it is inspiration. I devoured this book. I got very little sleep because I simply could not put it down. This is the first I have read from Amber L. Johnson, but her writing has won me. I plan to read everything she ever writes. I have to say that Aunt Sam is my favorite character in this story. Her letters and loving words of wisdom speak deeply to me and cause my mind to reflect and my heart to feel tremendous amounts of emotion. Her life saddens me beyond words, but she truly is a light and guide to her niece Mallory. Mal's journey to become the woman she wants to be is full of pain, low self-esteem, heartache, regret, self-loathing, discovery, love, forgiveness, and personal growth. Tucker shares many of the same steps in his journey. I love how this story began, progressed, and ended. There wasn't a thing I didn't savor in Beatless, especially Sam's letters which I read and reread over and over again. **This book is heartbreakingly beautiful.** I highly recommend it!

"Destruction is a form of creation. They want to see what happens when they tear the world apart. Teenagers today- we're losing them to apathy. But you? You have the ability to set the world on fire and watch it burn."

"I can see who you're going to be. You're the girl. The one they write books about. The one that they'll say they saw emerge from out of nowhere to take the world by storm."

""Stop staring at me," I muttered. "Couldn't if I tried. """

"True love is not a replacement for what is missing. It's the completion of two souls who have finally found their other half."

"There are good people who get dealt a bad hand in life, who seem to have black clouds that hang over them no matter what they do. But, I believe, they're the ones who see the light so much more clearly when it slips through the darkness."

"And remember that voice in the back of your head cheering you on- It will be mine."

Lo Bookfrantic says

I was searching for an ugly cry on goodreads, I found this book. I liked it a lot but I didn't ugly cried LMAO

it is def emotional and I am glad I read it. ?

The story is written in the female point of view. Her name is Mallory, she is 19 years old. Is basically about her trying to fit in the world and be comfortable with herself.

I liked the boy he was 20 years old, his name is Tucker. I liked his personality and how he pushed Mal to be better. He had a sad past and I guess it made me love him more.

Overall the story was good, the feels were deep and I liked how Mallory found herself to be strong and independent. The ending was predictable but it still hurt a little even knowing what was going to happen.

I read this book via Kindle unlimited.

Jennifer Kyle says

3.5 Stars

"True love is not a replacement for what is missing. It's the completion of two souls who have finally found their other half."

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

07/14/2014 --

Overall Rating = 3.5 Stars

Book Cover / Book Blurb / Book Title = 3 / 3 / 2 = 2.5 Stars

Writer's Voice = 3.5 Stars

Character Development = 3.5 Stars

Story Appreciation = 3.5 Stars

Ending = 3 Stars

Worth the Chili = 5 Stars -- [\$2.99 on Amazon]

Smexy [HEAT] Rating = Mild

225 pages

I liked this book. It didn't shout out loud at me like the others I've read recently by this author, but it was a decent read.

A few things I liked:

1 -- I loved the characters. In this one, we have two people who lived on the peripheral of each others lives. Mallory, hardly knew Tucker existed. Tucker was hyper aware of the Mallory from their first meet in grade school. Their worlds collide between college and high school. They become friends. Then, more than friends.

I liked Aunt Sam. She was trying to provide Mallory some all important survival tools. Mallory's mom was a

real tool and her dad totally abandoned her. Sam though .. as much as I liked her, I had issues with her too. This will come up again later -- she didn't quite work for me.

2 -- Nothing really unusual here as far as story evolution, but it was nice and I enjoyed it.

3 -- I liked how music was used in this story. Music therapy was mentioned as the impetus for Tucker. I would have liked to have seen more development on this angle.

*****spoiler alert ... maybe*****

A few things that didn't work well for me:

1 -- The title. I didn't like how the whole "Bandless" thing played out in the story. For me, it lacked depth. Read like an afterthought.

2 -- Aunt Sam. So, she wrote these diary entries that were supposed to help Mal out. However, we had to wait for Sam to die before Mal read any of it. By that time, all was well in Who's-ville. I'm not sure this was well developed either. I thought the whole book could have done without this, but I guess this is the "unique element" the author was looking for? Maybe??

3 -- The cover. When I first saw it, I thought disc-jockey. Something about a radio or maybe music production -- what with holding a headphone to the ear. Well .. that's not it. So, what exactly is it supposed to mean? I like the colors, but the cover really does little for me. I can't figure out what it means to the story, so that's a miss.

4 -- I thought the ending a bit rushed.

5 -- Secondary characters. I'm just going to say this .. the secondary characters weren't developed well at all. They added noise, but little else. What they didn't do was add much to the development of the story. They just seemed drop off. No real closure for most of them. And, what about Eliza? Where'd that go?

In this one, there were holes everywhere.

I liked the book, obviously there were things that didn't work for me. I'm not sure if this was the first book written by Ms. Johnson or the last. Her other stories touched deep emotions in me. They may have had issues too, but the depth of feeling she evoked had me so engaged, the other stuff didn't matter. This read like every other NA you've read recently. It was good, but not great.

I still say give this one a go. It's a rather quick read and isn't bad.

Happy Reading!

Jess-i-ca ~Sometimes a Gif Witch~ says

5 - Growing Up is Hard - Stars

"True love is not a replacement for what is missing. It's the completion of two souls who have finally found their other half."

I loved this story! Mallory is trying to find her place in this world. She was sick and was unable to go to school so she repeated her Senior Year. Now all her friends are gone off to college and she is going to a local community college instead of Vanderbilt.

Her aunt Sam has moved in to take care of her while her mom is working in another state. She wants her to think outside the box and not be a shell of herself. She encourages her to get a job and get a boyfriend. She points her in the direction of Tucker Scott. Tucker and Mallory were close years ago but have since drifted apart. He isn't of the same status and is considered a bad boy.

Mallory just feels

and Tucker helps her break out of her shell. She winds up joining his band and becoming involved in his group of friends.

Then she gets brave enough to be in a play. And she gets cast as the lead! And of course she is a

Eventually though Mal messes up and drives Tucker away.

But if you are meant to be, you will be.

"Once upon a time there was a boy who didn't look at me like I was damaged. He saw all my pieces and wanted to put them together with his bare hands. As if I was worth the effort."

I LOVED Sam's advice to Mal

"Please believe me when I say it gets better. You'll shake it all off someday and grow into your skin. "

"Our humanity is our downfall. But, if we're lucky, we have people that will accept us- flaws and all."

"Don't be an ATM that people can take from but never deposit into. Be a depositor. And always give your best only to those that deserve it."

"Eventually everything changes. Complacency is for the weak."

"Remember that voice in the back of your head cheering you on - It will be mine."

And the end

Amber says

I don't know where to even start with this! I was asked by Amber if I wanted an arc of this book the other day, and with how much I absolutely loved her previous work, published or not, I jumped on the chance!

Beatless is about a girl named Mallory, or Mal, who, is insecure and feels so alone after her parents divorce. Her father leaves and moves to a completely different state, and her mom heads to Texas for a job assignment, leaving Mallory's newly divorced Aunt Sam to come and stay and watch over her. During the summer before she starts community college, (due to her dreams of Vanderbilt being shot because of a case of mono) she heads to the local waffle house with her aunt, and sees her former best friend Tucker, who she grew apart from during school when they were fourteen. They reconnect, he gets her out of her shell.

I could go on all day telling you what this book is about, but I won't. There is love, loss, hope, and even grand gestures. The way Amber writes her characters is so beautiful and so real, that you literally feel everything Mallory is feeling. The loneliness, the love, the sadness, the excitement. Everything! You will completely fall in love with these characters! I like Mallory, but I LOVED Tucker and Sam! Amber told me once that this book has a lot of feels in it, and it does! But it's amazing. I can honestly say this is, hands down, the best thing I've ever read. I'm not naive enough to say it's the best book ever written, but it's pretty damn close if you ask me. I will definitely recommend this book to anyone who will take the time and listen to me! I can guarantee that Amber L. Johnson will be a huge author one day! She more than deserves it!

Natalie says

"Don't listen to your head. Your heart is much louder. Can you hear the way it beats around him?"

★★★ ! I have learned one thing after having read three books by Amber L. Johnsson.

You can't go wrong with her.

Her stories are beautiful and memorable.

They stick with you.

And this is not an exception.

How does she do it? How does she manage to create such amazing characters in every book! Tucker is an absolutely fantastic hero, but don't read this directly after Puddle Jumping. Take a break and read a few other books first before you dive into this beautiful story.

This is a story about a girl who feels left behind. By the world. By herself, by everyone. Someone once told her she wasn't a leader. And that's something she has taken to hear. She's not a leader anywhere. Not even in her own life.

She existing in her life. She isn't living it. Until one day she is forced to.

A beautiful love story.

A.life lesson. TERRIFIC WRITING.

Many, many tears.

Amber L. Johnson is AMAZING!

She is my new Colleen Hoover. I will read EVERYTHING by this author.

Boo says

Originally, I just got this book to be supportive of fellow writers I knew on Facebook. Let me just tell you, thank goodness I did. I picked it up one night to just read a couple of pages and that was all it took. Maybe its just me, but who doesn't remember having that one "friend" in life that really made you more miserable then happy but you are so wrapped up in that world that you can't see it for yourself until one day you break away and look back and say, Wow why did I put up with that?

In this story Amber L. Johnson, not only captures the heart of her character and shows it to you in such a way that you can't help but see parts of yourself with in her, but you feel for Mallory and all of the characters that help weave this beautiful story. Oh and don't even get me started and that absolutely delicious dish that is Tucker Scott!

Mallory's story is real and moving and I devoured it! Even when I wanted to smack Mallory upside the head, I still KNEW how she felt, knew why she made the mistakes she did. Her character is just that relate-able. I loved it so much that I went right back onto Amazon and sent it to a friend too. Then I posted it on Facebook and insisted my other friends that don't even know Amber buy it. Seriously stop reading this review and do yourself a favor and get that darn thing.

I NEVER cry when I read stories, okay, almost never, but this one, oh how this one had me crying like a slobbery little girl and smiling at the same time.

READ IT NOW and thank me later ;)

Dawn says

This is one of those stories that grip you from the start and keep you reading. I read majority of this book within 24 hrs (its that good) Amber has written not only from a young woman's pov but of an older woman's pov as well. Mal's pov we see a young woman who needs to let go of the high school life she had and find her place in the adult world. In comes Tucker a boy, well a young man that in my opinion is what drives Mal as much as Aunt Sam does to find her place in the world. Aunt Sam is a character that makes you want her as an aunt, mother, older sister. That person who tells you like it is and gives you the advice that you didn't know you wanted nor needed. This is the first book in a LONG time that I can relate to both the lead female characters. I would read anything Amber writes from this point on.

Heather says

What just happened!?! This book absolutely FLOORED me! Best EVER!!!

I was so drawn into this story, I might as well have BEEN Mallory. She was real and vulnerable and I loved experiencing her come into her own.

Tucker was just, well... there are no words. He was unpredictable, passionate, completely lovable, and I felt a fierce need to protect him.

None of the characters delivered corny dialogue. There was no cliche to be found. (Yessss!) I felt so inspired while reading this book. So far from the jaded boredom I have been plagued with recently. Beatless jumpstarted my heart. I couldn't sleep last night because I was so giddy about waking up to read it again. It's THAT good!

The author has that rare ability to describe the interaction and relationship between Mal and Tucker in a way I have never read before. Subtle details paint such a vivid, believable picture of their love, their pain, the angst (Oh my God! The angst!)

I loved this book. Easily top 5 of all time.

E.M. Abel says

This was a beautiful story about a young woman, Mallory, discovering life and herself. I absolutely loved the letters from her aunt Sam and the way she taught Mallory to take risks and really live. I think all of us go through moments of self-doubt... times where we don't believe or see our real worth. I enjoyed experiencing Mallory's growth and journey to love. Tucker was an awesome guy. He was there for Mallory and also pushed her to find her full potential. The music incorporated with this book was very cool and this author has a very refreshing style.

Michelle says

Mal expected at this time in her life she'd be escaping off to college but a bad case of mono caused her to be left behind to catch up. In the midst, her mother leaves for her job leaving her aunt to come to look after her and to force Mal to end her wallowing in her feelings about being left, yet again.

Mal was one of those girls that just existed, she was the background. Her friends made sure she knew that she was never worthy of being the center of attention. But as her aunt Sam begins to force Mal to do something, anything; Mal is given a second chance and a life where she matters to those around her. Friends that see her and accept her. A boy that once was part of her life, years ago before she faded to the background.

As Tucker makes his return into Mal's life things begin to change for her. Tucker was just the boy that gave a girl a bracelet years ago, a boy that she stopped knowing when she changed. But that boy never stopped wanting to know her.

But for Mal, the fear of being left behind and the need to feel like she belongs is too great to not allow it to ruin everything. In one moment, Mal hurts the boy that has given her so much in such a little amount of time. But when she is given a chance to see how he felt about her through his eyes in the strangest of ways, she realizes what she must do. Taking a chance, a risk is not something that the typical Mal would do. But that Mal doesn't exist anymore, it just took her longer to realize it.

Beatless was a story told in a very original voice. Through a dual POV that gave us Mal and then her Aunt Sam via letters of advice. This set up gave you the feeling that something was coming and although you expected it, at the same time the author ensured it still felt unexpected.

This was a beautifully told story. It was unconventional. I don't know if I can put how this book made me feel into words that will adequately do it justice. When I read this story I reacted. Sometimes it was about the words that I was reading but it was also something larger than that. This story somehow reached something that I can't really put my finger on. My emotions were knocked on their ass. I cried (a lot). Somehow this story touched me but it also knocked down my own walls and my reaction was from a place that was so far detached, so buried that I didn't even know it was there until it was too late.

Sometimes an author can make you feel the emotions the character feels and it gets a reaction out of you. But rarely can an author draw out something that you've buried within yourself and react to your own story, even if that story isn't completely reflective of the one you're reading. Ms. Johnson did this. Will this story do the same to another reader, who knows? Maybe it hit a nerve with me alone. Maybe everyone else will just see this as a beautifully told story that was touching. But for me, this book got under my skin. It forced me to feel things that I wasn't willing to feel or face. I felt every moment of this story and although I can't quite explain it, it just reached me on some level.

I have not been let down once by this author and I can't wait to see what gift she is going to share with us next. If you have not yet read a book from her, do it. They have all been fantastic and each one in its own way touches you deeply.

Mary Elizabeth says

Can we just start with the cover?

Isn't that the most perfect cover you've ever seen?

Judge this book by it's cover, because what's inside is just as flawless.

I finished Beatless over two weeks ago and I still think about it daily. I think about Tucker (my book husband,) Mallory (who could easily be any of us,) and Aunt Sam (I wish she were mine.) I think about how Amber, in less than 200 pages, made me love these characters like they're members of my own family.

I recently saw a comment someone made about the Amber Johnson. It said something like, Amber is a book author, a song writer, and a play writer.

It's so true.

The amount of talent she used to create the scenes she wrote inside Beatless blew my mind. Beatless is not a "musical" but it is about music. Simply and beautifully and most of all, believably. I felt the rush of what it felt like to be on stage when Tucker and Mallory were. My adrenaline flowed for them ... I could see and hear it perfectly. I wanted to go onto YouTube and watch their video! LOL.

There's the right amount of sweet moments and hurtful moments and "Just make up already!" moments. Tucker and Mallory are sexy and funny, and not at all annoying. The only time I had to put the book down while reading was when I had to fan my face, because, yeah ... Tuck is my book husband for a reason.

Don't hold on to this one for too long. If you have it, read it. If you're thinking about purchasing it, one-click now. Lock yourself in a room and read it in one day. Read it over and over.

But you can't have Tucker. Sorry. We're in love.

Angela says

I know there are a lot of authors who get 5 star reviews strictly because the author is friends with the reviewer. While I adore Amber, I would never tell people to read something I thought was crap and I wouldn't let Amber publish something that was crap.

That being said, this story is very far from crap! And I was lucky enough to be able to read this from it's very early stages when it was a single chapter and a general idea.

This story touches every part of reading that I love. There's believability in Amber's characters, love, happiness and anger so fierce you feel it deep in your bones.

I wanted to hug these characters at times and at others I wanted to smack them silly. I have always thought if

a story could evoke that kind of emotion it was a good read. No matter the emotion, if an author can make you feel something then it deserves praise. And Amber's words have always had the ability to make me feel a little of everything.
