



# Escape the Doubt

*Andrea Michelle*

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Andrea Michelle

**Escape the Doubt** Andrea Michelle

*Librarian's note: This is an alternate cover edition for ASIN: B00FQSM6S0.*

Will the pain they feel ever lead to pleasure or will they always be searching for something? Shifting together. Shifting apart. Making lyrical love, dancing wildly in the dark.

Author Note: \*The Shifting Series is not paranormal. This Coming of Age Romance trilogy is a love story told in the dual POV of two best friends, Josh and Riley, woven poetically with his music and her dark poetry. It's not an easy story to tell, but love isn't always rainbows and sunshine and often times we must travel through the dark to find the light at the end of the tunnel. This is their journey.

Is taking a chance with your heart worth the escape, or was it better to have never loved at all? Can forgiveness really set you free?

After the unexpected death of her Dad, and the haunting manner in which he died, Riley Shaw built invisible walls around her heart. Barriers she created to protect her from splintering into broken pieces that couldn't be repaired. She was unable to move forward from her past, letting the guilt of her parent's mistakes dictate her own choices.

Dean Warren was safe. Being with him was innocent and peaceful because she didn't truly love him. His words held her captive in a false sense of security. His eyes were deceptive, and his promises of never pushing her beyond what she was willing to give were broken, leaving Riley in a state of regret and doubt.

Joshua Parker had the power to take what was left of Riley's splintered pieces and ruin her completely, or make her whole again. He was her best friend, her next-door neighbor—everything she wanted and settled on never having. Loving him was as easy as breathing air. The fear of losing him forever was more real to her than the feelings she couldn't escape.

When faced with the very thing she feared the most, and in the arms she thought were safe, Riley finds herself questioning every decision she has made over the past two years. When she finally escapes the doubt in her head, and accepts the truth in her heart, is it too late?

"I'm so close to the edge of the cliff that I know one more breath, one more inch, I could fall." -Riley Shaw

Disclaimer: Not recommended for anyone under the age of 17 due to underage drinking, sexual content and adult language.

\*\*\*Warning\*\*\* This is book one in a trilogy (The beginning of Josh and Riley). All of the books in this series are available.\*\*\*

## Escape the Doubt Details

Date : Published January 1st 2014 by Andrea Michelle (first published October 9th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Andrea Michelle

Format : Kindle Edition 258 pages

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

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# From Reader Review Escape the Doubt for online ebook

## Books&Dreams says

This book was given to Book Worms as an ARC for an honest review.

Book Worms gave this book 5 Stars.

Lindsay a Book Worms Reviewer left this review.

Thank you Lindsay.

Escape the Doubt by Andrea Michelle

"I am stopping you right there because you are already wrong Riley. Everyday for the rest of my life if I'm lucky enough to keep you that long will I see the accident. I will see a beautiful girl who is lost in a sea of uncertainty but wants so badly to dive in but thinks she can't but you can and I will hold your hand when you do. I will see my best friend and the girl that I am desperately in love with. I will see you Riley. Just you."

Riley Shaw and Joshua Parker have been best friend since grade school. Always wanting to be each of others firsts. Until on a drunken night, Riley's dad runs Josh's mom off the road and they are both killed.

Riley living with the guilt of what her parents have done believes that her heart is broken beyond repair nor does she believe that she should love because of the guilt she feels. Josh and Riley soul mates. Can Josh convince Riley that he has never blamed her for her father and that he has always known she is the one for him? Can Riley ever forgive herself! her mom and dad to believe that she has a chance at love with josh, who she has loved for years?

Andrea Michelle has created a heart wrenching story of love, guilt, and regret if you don't "Escape the Doubt" and let your love be beautiful. This story had me in tears.

Thank you Andrea for your beautiful book and for sharing it with us! We look forward to reading more from you in the future<3

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## Romancerwblog says

3.75 out of 5 stars...

It's really no secret that I love YA fiction. It kind of started with Twilight and has spiraled out of control to a guilty pleasure. I guess I like to relive high school with some of my favorite book characters! There high school years seem to be way more drama filled and action packed than my own.

Escape the Doubt is a book about high school senior, Riley Shaw. Riley has so many ghosts in her past that she can't let go and allow herself to be happy. She is stuck with a jerk of a boyfriend, Dean, but her heart has no feelings for him at all. Riley is so busy blaming herself for other people's mistakes that she can't seem to move on in life.

Josh Parker is Riley's best friend. They have basically grown up together and have a tragedy that will link them forever. Josh can't stand Dean and knows what a horrible person he is but is torn as to whether or not to reveal it Riley.

Josh is a fantastic character. I love how romantic and sensitive he always is to Riley's feelings. He seems to get into some predicaments that had me screaming at the book, but so did Riley. Sometimes I wanted to slap some sense into her! For someone to be so smart, she really had me frustrated at times. I loved the change in POV from Riley and Josh, it's always nice to be in the other persons head. Overall, I think this book is a really good read. I would recommend it. I am really excited to read the sequel and see what else will happen between these two! Andrea Michelle is a very talented author and I am so happy that I signed up for this arc and blog tour!

<http://romancerewind.blogspot.com/201...>

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### **Yessi Smith says**

My favorite part of Escape the Doubt was how the author was able to translate her words into feelings. I lived and breathed the emotions with Josh and Riley until I became them. Riley with her insecurities and fears and Josh with his unrelenting love and loyalty.

How can I describe Josh so that others can fully grasp what an amazing human being he is? In a world where we want our prince charming but are drawn to the bad boy, Josh was a refreshing REAL person. His qualities weren't over exemplified. He made mistakes, which only endeared me to him further.

And Riley. Her pain was so raw, it hurt me to my core. Her desire to trust and not be able to break from her own prison was beautiful and heartbreaking.

The innocence of the young love between two best friends who are only just starting to really know who they are and what they're capable of left me wanting so much more. I can't wait to read Embrace the Moment!

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### **Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says**

**Book** – Escape the Doubt (Shifting #1)

**Author** – Andrea Michelle

**Publication Date** – November 19, 2013

**Type** – Stand-Alone Series

**Genre** –Romance, Young Adult

**Rating** – 4 out of 5 Stars

*Book provided by Author (Release Blitz) in exchange for an honest review.*

## **Review**

I am not a big fan of Young Adult books but this book took the genre and twisted it in a way that made me feel I was reading a story about more responsible and mature characters. I feel in love with Joshua's character and the love he carried in his heart for Riley.

This was more than a love story – this was a “coming of age” story for Riley. She lived with the guilt generated from her parents and everything in her life revolved around this guilt to a point where Riley would give up her own happiness believing that she didn't deserve any goodness in her life.

Yes, there were points in the story that it became somewhat redundant when she would use the excuse of the “sins of her parents” to accept Joshua's love but once she broke through that wall – this love story burnt a spot in my heart.

Dean? What can I say about Dean? Asshole – Douchebag? The list can go on and on and to think that Riley was going to continue to stay with that scumbag?

This was the type of story where I BECAME the story – I was there during the heartbreak and the joy of realizing the innocence of true love.

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## **Broadway Girl Book Reviews (Beth Lattanzi) says**

I adore the story of Josh and Riley. Two best friends who grew up together that develop feelings over time. After a tragic incident that happens between their families though Riley feels as though she doesn't deserve to be anything more than friends with Josh so they remain best friends over time despite their deep feelings for each other.

Riley chooses a safe route and begins a relationship with Dean. She has it engraved in her brain that love is just a joke. Her mom has been taught that all men cheat and it's had an effect on Riley. Riley chose Dean because she didn't want the disappointment from Josh because all relationships are set up to fail. Little does she know.... What she thought was a 'safe' relationship with Dean turns out to be anything but that.

Josh has done nothing but love Riley through the years. Of course he has gone out with a couple of girls but things have never gotten really serious. Riley was his first kiss, first dance and he wants her to be his first everything. She is holding back though and doesn't admit to her true feelings towards Josh. He tries to help remind her of everything between them and gets her to open up a couple of times but then a misunderstanding always seems to come back and blow up in his face. If only he could get Riley to open up and see the truth and not the lies.

“Sometimes the beauty of what can be is hidden underneath a bad situation or an ugly emotion like doubt.”

“...sometimes the truth is hard to believe because the lies before overshadow them. Find the beauty behind the ugly.”

This truly is a heartfelt story of young first love and overcoming the past, writing your own journey instead of hiding behind the mistakes that others made before you. There comes a time when you must let go of all fears and learn to live and love or it will be too late and you will never have that chance again.

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### **Kristina Lowe says**

Why would you want to be in Love?

People hurt each other. They lie to you. They betray your trust. They tear you a part limb from limb. Being in Love is complicated. At least to Riley Shaw it is all that's above, and more.

The only problem? Riley IS in Love, and she's holding herself back from finding the beautiful part in letting yourself fall deeply for someone.

Joshua Parker has been lying. He's deceived everyone he knows into believing he is a love 'em, and leave 'em play boy. He never gets in deep with a girl, because they aren't her. They will never be his best friend. They will never be Riley.

Tempers will race, as rumors run rampant. Hearts will ache, and secrets will surface. What you think you know, isn't always what it seems.

Is Love real? Or is it everything Riley has grown to believe?

A Lie.

Find out when you one-click Andrea Michelle's first book in her Shifting series.

Full review at [www.herjuicyreads.com](http://www.herjuicyreads.com)

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### **Hooked On Books says**

Escape the Doubt is Andrea Michelle's debut novel and also book one in the Shifting series, its a young adult romance and its fantastic. Josh and Riley have been friends since they were five years old. They are completely in love with each other and have been for a long time, however things always got in the way Josh was dating some other girl usually and Riley having a long term boyfriend. Then Riley's dad died and took Josh's mom with him, Riley instantly built up walls and pushed all thoughts of Josh as anything other than a best friend out of her mind. She has trust and love issues due to her parents past issues and she's finding it very difficult to get over that. Josh does everything he can to help but in the end being her best friend will never be enough. Its a bittersweet novel of love, loss and its full of misunderstandings caused by youth and I thought that it was written very well. I can't wait for book two of Riley and Josh's story. Absolutely brilliant 5 stars!

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### **Karina says**

What a wonderful story, I absolutely loved it!! This book falls way too close to home, I loved & lost the boy next door. I can totally relate to this story, and the road that Riley & Josh took to tell each other how they really feel. I've been exactly where Riley is, in love with the wonderful, sexy boy next door. Scared out of her ever loving mind to share her feelings, but failing to hide those feelings when she would look at Josh. It was obvious to everyone around them, and it was funny to see the younger siblings of both Riley & Josh give them advice. This is a book of firsts, first love, first kiss, and the first dance of their teenage years. I loved the history between them, and how the author would bring that into the book. Although, this book does have some sad parts as well. Riley feels enormous guilt, regarding an accident that happened when she was younger. This makes her feel like she doesn't deserve to be loved, most especially by Josh.

I feel like so much time was wasted between the both of them, if only they had been honest with each other from the beginning they would have had more time together. But, I totally understand and remember how terrifying that was when I was their age. I loved that the book wasn't rushed, it told their story at a wonderful pace so that you can fall in love with them both.

My other problem in the book was with Dean & Preslee, I can remember only a handful of times that I actually hated characters in a book. But, with every story there has to be villains to make the story complete. I totally recommend this book to those who love seeing love from the beginning stages, and don't feel rushed through the book. It always makes it bittersweet for those of us who use to love our own boy next door.

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### **Nicole says**

I receive an ARC copy in exchange for an honest review. Check out the complete review: [Book Worm Soul](#)

This is a beautiful, heartbreaking love story about two teens struggling for their love towards each other while coping with their other life dilemmas at the same time. Everyone has gone through that particular phase where we fell in love for the first time and our times during high school. We can relate well with the story and characters because it happened to most of us at some point in our life.

Andrea Michelle has painted a realistic teenage story with angst, love, and relationship issues. The emotions and actions carried by the characters are true to what teenagers would do. Once you start the book, you are guaranteed on a ride full of emotions- happiness, sadness, grief, anger..it's sure is a breakthrough debut for Andrea and I have to give her two thumbs up!

Nicole @ Book Worm Soul

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### **Jennifer says**

Although I don't fit the demo, Mature YA is one of my favorite genre's and *Escape the Doubt* fit the bill! It was a book that gripped me at the very beginning and really made it hard for me to put down.



Neighbors Riley and Josh have been best friends since Kindergarten, but as they get older, their feeling deepen, yet they are never able to tell each other. At one point they kiss, the first time for both, and it was so well written, I could feel tingling throughout my body. No doubt, one of my favorite book kisses. Whenever they seem to connect though they are always ripped apart.

One of these incidents is a tragedy that strikes both their families when they are in their early teens. Riley suffers from a lot of self doubt after this, mostly surrounding the actions of her father. It does cause her to pull back from Josh, but thankfully he doesn't allow her to.

Riley dates another boy, Dean, for almost 2 years. She doesn't have to give her heart to him so she feels safe. Sadly, she finds out the truth about who he really is. She is now free to finally pursue her feelings with Josh, but another girl in their high school is making things extremely difficult for them. Although there is no sex in the book, the tension between the two throughout the book is intense. There are a lot of misunderstandings throughout but I was constantly rooting for them to get together.

My one and only disappointment was with the ending of the book. It felt like the author had just stopped writing. I had really hoped for a nice epilogue, because Josh and Riley deserved it. With that said, there will be a book 2, Embrace The Moment, so I'm sure we'll be seeing them again. Escape the Doubt was an excellent debut by author Andrea Michelle, and I will most definitely have her books on my tbr from now on.

An ARC was kindly provided by the Author for an honest review.

Review posted at Love Between the Sheets

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## **Danak says**

Escape the Doubt is a story about love and loss. Riley and Josh have been best friends since birth, but somewhere along the way, things have "shifted". They see each other as something else and not the little boy or girl they played with all those years next door. However, expressing their feelings is not so easy. They also find that there are many obstacles in their way of finding happiness. That is, if they are meant to be. The characters were definitely young, naive and a bit stubborn at times, but I did fall in love with them. I couldn't blame Riley for being so guarded since she experienced so much hurt in her young 18 years. I think by the time we see her in the next book, she will have matured and gained a lot of confidence. Josh made me want to throw my Kindle at times. As hot and sweet as he is, he needed to open his mouth and stand up for himself and what he wanted. He was very frustrating but finally came around.

This Young Adult book was very well written. I liked the alternating POV of Riley and Josh. I enjoyed the poems and thoughts at the beginning of each chapter. I like how it combined their love for music and song writing. It gave a nice glimpse into their heads. This is not my usual genre, but I'd definitely recommend this to anyone who likes young romances, drama and emotional roller coasters. Looking forward to the next book in this series!

" Don't let the past swallow you up to where you can't live in today or see a better future. Find the beauty behind the ugly baby, even if you have to dig deep to get to it and just let it be its own kind of beautiful."

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## **Desiree Gorman - A Love Affair With Books says**

### **3.5 hearts!**

"Escape The Doubt" was an emotional read that centers around Riley and Josh, best friends since they were 5 years old. When they are young teenagers, tragedy strikes both of their families causing Riley to second guess all the feelings she has developed for Josh.

Switching between their POVs, "Escape The Doubt" will take you on a roller coaster of events that can only happen when you are dealing with two teenagers realizing they have found their best friend, soul mate and love of their life.

To read the rest of my review, please visit the blog at [A Love Affair With Books](#).

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## **I Love Story Time says**

" You are my girl, my only girl, and I will love you, only you forever."~ Josh

Riley and Josh are neighbors, the best of friends. They share a love for music and brownie mix.

I just LOVE best friend romances! There is just something so sweet about best friends from childhood evolving into something more. Andrea Michelle did a beautiful job depicting the love shared between Riley and Josh. Her words made you understand and feel the love Josh had for Riley and the fear Riley had in trusting Josh with her heart.

Riley carried so much guilt inside her. She blamed herself for Josh and his family's heartbreak and loss. She felt that she didn't deserve the amazing person that Josh was so she fought against her own heart and body to keep her distance from him. As hard as she tried to believe otherwise, she just couldn't free herself from the pain of that tragic night.

I loved Josh! He was the neighbor...the best friend any girl would die to grow up with. He was beautiful on the outside, if not more on the inside. All Josh ever wanted was for Riley to be HIS. Josh was able to see past the forced smiles and the fake laughs and just see HER, his girl. He wanted nothing more than to make her happy and to love her as boyfriend and girlfriend.

"Please believe me when I say...every day since we were five years old, you have been a crucial part of my life, a piece that I had to have to be complete. I have spent years loving you. Yes, that's right. I fucking love you, Riley. I always have and I probably always will." ~ Josh

Escape The Doubt was a super cute, well written novel with a couple of surprise twist. This is my first book by Andrea Michelle and I really, really liked it! I love the storyline, the integration of a music playlist, and I

felt it had great character development. There are also a few supporting characters that you will love and hate. I especially enjoyed that before each chapter, the author wrote a paragraph or two from the thoughts of the character. I thought this was really cool and unique to her writing. I also enjoyed that Andrea wrote in both Riley and Josh's POV's which I personally love when authors do that. I can not wait to start book 2, Embrace The Moment. I am excited to read more of Riley and Josh's love story, but...I am so nervous about Dean's plans to keep them apart. If you have not read any of Andrea's books, don't delay any longer! I would definitely recommend this series to fans of Alison G. Bailey's Present Perfect Series and to anyone that loves a sweet love story.

~Lys

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## **Rachel says**

### **Escape the Doubt**

I received an ARC copy from the author to write a review for the book Escape the Doubt.

I crying and laughed while reading this story and just loved how Josh and Riley's younger sisters pick up on her the two of them really feel towards each other just by watching how they act around each other. People say that you don't have to want out for you younger brothers or sisters. Trust me they pick up a lot of stuff that we miss. There is one part in the story towards then end that I was crying so hard but I will not give that a way you need to read and learn what I am talking about.

This is a story about love, family pain caused by an accident and teenagers growing up in high school.

Riley and Josh are next door neighbors and have been since one week before she turned five years old. They have feeling for each other, but Riley won't allow herself to love Josh due to her father causing an accident that takes his life as well as Josh's mothers life, because of drinking and driving.

Riley get together for two years with a guy named Dean who she has known since they were all in kindergarten together. Dean is not even close to the guy he claims to be; he has cheated on Riley due to her not want to have sex with him. So to get what he wants he has slept with many of the girls they all know. Emily had a crush on Dean her freshman year of school but he wanted nothing to do with her because he wanted Riley. Emily and Riley end up being really good friends due to her getting to know her better. Laiken and Preslee are two trouble makers who try anything and everything to make it look like one or the other has something going on the Josh at one time or the other.

Josh has never been with any of the girls Riley has seen him with because the one and only girl for him has and always will be Riley. No matter what goes on with or between then He loves her and he will do anything to protect her from everyone that try to hurt.

I don't want to go anymore into the story, but I suggest reading this for sure. You can learn what happens with Riley and Josh do they end up together or not. Does she ever learn the truth about Dean? Learn what happen to Preslee when you have unprotected sex just one time.

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## **Barbara says**

*\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from author in exchange for an honest review\**

### **4 so sweet stars!**

This was such a sweet, cute and romantic story with loveable characters. I cannot believe it is a debut novel. It was written really well and I enjoyed reading it.

Riley and Josh were best friends since the moment they met, but with time their feelings for each other grew stronger and shifted into something more powerful and consuming: love. Riley always knew Josh was her one and only true love, but she was afraid of letting herself to act upon her feelings and follow her heart, because fear of getting hurt was always stronger. So she picked the wrong guy, because she thought he was safe and her guilt prevented her to allow herself happiness.

If I were her I would have done a lot of things differently, but , on the other hand, I do understand her actions. However, one wrong decision made all three of them miserable. Although I didn't approve neither what she did nor some of the things Josh and Dean did, these characters really grow on me. I cried and smiled with them, there were moments when my heart almost stopped beating for a moment, sometimes I was even pissed off and irritated and other times I was smiling like an idiot, because, oh gosh, they were so sweet and adorable, but that was the thing I loved the most about this book.

**Emotions. I wanna feel a lot of different kind of emotions while I'm reading a book and Escape the Doubt gave it to me.**

So why not a five stars then, you may wonder. Well, honestly I don't know, it simply lacked that little something to be a perfect book for me. If you are a fan of sweet and emotional romance stories I don't recommend skipping this one. I think it's perfect for everyone, no matter the age, because we all went through similar stuff when we were young and fell in love for the first time. Ah, this book brought so many memories...

I was happy Riley escaped the doubt at the end and I'm looking forward to the continuation of their story.

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