



Coffee at Little Angels

Nadine Rose Larter

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What do you do when you lose a childhood friend? What do you do when you know everyone is expecting you to come home? What do you do if you don't want to?

Phillip, Sarah, Kaitlyn, Caleb, Maxine, Grant, Melanie and Josh grew up in a small town where they spent their high school years together as an inseparable clique. But high school has ended, and they are all living their own “grown up” lives, each under the impression that their group has basically come to an end. When Phillip dies in a hit and run accident, Kaitlyn summons the others to all come back home, forcing a reunion that no one is particularly interested in partaking in.

Coffee at Little Angels follows how each character deals with the death of a childhood friend while at the same time dealing with their own ignored demons after years of separation. Events unfold as the group tries to rekindle the friendship they once shared to honour the memory of a friend they will never see again.”

Coffee at Little Angels Details

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Author : Nadine Rose Larter

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From Reader Review Coffee at Little Angels for online ebook

Bonnie says

You can find this review, along with others, at [Bookish Ardour](#).

Not surprisingly, *Coffee at Little Angels* is a read tinged with emotion. Seven past friends are brought together again because of the death of an eighth member in their circle, but I found the story to be far more than dealing with the death itself, instead analysing life and friendships as one is wont to do when such a tragedy shakes them.

There are few stories I've read where the narrative is told from so many different perspectives, each character taking turns to share the story in first person, and usually I find it a nuisance to follow each change. In *CALA*, the character's P.O.V.s don't herald a new chapter; instead you're being bounced back and forth between them all during one chapter, which are set out in four days. At first, like I find with any story involving more than a certain number of characters, having so many personalities to follow is on the overwhelming side. I think Larter has a way of writing her characters to be both believable and enjoyable to the point of emotionally roping you in, offering very distinct personalities, and this helps to alleviate any confusion when it comes to going from P.O.V. to P.O.V.

The first P.O.V. we're introduced to is Phil's, the friend who passes away, and his first line "I went jogging on the morning that I died." There are many reasons why that first line is a punch in the face of sorts. For one it is enough to pique a reader's curiosity. Two, and this is the one I find somewhat dicey, is because it makes the reader question what is going on in relation to a past tense narration by a dead person.

When I begin reading a story with the above happening I feel dubious because in order to make a story believable, no matter how fantastical it may be, everything needs to fit into the world somehow. Making a reader question uncertain elements and leaving them unexplained can, in my mind, be distracting and off-putting. At first I felt that dubious feeling, but I decided to give it a shot seeing as we don't know where the story is going to go do we? Apart from being a depressing character, Phil's internal speculation roped me in and before we know it he leaves the picture, in a sense.

I don't know what was going on there with Phil's P.O.V., I put it down to him being a ghost, but then that opens up all sorts of other questions if I think about it too much. Luckily the story is taken up more by the other characters, their issues between each other that are yet to be resolved after so many years, and trying to understand their grief or what they perceive as a lack thereof.

I found myself enjoying quite a few of the characters, especially Maxine, Grant, and Caleb. They offer a much needed sense of humour to cope with the narrow minded and arrogant world view of Melanie's (I swear she deserves a good dose of public humiliation) and Maxine's hard edge counteracts the flights of fancy, especially when certain parties begin to unravel psychologically.

Coffee at Little Angels is a very character driven story, and while it appears short and sweet at 138 pages in length, it is not a story to plough through, rather to contemplate as well as having plenty of personalities for a reader to identify with.

Niina says

(includes Author Interview at the end)

A heart breakingly beautiful story of eight friends back from high school days remember life and each other adjusting their current life when one of their group is killed in a hit and run.

Each of the eight friend's first person narratives runs through contemplating their friendships of the past and how each one was back then, while going through the motions of grieving the loss of their friend.

Sarah's is the most heartbreaking to read, and brings tears to your eyes... you cannot help thinking about your own spouse and how their loss would affect you.

As sad as the process of the friends contemplations is there are bright moments, memories that keep the book from being depressive, the little lights arranged in the shape of supporting characters, friends and memories bring the warmth to the story to balance the sadness, and its done so well.

The story grabs you right away and doesn't let go, you get invested in the story and the lives of these 8 high school friend grown up. It opens brilliantly with Phillip's account on the very last morning of his life.

I can't tell more of the story because you just have to experience it.

The story is beautifully written, heartbreaking and lets you take a look at your own life and your own losses, but manages to do it a way that you feel better having read it.

Beautiful story of love and loss, friendship and time. I highly recommend this, I feel privileged to have had a chance to read it.

Rating :

????

Amazing! I'm in Love!

More @ <http://niinas-reading-and-reviewing.blogspot.com/2011/07/review-coffee-at-little-angels.html>

Author Interview can be found here:

<http://niinas-reading-and-reviewing.blogspot.com/2011/08/author-interview-nadine-rose-larter-for.html>

Holjo says

Summary: Eight people are permanently connected to each other after growing up together in a small town. They have all gone their separate ways since high school, but have been brought together for a weekend after one of the eight dies in a hit and run car accident.

Now in their twenties, each of the friends has built a life. Some are happy, others are not. But what becomes painfully obvious is that there are many unresolved situations and feelings within the group. Being all

together in the same place for the first time in a decade, all of the unresolved feelings finally come to the surface. As we follow each character through this sad time in their lives, we learn how important it is that they finally see the truth in each other. Closure comes from honesty, maturity, and a willingness to grow.

Review: I LOVED this book. It is insightful and captivating from the first chapter. Larter is truly a gifted writer. The depth of emotion and honesty from each unique character was outstanding. I felt like I was part of the group. I felt like I knew these people. I could not stop reading once I'd started.

The characters are emotionally raw from both the death of their friend and facing each other again after so many years. Some are angry, some are sad, and others are guilty over not feeling sad enough. In the end, they have all been touched by Philip's death - and the weekend together - in different ways. A few have managed to make permanent changes in their lives in a few short days. But after going through this entire journey with the group, I still was not prepared for how the story ended. You'll be surprised.

Keep in mind that the POV changes regularly in this book. We are reading this story from the POV of all eight friends, beginning and ending with the deceased. I know there are readers who don't care for POV changes, so I felt this was important to mention. In my opinion, this style was perfect for this book. It would not have had the same impact if we didn't have access to the inner workings of each character.

I highly recommend this book. I don't have another book or series to compare it to, but I did think of a few movies. If you enjoy ensemble cast movies like Love Actually, St Elmo's Fire, or The Groomsmen, then I'd bet you would love this book.

Sonny says

In a small town, eight children, all very different become fast and close friends. Their childhood and teen years are filled with laughs, kisses, coffee, and love. As the friends grow older, they grow farther apart until most of them no longer know one another.

Years later, Phil dies in a freak hit and run accident. With the death of a once close friend, the group comes back together in their hometown for the funeral. Through the death of their friend, these young men and women grow somewhat closer together while facing the complications in their own lives.

Written to show the thoughts of each character separately, these friends all have their own way of dealing with Phil's death, along with their own feeling on their sudden reunion.

My Thoughts

Coffee at Little Angels is written in the point of view of eight different people, including Phil who is the one that is killed. I really liked that I was able to hear all of their point of view, especially the one of Phil. He was such a great character for me. And it was a little sad that he was the one who died.

I haven't read any books quite like this before. It was sad, a little tormenting for a heart, and it really brought my emotions to the surface. I cried the whole last part of the book and actually had to put it down for some time. But the tears were well worth it. I was very engrossed with all the emotion of the characters.

The eight characters themselves were interesting. I loved Maxine. She is the one that is kind of in your face, this is the way it is going to be. She kept waiting for the hurt to start, but was in too much shock to feel for a time. But, what she did in the end was very touching and motherly. I really would love to see if her and Josh come back together. Melanie just plain old ticked me off. She was so conceded and arrogant, and her

husband was gag worthy. I am glad there was not too much of her thoughts in the book. One of my other favorites was Sarah. Although I was frustrated with her from time to time, she was interesting to listen to. She was Phil's girlfriend who was not sure of how she felt of him while he was alive, and is now realizing what and who she has lost. I feel sad for her losing the man she loved before ever finding it out for herself. All the characters were genuine and relatable and I was able to attach to them in some way.

Coming from a small town myself, I could definitely relate to the description of their surroundings. It is a little rundown, but always comfortable, drably beautiful, and absolutely home. The descriptions of the cold are amazingly on cue with the feelings of it in real life. And I loved the fantastic writing about the ice world that was made over night.

This story is heartwarming, heartbreaking, and relatable. Some of the characters will grab your heart and others will leave you angry. Every emotion is spilled on the pages to make Coffee at Little Angels engrossing and warm in your veins.

Tammy says

One of the main characters I was able to attach myself to is Sarah. Throughout the book you watch as Sarah grows and comes to the realization of the man she really loved was not the man she thought she should have loved. She thought she had to love the other man because she had always loved him when they were younger. There were many characters one can get to click with in the book. All the characters were developed in a way that you can understand. You were able to see how they were at a young age and while they were adults. While reading the book and getting to know each character it is hard not to draw yourself in and become friends with them. The characters are likeable and you want to meet them outside of the book. They could be anyone's friends, or your own friends that you are reading about.

I also fell in love with Phillip throughout the story. As you read throughout the story you learn about Phillip and all of his friends. And he is the reason why they are meeting again long after high school is over. You find that they all don't like each other anymore, but they find a common ground through Phillip and get along for a brief time. He finds that his little circle of friends are only friends because of him.

At first the storyline is a bit confusing. The way the Nadine Rose Larier has written the "chapters" is with the person who is talking. The first few "chapters" you were not able to figure out who is doing the talking. Once the friends are all together you are able to follow the storyline a lot better. I think that the author could have made a bit more of a separation in voice for the first few chapters. That would have made things a bit smoother in the beginning.

The reason why I gave it 4 stars is the way it took me in. I felt like I was there within the book, and they were my friends, not just a book full of friends sharing a common grief. I had a hard time putting down the book, when I had to put it down I felt like I was missing out on something. Like my friends were no longer around. Another reason why I loved this book is it made me cry. When Sarah finally was able to cry, I was able to feel her grief, her sorrow, her burden with her. It made me think "This is what I would feel if I no longer had my husband anymore." The way that Nadine Rose Larier wrote this one specific chapter with Sarah, I was able to understand totally what Sarah was going through. This is a must read for everyone.

Karen says

Because I grew up in a small town I can relate to the characters in *Coffee At Little Angels*, actually I know them all, maybe not by these names but I do indeed know them. This story brings back many memories, good and bad, and reminds me just how much I have missed since moving away from my childhood friends. The last time I saw many of them was, like in this story, at a gathering for the funeral of one of our group members.

The author can't be any more accurate about the nuances of a group of friends who spent so much time together as kids, then drifted apart, only to be brought back together for a sad occasion. The characters are so real you can put faces to the names, the small town is so accurate you can name the lady down the street and the folks sitting in the coffee shop. The ice covered homes are the same homes you grew up in, the trees ones you climbed as a child.

Larter's writing evokes emotions from the reader that will bring a tear to your eye, especially if you grew up in a small town. You can put yourself in the shoes of each and every character, know how they feel, what they think, smile their smiles and shed their tears. If you grew up in a small town you'll enjoy the book, if you didn't you should read it to learn the real connections in a small town, where everyone knows your name.

Kudos to Nadine Rose Larter, she did an great job telling it like it is.

Ivana says

I so loved this novel.

I loved the beautiful simplicity of the prose. There's no fidgeting but sheer honesty and sincerity in the narrative, and a down-to-earth, realistic tone while talking about the small things that make our lives and the things that we all think about when faced with the death of someone close.

Nadine perfectly captured the image of a small town life. There's no name to the town on purpose and it could be just any small town in the world, including mine, a town stuck in time, bordering on racism and homophobia.

There is a plentiful of characters, but Nadine shifts the POV effortlessly. Each one of the eight main characters has a distinct personality and a crystal-clear, unique voice. I loved the characters and found bits of myself in each one of them. The beginning and the ending of the story are told from Phillip's perspective.

Here is another quote, my favorite from the book, where Phillip talks about his love for Sarah.

"Loving Sarah was like reading a particularly good book. That pressing and overwhelming need to just devour it as fast as possible is matched only by the need to savour it slowly and completely, lest it all come to an end too soon. The all-consuming emotions are so many and varied that it is almost impossible to pick out one for a few minutes attention. They mainly stay jumbled and unattended, and for the most part not entirely understood or satisfied. But then, maybe it is in the understanding of our love for someone that the love itself disappears altogether. If so, then I don't want to understand, and I remain content to simply experience her. Somehow, the more I learn about Sarah, the better I understand myself.

And the more I fall in love." p74

Coffee at Little Angels is not just the kind of reunion where everyone is praising the deceased (there is some

of it later), rather a revisiting of an old life, and burying own demons from the past. Shifting through perspectives, we are given a background for the characters, their present and past relationships, dreams and hopes.

The pacing is great, it doesn't rely on the outer action, even the inner observations and dialogues have a great tempo that make this novel a fast and easy read without a dull moment. It's equal parts sad and funny, nostalgic and entertaining. This novel has so much spirit that it's impossible to put it down, and is bound to stay with you after you read the final line.

Avery says

May contain spoilers

It isn't often that I read books outside of YA paranormal and almost every time that I do read books out of my comfort zone I am blown away by them (and typically kick myself for being so close-minded when it comes to other book genres), this book is no exception (it being what I would personally consider a contemporary adult fiction- a book which reads somewhat similar to "The Time Traveler's Wife" or "The Lovely Bones"). Everything in Nadine's book rings true, especially what it is like to live in a small town (Me? I live in a hamlet that constitutes less than 75 people- we don't even have a convenience store, the closet store one is to the south in a small town which has a population of ~1900).

While I read a book I always make note of memorable passages/ quotes and I must say that I have never come across so many before as I did while reading this book. I think that why I encountered so many memorable passages is because Nadine has a way of words unlike anything I have ever seen before- while you are reading her book it is near impossible not to visualize everything going on within it and it is near impossible to not connect to the characters as each is so entirely realistic- primarily because each and every one of them is flawed to some degree.

All in all, if you are looking for a book that you can make a true connection with and one that will have you thinking about it days, if not weeks, after having read it, I think that this book is just for you!

Memorable lines from the book:

"Loving Sarah is like reading a particularly good book. That pressing and overwhelming need to just devour it as fast as possible is matched only by the need to savor it slowly and completely, lest it all come to an end too soon" (pg. 15).

"She loves me, I know, but not quite in the way that she needs to. Not in the way I do her... I still find it impossible to walk away from the possibility that maybe one day she will learn to love me properly" (pg. 16).

"Maybe you just feel love harder when you're still a kid. Maybe time and age jade you and help to cushion the blow of passion in favor of sanity or self preservation" (pg. 36).

"You don't get to choose your friends when you live in a small town. There are simply people in your general age group that you make do with because you don't have a choice. There are no strange clubs to join. There's no separation between the jocks and the nerds. There are no Goths or skaters. If anything, there's

perhaps a small distinction between the popular, the sort-of-popular and the not-so-popular. And even those lines can be relatively blurry, in a "flavor of the week" kind of way" (pg. 37).

Veronica says

Simplistic narrative and genuine facts of all the random thoughts that run through our minds when faced with someones death.

A touching and beautiful story of childhood friends gathering to mourn the death of a friend from the past.

We get to meet eight characters, and each one takes us on a journey of how they perceived their friendship and past memories. You can't help but sympathize and relate to each one on a different level. At first, when Philip was describing how living in a small town meant that as a kid you practically didn't have any rules, you knew everyone and parents didn't mind having their kids outside all day, as there was nothing to be afraid of, I couldn't help but smile and think "wow it's just like my childhood, I partially grew up just like he did".

Then when Sarah stepped into the picture I could relate to her also, and Maxine, and each one of the characters. I found my self nodding and talking to myself, saying how much I identify myself with them. And when Sarah finally broke I could not help the tears in my eyes. It really makes you reflect on your own friends and loved ones, and how their lives would go on in case of your own death, as well as theirs.

As the book progresses I found myself not expecting what the big climax of the story was, but of the characters themselves. I couldn't get enough of every one of them, I feel as there should be a book about all of them separately. Somehow they just seem extremely real, and normal.

I would recommend this book to everyone, it is touching and really makes you think about the small things in life.

<http://yellowcover.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Siobian says

Sarah, Phillip, Kaitlyn, Josh, Maxine, Melanie, Grant, and Caleb were inseparable growing up in their small hometown. However, as is inevitable, some of them moved away and began a new life, leaving their childhood friendship behind. When Phillip is killed in a hit-and-run accident, the friends all return to mourn his loss. Getting back together proves difficult for some of them and past grudges, heartbreaks, and arguments rear their ugly heads once again.

To be completely and perfectly honest, I probably would not have picked this book up on my own because it

isn't something I would normally read. But, I have made a commitment to try to read a few novels that are "out of my sphere of typical reading habits" so to speak, and when the author contacted me about reviewing her book, I decided to try it out. I enjoyed how the author got straight to the point and didn't use a lot of flowery language detailing how beautiful the town is and what a glorious sunset the characters are beholding. My attention was grabbed immediately when I discovered that the first narrator was already dead, but still talking to me. I have to admit that it got a little confusing trying to keep up with all of the characters and trying to remember which one was talking at that particular moment, but this seemed to get easier as the book progressed. I also think I would have enjoyed more dialogue between the characters, because I would have enjoyed getting to know the dynamic between some of them. Overall, it was a quick, simplistic read that I enjoyed.

*Please note, I received a copy of this novel from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Becky says

I was given a copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review. It's not my usual sort of read, but it sounded intriguing and I found myself accepting.

Phil dies in a hit and run accident, Sarah - his girlfriend just feels numb, Kaitlyn takes charge and gets everyone back together to say goodbye, but none of them really want to be there. Over the years they have grown apart, moved on and are no longer a part of each others lives.

This book deals very well with the issue of death and losing a loved one, but it also looks at so much more. The strength of friendship, unity, love, marriage, children. What does anybody really want from their life, some of the characters seem to be constantly chasing something they can no longer have, searching for a meaning, somewhere to belong.

The mix of personalities is fresh and although a strange group they kind of fit. They are so different, yet in an oddball way they gel. At times they reminded me of friends I had at school and got me wondering what it would be like if we were to all get together again (under happier circumstances I would hope.)

I loved the fact that the story started with Phil, it gave you the sense that you knew him and could then sympathize that he died, like you were actually, in some ways, losing a friend too.

There are some truly touching scenes that had my eyes filling up, some moments that made me laugh and some reflective ones. I like books that can move you, make you feel something and this one definitely did.

The writing flows well, making it easy to read, and the characters come to life, I felt like I had a real insight into their lives and what they were feeling.

It's actually made me think about how much I do love my friends, and that although some of us have drifted apart they are still a part of my life. Listen to me sounding all sentimental. Maybe I should send some of them a message just to catch up.

Peace Love and Reviews says

I am hooked from the start, I love Philips's introduction, his views on death and the memories of his childhood, it took me back to my own and reflected on how I feel about death. My thoughts momentarily digress to where I stand in all these, starting missing my childhood friends, and reminiscing about my own "funny little town, with funny little people". I have to stop myself a bunch of times while reading this book because it catapults me to my memories.

The story is told separately by each character, so you get their side of the story. They share stories of their lives, you can read the emotions and understand where they are coming from. My favorite character is Maxine, she reminds me of some parts of me past and present. But the other members of the group and their individual stories and issues are also quite interesting, I was glued on what is going to happen next. Will the awkward conversations stop? Will Melanie realize how insensitive her comments sound? Will Caleb or the group accept his situation of marrying a woman outside the norm of their society? Will Melanie and Kaitlyn mend their issues? and more.

The thing that draws me to this book is somewhere, somehow you have a friend or met people like them. Melanie, the miss know it all. Sarah the nice girl that have that stand offish way with her. Josh, the player... They have flaws but you love them and tolerate them anyway. You fight, you make up and no matter how much you hate their attitude sometimes, they are still part of you. The issues are real and it is relatable. They have so many good points to share about lessons on friendship, love, compromise, death, coping, differences and letting go. Its my best summer read this year.

Michelle says

REview from Much Loved Books Review-Coffee at Little Angles

Coffee at Little Angels was sent to me from the author, Nadine Rose Larter, who contacted me regarding a review. I read the description and thought it sounded interesting so of course I agreed to read and review for her, and I am so glad I did.

This book is typically out of my genre comfort zone, but it had me hooked from the very first sentence "I went jogging on the morning that I died"

Coffee at Little Angels is broken up into sections that allows each person to have their own story.

We start off with Phillip and get to see how he starts each day and follow him to how he died. Through his story we learn about what it was like growing up for him in a small town, about his friendships with others and his feeling for Sarah, who's "love for Phillip was a lot closer to simply giving in instead of the necessary love act of letting go".

Throughout the book we switch narrators between all the friends. We learn more about what each person is doing with the "grown up" lives and how they react and deal with the new about Phillip.

I love how each person personality is displayed through the writing and descriptions used.

Coffee at Little Angels made me laugh, cry and dislike some of the characters, its wraps up nicely and ends happily.

I for one will be keeping my eye open for more books from Nadine.

[book was sent to me from the author for an honest review]

Cassandra says

Full, non-spoiler review courtesy at Book & Movie Dimension a Blog

Growing up is hard for a tight-knit group of childhood friends who discover they don't have a lot in common after many years. They have but one thing in common which they have lost. Containing witty sarcasm even in heavily tragic moments. A delicate simplicity is well-drilled into this novel making it all the more winning.

Pixie says

You can read my full review at <http://the-bookaholic.blogspot.com>

I enjoyed the characters of Coffee at Little Angels. They were all crafted so diversely and unique in each their own way. I really disliked a particular few, and then really connected with others in a way that I didn't want to see them go.

The opening is a real hook that pulls you right into the story immediately. Attention-grabbing!

My only complaints are that at times, mostly the ending, I felt incomplete or detached. Phil's accident was a mystery but no one was bothering to find out what happened or to try any attempt at justice. The ending was a bit abrupt and left me wondering what was going to happen with some of the characters and their futures maybe, and a certain question that had been hanging in the air the entire time was never answered for the reader. It wasn't a particular major problem in the end- but a slight annoyance anyway.

However, it was the amazing characterization that flowed seamlessly that redeemed the entire story. Sometimes it was hard keeping tabs on everyone since there were so many characters, but once I got the grasp of it, I started picking along my favorites and my least favorites. I very quickly hated Melanie. And very quickly loved Maxine and Grant.

It was a fun read, even for a genre that I normally don't find myself reading much. This brought back a lot of memories for myself of old high school friends.

Coffee at Little Angels was entertaining, tender-hearted, and character-driven.

3.5 stars!

<3

Pixie
