



Walking in the Rain (Drumbeats 2)

Julia Ibbotson

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After returning to the UK from Ghana, Jess happily marries the love of her life. She wants to feel safe, secure and loved. But gradually it becomes clear that her beloved husband is not the man she thought him to be. She survived civil war and injury in Africa, but can she now survive the biggest challenge of her life?

Walking in the Rain (Drumbeats 2) Details

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From Reader Review Walking in the Rain (Drumbeats 2) for online ebook

Zoé-lee O'farrell says

Finally, we are back with Jess, recovering from the events at the end of the first book. Again, this will be a struggle to write this review, I do not want to give anything away here plus the writing is just going from strength to strength. There are no magical drumbeats this time, but we learn about Jess and how she is coping after leaving Ghana.

I spent a lot of the time being angry in this book, I mean I really wanted her to drop everything and go back to Ghana, not follow this path she was walking down. The strong woman I described in my last review, was still there but she was being worn down and I missed her sparkle. She was being dutiful and loyal but I wanted to scream at her to open her eyes quicker and see what I could see. Some of the things that came out of one person's mouth were shocking, I am sorry but no way! I will make one comment, if anyone thought a boat was much more important than a baby or a family, well they would find they would be hurt in a VERY sensitive area for sure! Ahem, anyway!

The story was very current with the time, you forget sometimes this is set in the 1960's so things were very different. Women were viewed very differently, but the same theme of loyalty, respect and love ran threw, shame one of the characters missed the memo for that!

I loved seeing Jess grow and her family grow. How nothing could tame that adventurous heart of hers. The call of the drums is strong, and my heart wanted to go back to Ghana and find Jim. I do not know why Jess did not do this! Well, I do, but I wish she went back!

There is so much I want to say about the heartbreak we went through. I say we because I went through it with Jess. She put everything aside for someone she loved, and in that, she lost herself and as I said before I missed her sparkle.

The first two books in this series have evoked so much emotion from me, I have been gripped, I have cried, I have shaken the Kindle with anger, sat there catching flies as my jaw dropped a few times and I had to remind myself it is only a story. Sometimes I forget we do not live the stories. I am completely enthralled by this beautiful book series and I really do not want to read the last one because it means that I have to leave Jess and the series, something I am nowhere near ready to do!

As the tagline says "Never give up on your dreams"

Mystica says

Jess has survived injury and been in the midst of a civil war in Ghana but she is about to face her biggest challenge yet. Getting married to Simon should have brought her much joy and it did in the form of two beautiful girls but with someone as unstable as Simon was, with an undiagnosed mental condition and the support of his parents who blindly agreed to whatever he said, life was not going to be easy for her.

The story was sad as the entire marriage was one sided with Jess bearing the emotional and to a great extent

the working of the marriage and ultimately there never seemed to be a moment of appreciation from her husband who took everything for granted. Despite being Quakers with strong moral and ethical guidelines on how they lived, Simon and his parents were anything but and Jess ultimately faced betrayal by all of them. The worst betrayal came from her best friend Polly and this was the ultimate betrayal, slightly unbelievable for me as the reader as well.

Human nature at its best and worst in the story. The settings were the 1960s and I could not imagine why Jess took everything that was thrown at her without rebellion or question. Laws were still archaic according to this book and domestic violence and abuse was considered a matter for private settlement between 'husband and wife'. I couldn't believe this and am actually going to check this out.

The book was unsettling but well written.

Tanya Phillips says

This is another great book by Julia Ibbotson which is the second in a trilogy following on from Drumbeats although it can easily be read as a standalone. The character of Jess is the character that appears in both books and references to things that happened in Ghana in the first book are in there but I don't think you need to know the story, however that was a great book and I do recommend that you read it.

This book covers a period of Jessamy's (Jess) life from when she returned from Ghana in 1966 to around 20 years later in 1987. On her return Jess' long term boyfriend Simon breaks up with her and she decides that she would continue with her plans to go to university and then return to Ghana when she can offer more. In the meantime Simon comes back on the scene with an excuse and it ends with them marrying. The story then follows their marriage and difficulties that occur from ill health on both sides and problems with conceiving and general married life of who takes on the household duties.

I found myself engrossed with the story and although I was disappointed that Jess allowed Simon back into her life I could see that she did it through love. The things that happened in the book through lots of little twists were a bit of a shock and it showed how you cannot always trust the people that you are close to. I am not sure that I would have behaved the same as Jess in the situations that she found herself in. She shows herself to have a forgiving nature and is always happy to try and help others and see the best in them.

Jess appears to be more confident in herself at the beginning of the book and you can see how this

confidence subsides under extreme marital conditions. I was pleased to see how throughout she still was true to herself and her family and always tried to do what was best. It was great to see her fighting back towards the end and growing into the confident person that you want her to be.

The amount of research from the price of houses to the actions of the police and the courts as well as doctors was very interesting and added to the book. Oh yes I must also tell you that this book was so good I read it in a day.

I am really looking forward to the next book in the series and am hoping that we find out what happened in Ghana to Jim. Roll on next spring.

Rosie Amber says

Walking In the Rain is the second book in the Drumbeats Trilogy. It follows the life of Jess. In the first book she has taken a gap year in Ghana. This book is about what happens when she gets back. In the beginning Jess wants to return to Ghana after University and I was looking forward to some African adventures, but the story veers away from this.

This book deals with Simon, Jess's boyfriend, who finished with her when she returned from Ghana. But then had a turn-around of thoughts once he saw others interested in her. He then diligently pursued her, rushing an engagement and marriage while Jess was still studying.

The book is written from the POV of Jess looking back at her life with Simon, and pursuing her ultimate dream to become an author by writing down her life story. Her marriage to Simon was a constant struggle because he suffered from mental illness which was treated as manic depression and later diagnosed as bi-polar. Jess dealt with all the abuse and hardships from both Simon, his parents and even the rejection from the Quaker community she'd grown up in.

This is a sad book dealing with the darker sides of human life.

J.B (Debbie) says

Walking in the Rain is the second book in the Drumbeats trilogy and follows Jess on the second phase of her life now that she has returned from Ghana. Simon, who broke her heart so badly is now back on the scene and suddenly showing an interest again. Jess is determined to continue with her studies and make a career for herself. However, Simon has other ideas and Jess suddenly finds herself swept away by his enthusiasm and killer smile! She would do anything for him. However, Jess soon finds that she is given less and less opportunity to make important decisions about their lives together. Simon, it seems has it all worked out.

Jess goes into her marriage with Simon with enthusiasm although I felt this was on a purely superficial level. I think that Jess knew deep in her heart that everything that Simon wanted for them was a polar opposite to what she wanted. In the first book in the trilogy we see Jess as an adventurer, as someone who is taking charge more and more and this was perhaps possible for her because she was away from her domineering family's influence. However, now she has returned to England, Jess soon learns to put her own needs last and desperately tries to make sure Simon is happy. She becomes a product of all that is expected of women in the 1960's.

Throughout the book, Jess remembers her times in Ghana with a yearning for what once was. Simon is blind to her needs and ambitions and Jess finds herself putting her own dreams to one side as Simon has more difficulties that she could ever imagine and it soon becomes apparent that he is almost a full time job himself, needing constant reassurance and to be cared for. He is extremely needy and so selfish. Jess herself has her own problems to contend with but will she get what she needs from Simon? Julia Ibbotson has written his character so well and he made me want to scream throughout the entire book. I tried to have some sympathy for him at times but simply couldn't. He was infuriating and sometimes I got a little mad at Jess for not standing up to him more. However, I could also see why she didn't. She was in an impossible position.

I really enjoyed this book. I felt for Jess as she is so torn in doing what is expected of her and following her own dreams. It is a book about the loss of one's self and searching for a way to your own dreams. So many different issues are explored in this book - love, trust, abuse, mental illness, betrayal and feeling lost and alone and of course hope. A really great read and I look forward to the next installment in the story.

Hannah Symonds says

This is the second novel in the Drumbeats trilogy, I would thoroughly recommend Drumbeats which is the first novel. This book was just as good. I really look forward to the last book. This book is all about Jess who marries her man and gradually finds out he is not all he is cracked up to be. Julia writes with a lot of description which I really like. The little details Julia gives with her writing are good too. Very enjoyable story.

Yvonne says

Jess has returned home and is expecting to start her life with Simon. Things are not as she expected, but after an initial bumpy start, things settle and so do Jess and Simon into their married life.

I was really looking forward to seeing the next step in Jess's life. She is such a supportive, caring, lovely woman and I wished she would have the chance to continue her dreams. Initially, married life is fine, the usual compromises and adjustments are made. However, Simon has a very archaic belief about marriage and his wife's responsibilities. Her responsibilities are to him, he is the priority and she belongs to him. His parents do a cracking job of supporting and inflating Simon's ego and he can do no wrong.

Oh my god, this author really did my emotions boiling with this story. There were so many times I was furious with not only Simon but also both sets of parents. The author did a great job of transporting me back to the '80s with mentions of news items, pop songs, and computer advancements. Things I remember well growing up. All relevant and appropriate for the time.

By the end of this story I felt I had been on an emotional roller coaster, with high's, lows, twists and turns that made Jess's life one of turmoil, upset and heartbreak. As I neared the end of this one I was definitely on a high as it had a fitting finish but, also leaving me with a sense of trepidation as to what comes next.

Kathleen Gray says

I might have enjoyed this more had I read the first novel, but I didn't. I found the characters somewhat frustrating but the writing was good. Ibbotson has done a nice job with her plot, just wasn't my cup of tea. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC.

Kate Avery says

Rating 3.5/5

This book made me so angry, the good kind of anger though, the kind that means that you are so invested in what is happening to a character that you almost throw your kindle away because otherwise, you'll start to feel a little murderous.

The second book in The Drumbeats Trilogy starts with Jess looking back to when she gets back from Ghana and what her journey has been until that moment. And what a journey! I have to admit that I was not happy that Jess got married and particularly because it was to Simon, even from book one I knew she could do better than that, so it's a shame that it went that way, especially because there were far better options out there.

I was also a little upset because I did kind of hope that Jess would do what she had originally planned and go to uni and then go back out to Ghana because I am still desperate to find out what happened to Jim, but it wasn't to be.

Jess grew so much as a character in this one, she had to really because she is left to look after everything, and it is a shame that her good nature essentially gets taken advantage of through the majority of her life but it shows how resilient she is. I was glad that she got to have her family and still managed to carve herself a bit of a life outside of that but could not help but feel every subsequent blow as things start to go from bad to worse for Jess.

I actually had no idea that things were still so bad for women in the 1980's, that they had so few rights legally and that definitely made me angry, because it really wasn't hard to imagine the "boys club" judges going easier on men because they happen to have the same anatomy. I feel like I can hardly speak about it, it still makes me feel like going into a rage.

There was one thing that I feel very confused over but it's hard to mention it without giving away spoilers, so I'll just say that there was a character towards the end who does something which seems completely out of character and I feel like there was no need for it and no set up for it throughout the book. It confused me because nobody in their rational mind would do what this character did and I know that it sets the scene for something later but I still think it was a direction that character shouldn't have been taken on. There were better ways this could have been approached that would have had the same outcome.

I was glad that there was a little glimmer of hope toward the end of the book but I know that unfortunately, that will not be the last we see of Simon, I just hope that Jess can stay strong for it. I really cannot wait to get to the conclusion to see what happens to Jess and if she ever manages to make it back to Africa.

Originally posted on everywhere and nowhere

Joanna Lambert says

After reading Drumbeats I was really looking forward to this, the second book in the trilogy. I wasn't sure where the story would take us this time. Would Jess return to Ghana to try to find her American love Jim? Or would she rekindle her relationship with Simon, the boyfriend she left behind? On her return home Simon breaks up with Jess but then returns unexpectedly to tell her he's sorry and he wants her back. Feeling Simon is the man she wants to share her life with she accepts his proposal and they marry. For a while all is well, but as the marriage progresses and children arrive Jess finds herself caught in a nightmare as Simon personality begins to switch from Dr Jekyll to Mr Hyde and back. The tragedy is that it appears nothing can be done to help her even when he becomes physically abusive. His parents, who have given in to his every whim since he was a child, turn a blind eye refusing to accept there is a problem and even the law, it seems, is unable to protect her. The writer really puts Jess through a roller coaster of an emotional ride and at times you are wondering how much more this poor woman can take as disaster after disaster strikes. Do things work out for her in the end? Will she free herself from this nightmare? Well you will just have to read it and find out - and please do read it. It's a great book about a brave woman coping with both physical and mental abuse from her very damaged partner, trying to hold everything together for the sake of the children.

Kerry <https://likeherdingcatsblog.wordpress.com> Robinson says

After devouring book one – Drumbeats (see my review here) I couldn't wait to begin the second installment and I was not disappointed.

Walking in the Rain picks up where Drumbeats leaves us , with Jess back in England. It takes us through the next 20 years of our beloved Jess's life and the beautiful storytelling envelopes you into taking each step alongside her. Anyone who has read the first book will understand when I say that our heroine Jess becomes a whole part of your life and heart when reading.

Initially I wondered if the lack of Ghana would take away from the story but it didn't. I found the plot of this installment even more focussed on the plight of Jess and became even more emotionally involved.

Without giving too much away, our girl does not get an easy journey through this one and a lot of the events will leave you frustrated with the state of the world and shocked at even in the 80s, things were this way.

As much as I adored this book, I'm hoping that we will see sunshine and rainbows in the final story – Finding Jess.

A fantastic read!
