



As You Turn Away

Molli Moran

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This is an alternate cover edition for 9781495919503

She yearns to take a leap back into his arms—but only if he can convince her they'll make it to forever this time.

With a life as a ballerina in New York City—and the freedom she craved while growing up in a small Southern town—Quinn Reynolds seems to have everything she's ever wanted. But it's all built on a painful past she can't outrun. Desperate to make peace with her ghosts, she goes home for a visit.

Back in the town she once loved, Quinn tries to rebuild the relationships she destroyed when she fled, which may be harder than she realized. And her life gets more complicated when Jonah Walker returns, reminding her of the love she's never been able to forget.

Or experience with anyone else since him.

Jonah Walker became someone he didn't recognize when he left his hometown to escape his anguish over losing Quinn. He kept his family at arm's length and became a shell of his former self. But if he hopes to find redemption, he has to own his mistakes—especially if he wants another chance with Quinn.

Together, they struggle to forgive and create a new future. But Quinn could lose Jonah forever if they can't overcome their past and the obstacles ahead of them.

(This book was updated with a new cover and new material/editing in 2017.)

As You Turn Away Details

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From Reader Review As You Turn Away for online ebook

Mandy says

3.5 stars. This was a really good second chance romance about coming home and facing your past. This book was really emotional and shows the strength of forgiveness. Quinn wasn't my favorite heroine but I really enjoyed this book. I really loved the ending - it was perfect for this book. Looking forward to reading more about the Walker brothers in this series.

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review

Pili says

3.5 stars! A really emotional and full of friendships and family struggles and family support, with a lovely romance!

Jennifer says

This book gives me hope for the New Adult genre. There was a great emphasis on having a healthy relationship and not depending solely on another person, which is sometimes overlooked with this kind of love story. The book was really well balanced. It was funny and poignant, but the author kept things from becoming overly dramatic. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Karina Ramirez says

4 Stars!

This book was super adorable and sweet!
A second chance at love

Quinn is off living in NYC and pursuing her dream as a ballerina when she comes home for her first awkward family gathering. Her parents are far from the loving folks she remembers before her dad made it big as an attorney. Now her family life revolves around stuffy social events and her mother trying to set her up with "Mr. Right". To bad she met "Mr. Right" back in High School in the form of Jonah Walker. The middle child of three brothers, Jonah is the perfect mix between good and bad, but with his families' average income Quinn's mother is less than approving.

When tragedy strikes and rocks Quinn's life she's going to need everyone, including Jonah, to help her heal.

I thought this book was super sweet. Boy from the wrong side of the social ladder and all. Plus Jonah and his three brothers were super funny and adorable! I loved the dynamic and closeness between everyone. I really enjoyed how they grew over the course of the book as well and truly found themselves.

I wasn't keen on the fact that it was 30% into the book before Quinn and Jonah actually started to talk, there was a lot of filler information between the beginning punch and them actually starting to repair their relationship. For me it felt a little dragged, I think other relationships could've been repaired while Jonah and Quinns were being repaired instead of every character making amends before their story could really start. It made their relationship seem really rushed.

I loved the cute little flashbacks before each chapter to when they were together in High School, I felt like those somewhat helped to make Jonah's and Quinn's relationship more believable.

The writing was pretty good also! I think this is a really great quick read!

Alwaysreadingbooks - Reading Drinking and Relaxing says

I was given this book for an honest review

This was a book about second chances and that is exactly what Jonah and Quinn got. I loved this book from beginning to end and although this was a love story it wasn't too sappy and it had points in it where all you could say was dog why did that have to happen. I loved the fact that both main characters had major issues and I also loved the supporting characters. I can't wait to read more from this series and see what all happens

Molli Moran says

No rating from me because I would be hopelessly biased....but this book saved me. It HEALED me. I fell in love with the characters and the friendships and romances. I think I learned more about love while writing AS YOU TURN AWAY. There's friendship and kissing and swoons and humor but mostly, HEART. I hope AS YOU TURN AWAY touches at least one reader the way it did me while I wrote it.

Amy says

Actual Rating: 4.5 stars

"Happiness isn't in being strong or alone or angry. Happiness isn't in the past. Happiness is found as you turn away from the past and toward the future you make"

As You Turn Away was an intense, emotional read for me. This book follows the story of Quinn and Jonah. Quinn left home at the age of 18 after years of trying, but failing to be the perfection her mother demanded. She was suffocating, lost and couldn't stay home a moment longer. Her decision to leave home was anything but easy. Quinn's now in New York, living her own life and living her dream. Years have passed, and Quinn

finally returns home for a visit. She knows that the visit is not going to go well, but had no idea her visit would play out the way that it did. Quinn is left trying to cope with the tragedy that has struck her and to put the pieces of her life back together. The last thing she expected, was for Jonah to suddenly reappear..... When Jonah left home with his heartbroken, he cut ties with everyone. He became someone he didn't even recognize anymore. But, the time has come for him to come home and make things right. It's time to repair the damage with his family and be the man that he knows he can be.....Meanwhile, Fate has plans of her own. Try as they might, Quinn and Jonah can't seem to stay away from one another. They still feel that pull, that connection to one another that refuses to be denied. Their lives have been forever changed. But will they be able to put the past behind them? Will Quinn and Jonah finally have a future together??

As You Turn Away took me on one heck of a roller-coaster ride. I felt that it was well written and pulled me in from the very first page. It was a great story of first love, heartbreak and that second chance at love:

"What we have...is something most folks wait a lifetime for, and only touch for a heartbeat. They let go too quickly, or they're too scared to hold on, or they never see what's right in front of them. But we're going to hold on as tight as we can."

"Quinn, the Walker boys were raised right-to love, serve, and respect women. To treat us as equals. They're a rare breed, and once you've loved one of them, you're ruined for anyone else"

This story also handled some tough subject matter with loss and grief. I think the author did an amazing job of dealing with the loss and the struggle to get help. As well as the struggle to admit that things are not okay and the path that you have to take to fix yourself.

"This summer had been about finding herself, and learning to accept love in its various forms -- and to give love."

I really enjoyed the characters in this story as well. I felt that they were all very easy to connect with and the Walker boys were very entertaining. And I hope that they will get their own stories in the future!

Jonah....What can I say about Jonah. I felt so bad for him. Quinn broke his heart. Completely destroyed him. But Quinn wasn't the only one who said or did something hurtful. Jonah played his part and had to live with the regret of his decisions. He tried to deny that he still had feelings for Quinn, but as they saying goes "true love never dies" and once he realizes that his feelings aren't going anywhere, he starts focusing on how to repair what was lost.

"He hadn't believed it was possible when his brother's told him the past could be the past, but now the seconds between them stretched full of infinite possibilities. Infinite moments full of laughter and hope and love. Infinite days, strung together into a future that was their own. He had to be the man he'd spent so long waiting to be."

And that was one of things that I admired so much about Jonah, was that he never gave up. Even when things looked terrible and all hope was lost, he refused to give up on his love.

I found this book to be a very enjoyable read. I was captivated and got lost in Quinn and Jonah's story. As You Turn Away is going to be one those books that stays with me for a long time. It's beautiful, heartbreaking and full of hope all at the same time. I can't wait for the next book and see what happens next!

* I was given an ARC copy of this book in exchange for an honest review*

You can also see my review here at: <http://www.onceuponabookblog.com/blog...>

Mimi says

Well this for me was a very sweet read , it was quite sad as well but i really enjoyed the history that Quinn and Jonah shared . And although they went through some heartache together they still cared for each other greatly .i loved how Jonah was with Quinn i mean he was a bit stubborn at times but so was Quinn . But they cope with each others problems and they learn that sometimes the imperfections in things are the things that make things so perfect
So i give it 4 amazing stars

Theresa Alberts says

As You Turn Away by Molli Moran was a story about coming home and facing the difficult reasons that led to leaving in the first place. Molli Moran writes of loves lost & later found, of the ties that bind a family together, and reasons that tear it apart causing the members to fight their way back in the fold again. This story was heartwarming and emotionally moving and I was unable to put it down until I reached the very last page. I would rate this book 4 stars and encourage others to read As You Turn Away because I know that you will love it as much as I did!

"All I could think was that something was wrong with me, and I had to get away from everyone I cared about before I hurt someone like she hurt me."

Jonah Walker returns home to his family farm after four years away at college in Atlanta. His homecoming was everything that he had hoped it could be but didn't think that he deserved after spending so much time away with little contact with his two brothers and parents that he had been extremely close to before he left, or more accurately ran away to escape the heartbreak that he was facing. His family welcomed him with open arms and he immediately saw that the bond they had once had, was still there and was able to be restored, especially after he apologized and showed them that no matter what happened in his life he wouldn't run and shut out his family again.

Quinnlan Reynolds was living her dream of being a ballerina in New York City or was she? She returns home to Georgia to visit with her parents in the hopes of restoring the relationship they once had, before her mother became a materialistic socialite that put her down and ridiculed her at every opportunity and her father became distant and quiet when the unthinkable happened. A tragic car accident, that injured her leg, killed her mother and had left her father in a coma, had Quinn questioning everything that she thought she wanted in her life, and she questioned it even more when Jonah reappeared to hopefully rekindle the relationship that they had so many years before.

Quinn struggles to deal with the loss of her mother, especially due to the distance in their relationship over the last several years, and also because the last words that she spoke to each other harsh, unloving ones, due

to Quinn's supposed behavior during a dinner out with her parents. She tries to be strong while still hoping that once her father comes out of the coma, that they can get back to the loving relationship that they once had. With her best friend Laney and her cousin Darren standing by her side, she wavers on whether or not she should return to New York to dance, or stay in Georgia.

Jonah and Quinn begin seeing each other again, trying to put the hurt of the past behind them and move forward with a future together. Each of them have reservations about the relationship which is causing them to hold back from really being together. Jonah is worried that Quinn will walk away again without a word like she did after high-school and Quinn is unable to let Jonah all the way in and tell him the real reason that she left. Although Jonah tells Quinn everyday that he loves her and that she is it for him, Quinn is unable to return the feelings that she knows she has deep down because she feels almost damaged from what she endured as a child, and teenager with her parents. As Quinn repairs her relationship with her father, she withdraws more from Jonah each day until he finally confronts her telling her the he feels he is in the relationship alone. Hurt & angry and unsure of how to deal with everything in her head and her heart she hurls hurtful words at Jonah and once again pushes him away. But with the love and advice of his brothers Reece & Ethan, Jonah makes one final attempt before returning to Atlanta for graduate school, to let Quinn know just how deep his feelings run. The letter that he writes her is so heartfelt and moving that the reader can feel the emotion pouring off of each page and my heart broke, wondering if Quinn would finally accept the love that Jonah was offering and work on truly being strong. It is in the last pages of the book that the reader finds out just how strong Quinn becomes, when she focuses on the present and future and stops looking at the past to define who she is.

This book was extremely well written and drew the reader into the story with each page. I enjoyed the flashbacks to the time when Jonah and Quinn were dating in high-school, as it gave the background needed to understand the turn that the relationship took at the very end and what led them to be the people that they are today.

Lauren Rosolino says

4.5 Stars!

I have to say that I knew as soon as I saw that gorgeous cover that I was going to be hooked on this book. Then I read the blurb, and I knew I had to read it. Plus, it's set in the south, so this northern girl was sold.

For her debut novel, Molli absolutely blew me away. I was honestly losing faith in my beloved NA Romance genre (it's like the same story over and over and OVER again), but *As You Turn Away* is fresh, lovable, intense, emotional, and so so real.

Basically, it was like a perfect autumn day or like sitting around a campfire under the stars with you're favorite people and you're favorite whiskey.

I instantly loved Quinn. She is a bright, intelligent, caring person who actually thinks and talks like an actual human woman would. I loved how much depth and understanding there was to her. Despite her cold upbringing and accompanying issues, she is still warm, hopeful, and accessible (well, to the reader anyways).

I appreciated how, during the 4 years she and Jonah have been apart, she hasn't been celibate. That makes her that much more real to me. Because, hello? Who is going to go 4 years without sex when you're trying to move on from the love of your life?

Her character grew so much throughout the book, and in such a beautiful, believable way. Everything she did/said/thought felt genuine to her personality and situation. (I especially loved the ups and downs of the development of her and Jonah's relationship.) I totally understood her reasons for leaving Georgia in the first place. I thought she was very brave, modest, hardworking, and driven. And I cannot say enough about how *perfectly* the name Quinn fit the character.

It didn't take much of stretch to realize exactly why Jonah Walker was so madly in love with her.

Alexis Bledel as Quinn

Jonah, oh Jonah.

Laughter bubbled to his lips, strong, and real. This wasn't forced, or polite, like most of his in recent years. This was the sort you couldn't control or soften; it came out loud, ungainly, and genuine.

He is so darn cute, I can't even! He is one of my favorite male characters of all time. He is charming, sensitive, cares so much about his family and friends, but still has that damaged, bad boy side to him that is so endearing. Yes that's the word, he's endearing like a Matt Saracen or Tim Riggins from FNL.

Young Jackson Rathbone as Jonah

The chemistry between Quinn and Jonah is ahh ... it's just so freaking right! Everything about those two made me swoon. I instantly understood their love for each other. (Whereas, in some books I'm scratching my head like, why do they even *like* each other?)

About how when she was his, she felt like flames. Warm and alive, jumping and dancing and breathing.

What I loved most about Molli's writing was that she took full advantage of those small turning point moments. Those moments that you as a reader want to be compelling and dynamic and dramatic, Molli does not miss. **Absolute perfection!**

The only bone I have to pick with this book is that sometimes the dialogue was a little too much, too spot on. There were a few instances throughout the book that less would've been more and the message that much more potent. Although, I really did appreciate how mature Jonah was and how much he was trying to work through his baggage, right his wrongs, and be open and honest with his loved ones.

If you're a fan of country music, Supernatural, Gilmore Girls, The Lord of the Rings, or a personal favorite of mine ...

You'll love the little hints Molli drops throughout the book.

I LOVED the Walker family and, needless to say, Molli better be writing the other Walker Boys stories. Their interactions were so natural and organic, so easy. And they use the right amount of humor to lighten the serious scenes.

What I'm getting at is ... READ THIS BOOK.
Perfect summer read.

Jennifer says

PSYCHOCAT READS REVIEW OF AS YOU TURN AWAY BY MOLLI MORAN

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

I will admit, I have a serious soft spot for country boys with their unique sensibilities and charm. There is also a certain appeal of a guy that gets his muscles from working a farm instead of working out in a gym that is hard to beat. That being said, AS YOU TURN AWAY caught my attention pretty quick.

The Characters: Sitting down to write this review, I realized something. The Walker boys remind me of the Streck boys (my husband and his brothers). That may explain some of why I just absolutely fell in love with all three of them in this book. Similarities aside, both Jonah and Quinn are well written characters. They are beyond the point of teenage immaturity, and struggling to find themselves in the aftermath of the last several years. Honestly, Molli created a host of characters that I just loved. Every one of them came across as remarkably human and real.

The Relationships: Had the book just been about Quinn and Jonah struggling with their relationship, it would have been cute. Instead, Molli pulled together a collection of relationships in various states of disarray that became a masterpiece of human emotion. Seriously, I laughed, I cried, I related, and I sympathized with the fight each character had to build healthy, lasting relationships with those around them.

Too Perfect or Perfectly Flawed: It seems like this category is a no-brainer given the commentary on the prior two. But in case you missed it, AS YOU TURN AWAY gets a perfectly flawed rating here. The drama and heartache is intense, but most importantly it feels real. I just wanted to round up the whole lot of them and give each one a big hug.

The Book as Part of a Series: The book clearly states "Walker Boys #1) which implies there will be more. There are three brothers, so I am hoping there will be at least three books. For contemporary romances in particular, I love the series that don't just keep messing with the couple from the first book, but instead leverage secondary characters from prior books as the primary in future books. Since Molli already said book two is Reece's story, I'm patiently waiting (read as: Is it spring 2015 yet? Give me the book. I want the book. Fork it over NOW!!!!). Seriously though, AS YOU TURN AWAY is a great first book. The full story was told, and I formed enough of an attachment to Reece and Ethan to want to read books with them as the leading men.

Jen's Final Rating: 5 STARS! A wonderfully sweet romance, but also so much more than that. AS YOU TURN AWAY is a story full of redemption, family, and the strength of love.

Psychocat's Final Rating: She is fully prepared to go curl up on a Walker boy's lap and stay there. I don't blame her. If she's going to play that nicely, I may have to consider sending her for a permanent vacation with them. Might save me a few scratches.

Mickey Reed says

I have to start off this review by saying how proud I am of the author for writing this beautiful novel. I saw bits and pieces of this come together through her social media status updates, and I was lucky enough to be given a beta copy (although my life fell apart shortly after and I was unable to come through for her, which saddens me, but I'm okay with this, and you'll see why). Molli is an amazing spirit, and I'm blessed to call her a friend. With that said, here's my totally honest review.

This book read like art to me in a way. I love the way she combined the words on the page to create this story. As an editor, certain things about words stick out in my brain while reading, but I didn't find those issues in this book. Her words felt purposefully chosen and artfully so. The story of Quinn and Jonah is not one to be forgotten.

Intricate, delicate, tough, emotional, brave--these words can all be used to describe the story and its cast of characters. The ride from beginning to end is told in such a way that mirrors itself, from heartbreak and love to love and heartbreak, and comes full circle. It's a story of family, friendship, trust, trauma, and selflessness. And it's honest and touching. And oh, the ending. Perfection. <3

I read this mostly when I couldn't sleep at night due to a lot of anxiety and stress in my own life. This novel kept me company in the dark hours when things in my own head weren't right, but it also helped me understand some things about myself. I can very much relate to Quinn and her struggles with working through things in the past. She's given me some courage back.

Thank you. <3

Shelly Schulz says

It's a bittersweet story of good girl meets baddish boy and they fall in love and break each other's hearts. Our story picks up after not seeing each other for four years, finding themselves back in their small town in Georgia. Tragedy brings them together once more, and I like the slow build of their relationship.

There's a down home genuine southern feeling to this story. I felt as though I was coming home along with the two main characters. It's a great read, a wonderful story and I like that the ending is happy and positive without throwing a massive bow on the end of it.

See the full review here, on my blog

Richa says

Originally posted at City of Books

Happiness isn't in being strong or alone or angry. Happiness isn't in the past. Happiness is found as you turn away from the past and toward the future you make.

As You Turn Away is Molli's debut novel, and I think she's done such an amazing job with it. It's definitely one of the most emotional books I've read - I don't tend to read many books like this. But I loved the simplicity in the setting, and the characters' interactions.

I loved that Quinn and Jonah's past and present are narrated to us alternately between chapters. We get to see what they're like now, and how they used to be. We also get both points of view, which I always love in romances like this. It was awesome being in both Quinn and Jonah's heads because both have their own demons within them and both are hurting in their own way. We get to see exactly what each of them felt about the huge fight that broke them up all those years ago, and I think that was necessary for an unbiased opinion of their characters.

Quinn and Jonah are both back in Georgia after four years apart, and things start to go wrong almost immediately. Quinn's having a lot to deal with when she gets back, trying desperately to rekindle her relationship with her family - which isn't going so well. Meanwhile, Jonah is back too, but his family dynamics are in clear contrast. They're glad to see him back, though he has to work on his relationship with them too. When Quinn and Jonah run into each other again, things are tense. But no matter how much they try to deny it, they're still meant for each other. And if they can work through their differences, they know they can have an amazing life together.

Initially it was hard for me to connect with Quinn, but over the course of the novel I found myself identifying with her in a way. I get how lost she feels at times, how she thinks she's not good enough. And my heart really broke for her through her grief. There's a lot of loss in this book, even death. Quinn has a lot to get past, especially regarding her family. I just wish she'd confided in Jonah from the start, because she hurt him by not doing so, and in turn that hurt her too.

Jonah definitely stole my heart. He's not broken like Quinn, but he has an abandonment issue regarding her, from the first time she left him. Jonah didn't deserve how Quinn treated him when their relationship was crumbling apart, and she should've let him in. But Jonah's kind of at fault too, for letting her get away like that. I adored him regardless, though. I haven't read much about Southern characters and the countryside, but I found myself really drawn to Jonah. His life in Georgia basically shows you don't need materialism to be happy. I loved seeing his relationship with his family, especially his brothers, Reece and Ethan. I'm not much of a family person, but I loved reading about his.

I think the characters are what makes this book so great. Quinn, Jonah, Reece, Ethan, Darren, Jamie... Jamie is Reece's four-year-old son, by the way. And the most adorable kid ever. It was really sweet seeing Jonah bond with his nephew, especially when there's more grief to come. The characters are all flawed - nobody's perfect. But that made them all the more real to me.

This novel has so much sweetness and hope in it. There's positivity despite everything that goes wrong.

Everyone seriously needs to read this one, especially if you feel you can connect to the characters. There was this one song that was stuck in my head while reading this - For the First Time by The Script. There are parts of the song that really relate to this book. Anyway, I really enjoyed reading this one. And needless to say, I'm very excited for the next Walker boy's story!

Thank you to Molli Moran for providing me with an eARC for review

Susan says

"Beautifully written and full of emotion, As You Turn Away, will leave you breathless. Charmingly sweet and romantic, you'll find yourself getting wrapped up in such a gorgeous love story brimming with self-discovery, courage, and bravery."

See full review below, as posted to Amazon.

If you haven't read *As You Turn Away* yet, then I urge you all to pick a copy of this gorgeous novel. I promise you will not be disappointed by this inspiring and captivating story full of love, hope, and forgiveness. There is so much compassion stitched within these pages, so filled with wonder, amazement, self-discovery, and healing. Author Molli Moran, has truly out done herself, with her debut New Adult novel. This is contemporary romance written in its best form.

As You Turn Away, will remind you of a time when you are just starting to come into your own and really begin to learn what it's like to experience life on the cusp of adulthood. It is a time in reader's lives when things are both exhilarating and terrifying, but also full of so many changes and challenges. Emotionally stunning and so full of hope and life, *As You Turn Away*, will move you in ways unimaginable and shake your soul to the core. Exploring the bond of true friendship, healing precious family bonds, and learning to be a better version of yourself are strong elements that are gorgeously woven into the fabric of this beautiful novel.

I believe in hope and faith, putting my heart into a better place, and becoming the best version of myself that I can be just as Quinn and Jonah do so well in this story. I couldn't have done any of these things without the hope and love and encouragement that I have received from some special people in my life. Those special people who come in the form of memorable characters such as Quinn and Jonah.

So, if you're looking for a novel that will move you, inspire in amazing ways, tell you it's ok to let go, that it's ok to be different, that you are good enough being who you are, delivers a message of hope and forgiveness, shows heart and compassion, then *As You Turn Away* by the lovely and brilliantly talented Molli Moran is that book you will want to read time and time again, over and over.

Note: I purchased an eCopy of this book from Amazon. This review reflects my own honest views and thoughts on this lovely book.
