



# Because of You

*RaShelle Workman*

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## **Because of You** RaShelle Workman

There's a first time for everything... and sometimes that means a first time at a second chance.

It's been seven years since Maddie Martin's parents died. Their killer wasn't just a random stranger, but her best friends' father. Kyle Hadley. The boy she's been in love with since she was old enough to understand the emotion, the boy she promised all of her firsts to. Worst of all, Kyle's father got away with it, and Maddie hasn't seen Kyle since.

That changes on her first day of college. Seeing Kyle again brings back all of her childhood feelings of friendship and love for him, but it also brings back the anger, sorrow, and pain she's been trying to bury because of his father.

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Kyle Hadley has no idea why Maddie quit talking to him, especially when he needed her most. But he got over it, refusing to waste his life mourning the only girl he ever loved. There are too many women, too much of life to experience to bother thinking about Maddie. Except he does. And when he sees her again, he knows it.

But there are problems beyond Kyle and Maddie and their old feelings. The two of them are in danger and one or both might end up dead.

## **Because of You Details**

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# From Reader Review Because of You for online ebook

## Les Chroniques Aléatoires says

Maddie a vécu le plus gros traumatisme de la vie d'un enfant. En rentrant chez elle, très tard un soir, elle voit deux hommes sortir précipitamment, dont un avec une arme à feu. Elle reconnaît cet homme, c'est le père de son meilleur ami, mais elle le déteste, car il bat son fils. En rentrant chez elle, elle découvre ses parents morts, du sang partout autour de leur corps. Sa tante la supplie de ne rien dire à la police, pour la simple et bonne raison que le père de son meilleur ami et le tueur de ses parents est le chef de la police.

Elle n'avait que 11 ans, et sa tante et son oncle l'ont accueilli et l'ont protégé le plus possible, au point de lui faire l'école à la maison.

7 ans plus tard, Maddie décide de retourner dans sa ville pour faire ses études universitaires. Elle savait qu'il y avait un risque de croiser Kyle, mais elle ne savait pas que ça se ferait aussi vite, ni que son cœur en serait chamboulé.

L'auteur nous plonge dans une romance difficile. Peut-on aimer le fils d'un tueur ? Peut-on aller au-delà de ce traumatisme et tout oublier dans les bras de la seule personne que l'on aime ? Une mauvaise personne élève-t-elle de mauvais enfants ?

L'histoire se concentre principalement sur la romance entre Kyle et Maddie. C'est au fur et à mesure que leur relation se développe que le passé est raconté et que le danger rode.

Le roman est fluide et la lecture est rapide. L'auteur raconte avec brio une histoire d'amour torturé.

Petite déception, le point de vue de Kyle est très rare, ce qui fait que le lecteur peut se questionner sur ses véritables intentions.

Un petit roman très agréable à lire mélangeant romance et suspense.

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## Michelle says

As children, Maddie and Kyle were best friends, in love (as much as they could be at 11) and promised to be each others "first" everything. One night Maddie comes home and finds her parents violently murdered. She runs and hides outside and sees the killers leaving. One is her best friend Kyle's father, who is also the Chief of Police and very abusive towards Kyle.

Afraid to say anything about what she knows regarding her Parent's murder (knowing it would put her life in danger), Maddie is whisked away to live with her Aunt and Uncle, cutting off all ties with Kyle but never forgetting him or her feelings for him.

Seven years later, Maddie is off to college.....the same college that Kyle attends. They come face to face for the first time where Kyle pretends not to know who she is. Now the two must work through their perceptions of what happened and learn to trust again. Will they be able to put the past in the past and forge ahead with their relationship? Especially since their lives are being threatened and the past is coming back to haunt them.....and possibly tear them apart for good.

I truly enjoyed reading this book. It took me a chapter or so to really get into the book but once I did, I could not put it down. I loved the characters, the symbolism behind the tattoos and the path to healing. The relationship between Maddie and her roommate Gina was a bit unfinished (for lack of a better word) We never truly knew what was going on with Gina and what caused her to be the way she was. I know she was not the main character, but with all of her interaction with Maddie and Kyle...it left me wondering. That is

why I gave this a 4 instead of 5. Hopefully there will be another book in which we will learn more about Gina.

Over all this was a great book, full of twists and turns. I know a couple of times I "guessed" wrong as to what was going to happen. Definitely a great read!!!!

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

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## **Sarah-Jayne Briggs says**

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

(This review may contain spoilers).

Again... although this book had dual first person perspectives, for the most part, I did find this book readable... despite a few instances of confusion where I forgot which character was narrating.

As the book went on, I did find the blurb made a bit more sense. I felt a lot of sympathy for both Maddie and Kyle and it was hard to blame either of them for how things had ended up... even though I did think that Kyle was a bit of a jerk to pretend he didn't know Maddie at first. And while Maddie's feelings were understandable, I did disagree quite strongly with some of her opinions.

I enjoyed seeing Maddie's friendship with Gina and I would have liked to see more of Gina. I felt that she came across as broken as Maddie and it was good to see the two of them try to navigate friendships and the problems they each had.

I thought that many of the scenes between Maddie and Kyle were sweet, though I did end up forgetting that there was supposed to be more happening. I didn't feel that there was a lot of danger that the characters were involved in... and the romance did overshadow most of the rest of the plot.

I did like that things weren't perfect between Maddie and Kyle and that there were issues on both sides. I had a strong dislike for Evan right at the beginning... and towards the end of the book, I felt the storyline became disjointed. There was too much glossing over of things and I was confused about characters suddenly appearing.

While there were a couple of surprises in this book, I didn't feel that they were surprises that made sense. I would have liked to see a bit more foreshadowing with certain situations.

I liked the opportunity to see the meanings behind Maddie's tattoos and I thought that she was a realistically flawed character. Kyle's reputation didn't make a lot of sense, but I still liked the relationship they had. It was also cool to see references to some popular culture.

I probably would read a sequel to this book at some point in the future... especially since I'd like to see and learn more of Gina and hope to see her as a main character.

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## **Taylor Knight says**

*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review*

I'm not sure how I feel about this book. I really liked the writing and the characters. I thought the writing was really great and detailed and I thought the characters were well developed and interesting. However, I really struggled with the concept. I thought it was a little unbelievable and crazy but I also found myself getting really caught up in the story. I'm a really critical reader but when I really tried to stop being critical, I enjoyed *Because of You* a lot more. I really think this would be a great read for someone less of a critical reader.

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## **Gabby Gilliam says**

**\*\* I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review \*\***

I really wanted to like this book. The blurb immediately drew me in, and I'm a sucker for a love story.

Seven years ago, Maddie came home to find both of her parents dead. The killers were still in the house, so she ran and hid. She recognized one of the intruders as her best friend's father, and the chief of police. Maddie's aunt and uncle recognize the danger she's in, so they whisk her away from her hometown and get her out of Chief Hadley's sphere of influence. Hurt and confused, Maddie doesn't even say goodbye to her best friend Kyle before she leaves.

Kyle writes to Maddie, and calls her, confused about why she disappeared. How can Maddie explain to him what she saw? Would he even believe her if she tried? Her aunt and uncle convince her to cut Kyle out of her life thinking it will help protect her and help her move past her parents' murders.

Everything is going according to plan until Maddie goes away to college. Kyle attends the same school. They are repeatedly thrown together and Maddie eventually runs out of excuses for trying to stay out of his way. Sparks fly, and they become inseparable again. Things get complicated when Kyle's family begins to see Maddie as a threat. Maddie is forced to choose between breaking her own heart by cutting Kyle out of her life a second time, or keeping the few loved ones she has left safe.

Given that I received an ARC, I'm willing to let all the grammatical errors slide--and there were many. There was also a lot of redundancy, like the word opportunity used twice in the same sentence. Maddie also seems to feel everything in her thighs. Excited? Thighs tingle. Kyle walks by? Thighs tingle. A virgin immediately having such sexual reactions to everything seemed very out of place to me. There were a lot of side plots that went unresolved also. Like Gina and her drug problem and enabler boyfriend. And Gina's rape(s) at various parties that went unreported without any repercussions for the rapists. I know that it's tragically common for that to occur, but it was swept right under the carpet in the book as well, and I feel like Gina deserved better than that. Everything else was tied up in a quick chapter at the end. All of the important bits like justice for Maddie's parents were glossed over. The ending felt very rushed. Overall, I was very underwhelmed.

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## **Tiffany Holme says**

When everything that you know is taken away from you, and the one person you've always loved may be

another person you can't trust what happens?

Having read this author many times before I was excited to try something new. I know that Workman has written in this genre before, but I have only read her paranormal works. I wasn't let down. I was highly addicted very quickly to this read and finished it in under a day without a thought. Because of You became the read that I didn't see coming, with an originality that I enjoyed.

This book put into play the question of how you stay you when everything changes. The answer was simple... You don't really, but at the same time some things never change. Sometimes you just can't help who you love, and the feelings that never went away. Maddie and Kyle's lives were shattered in their own ways and despite their close childhood, they lost each other. I was very aware that the romance was going to happen with them, it was just more of a when. However, there was always the question of what really happened, and what was really going on. I enjoyed the pacing and that despite the fact I suspected what it was, I could never really be sure.

The main characters Maddie and Kyle were not quite your typical characters. Sure they had the tragic backgrounds, but they also had a background together that started it all. Maddie and Kyle were inseparable and lost when they lost each other. Their reunion was not what you would expect and neither quite knew what to do. I both enjoyed and cringed at moments. Neither knew how to feel about seeing each other again and it led to some painfully awkward moments. For Maddie it was not knowing how to handle seeing the only boy/man she has loved, and at the same time the son of the man she believes killed her parents. For Kyle it was denying that the girl that left and never looked back with his heart, was there and in front of him again.

I instantly liked Maddie as she was easy to relate to and feel for. No, I never lost my family the way she did but she was real. Maybe a little sheltered and a little naive but written perfectly. Though she had changed from the little girl Kyle once knew, losing her parents and Kyle had left her wounded. Despite her improvement she still had some healing to do. I enjoyed that Workman didn't write her into this girl that had perfected herself and moved on. Though Maddie was a good person and had a lot of inner strength, she still struggled with controlling her feelings. There was a lot of character growth and building throughout with Maddie and I enjoyed every step.

With Kyle, admittedly I liked him right from the start. Sure he was painted as a ladies man, an "I don't give a damn man," but it was so easy to see how Maddie effected him. However, I was irritated by his inability to actually question the girl he loved so much on what really tore her away from him. I understood that he just wanted her back, and that it easy to leave all of the random girls behind but I wanted more of a stand from him. I wanted him to be everything that he was to Maddie, but I also wanted him to express more frustration with her. He had lost just as she had and despite being with family that raised him a little better, he knew there was something that wasn't quite right. But there I would not hesitate to swoon over this man myself a little.

Because of You by RaShelle Workman was the kind of read I needed. It was easy, sweet, deep and well developed. This is the type of book that you pick up when you want to get lost for a few hours and just get lost. The writing is wonderful and has me looking forward to rekindling my love for previous works of this author, as well as some of the ones I haven't had the chance to pick up yet. I would recommend this book to anyone that likes new adult but wants something a little lighter.

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## Stacey says

this was given to me in exchange for an honest review .

so what happens after 7 years of your parents and the fact you know who killed them but can't say due to your life may be in jeopardy . and what if after 7 years your once best friend and someone you once saw yourself with for the rest of your life but must leave because you are afraid he may be like his dad . but what happens when you meet in College and life turns out where maybe you can have a second chance . and what if you find out your family cost someone you once knew so much heartache do you still have their back or do you give that to the one person who truly had your back when you were 11 years old find out by buying , reading and then review

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## Leticia says

I received this eBook from Curiosity Quills Press as part of a Review Tour.

**\*\*May Contain Spoilers\*\***

Maddie, having found her parents dead and spending the next seven years believing that her best friend Kyle's father was responsible, is trying to assume a normal life, attending college with a scholarship and enjoy her music.

Kyle tried to move on after Maddie was whisked away by her Aunt and Uncle and had stopped talking to him. He threw himself into his music as his escape and began to enjoy life. That is until he see's Maddie again and knows that he never stopped loving her.

At first, it seemed like Kyle was going to be the giant jerk that the college rumours had portrayed. Maddie, being sheltered and naive about the world, is slow to trust Kyle. Although he does win her trust eventually and they begin to explore their renewed feelings.

I also enjoyed that Maddie had found friendship in her roommate. I think, despite having her family and therapist, that she was quite lonely. I think it was also good for Gina, who at first seemed quite wild and free in her affections.

If you would like to finish reading this review, please visit me at <https://shhiamreading.wordpress.com/>

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## Miss says

Received this ARC for free from the author for an honest review! This was a very on the edge of your seat book filled with so much suspense. Maddie is a girl trying to live a normal life after the horrific death of her parents. Maddie is dramatic, but it's under reasonable circumstances. Maddie and Kyle have been best friends for so long that when Maddie has to leave it tears their worlds a part. Kyle is left alone to deal with his abusive father and Maddie is left to believe only the words of her aunt and uncle which keep her away from Kyle. When they finally meet again in college they realize everything has changed, but yet nothing has between them. Kyle and Maddie get to know each other all over again through college. Kyle and Maddie are two people just trying to drown out the pain of their pasts whether it'd be through their music, sex, or

counseling. But together they try to find out if they should try to rebuild their relationship or let each other go. This book starts off pretty mysterious and not everything is given to us right off the bat which is great because obviously it makes us want to read more. We slowly get to know our two main characters and they both have a dark past that is intertwined and only Maddie knows about it. Through the story I know some people are going to question whether or not to trust Kyle. But I believed he would be a good character despite his past and some choices he makes now. I really enjoyed this book by Workman and she never fails to leave me disappointed!

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## **Sissy Lu {Book Savvy Reviews} says**

*This book is a part of a Review Tour presented by Curiosity Quills.*

Maddie is just starting college and she's feeling a heavy weight on her form. When Maddie was only eleven her parents were killed in cold blood, she witnessed the crime and saw the two murder suspects but when she was being questioned she was threatened as not to say a word of it. She didn't want to, not when one of the suspects was, in fact, her best friends father and next door neighbor.

Kyle is Maddie's childhood friend and neighbor, when they were young they made a pact to share all their firsts, but unexpectedly Maddie's parents are murdered and she moves away without saying a word.

Now, Maddie is in college and she sees Kyle for the first time, she's riddled with anxiety and has PTSD from the traumatic events as a child. It's not determined whether he's going to be good or bad for her, but judging by the fact he doesn't seem to remember who she is....

This story was intriguing! And Workman really worked emotion into her characters which gave them real depth to them, however, there were times that Maddie seemed a little too indecisive as well as emotional. She is wishy washy on her thoughts and it became tiring. She isn't that strong of a character but she does pull herself together and it seems just as she does things explode.

I enjoyed Kyle's character a little more because you got to see his point of view and how it all changed him, the trouble he stumbled into, how he cleaned himself up and where he is now. You also get to see how Maddie's wishy-washyness steadily frustrates him, but he remains there for her constantly.

At times the book kind of dragged, but toward the end things really picked up and took a direction I wasn't at all expecting. I wish the entire book had the same tempo as the last, but this book was really quick to read regardless. I enjoyed it!

It had a Colleen Hoover feel to it, broken characters trying to repair one another. So I definitely recommend it to fans of Hoover!

**3.5 stars are more appropriate than a 3.**

Book Savvy

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## **Stephanie says**

I actually liked this book mainly because there were aspects of the story that tugged at my heartstrings. At the same time though, there were a few scenes where I wanted to smack myself in the head because of Maddie's innocence and Kyle's ignorance. So many misunderstandings and lost time could have been avoided if they only talked about it. Especially from Maddie's part – she basically avoided Kyle for the past 7 years or so because of something his father did and essentially just left him to ponder over why she stopped talking to him. They lost so much time together because she simply didn't confront him about it. Understandably, her parents were killed; however, for someone who was her supposed best friend, she condemned him for something he didn't do.

While this book was mostly written from Maddie's perspective, there were a few random chapters that were from Kyle's perspective. I'm not sure why there was no pattern to the random Kyle chapters but I think I would have preferred the book more if the chapters had alternating POVs. Also, I realized that I was not such a huge fan of Maddie. I found her a little selfish at times especially with her roommate. It was obvious that her roommate was basically getting raped while being drunk yet it took Maddie forever to realize it and when she did, she really didn't do much. It was also obvious that her roommate was having drug issues yet Maddie was too focused on her own "problems" with Kyle that she essentially ignored her. So much for being good friends with your roommate...

Out of the two characters, I liked Kyle the best. He had a lot of misunderstandings going on for him which made me very sympathetic to him. He had this weird rumor about him being kinky in bed and for being a major player but in reality, he wasn't. I found him to be an actual gentleman especially when Maddie was drunk and he didn't take advantage of her at all despite rumors. He cared a lot for her and forgave her for ditching him the past 7 years. I think that showed a lot of character for him. The one thing I am on the fence about is the fact that he chose to ignore some of his family's shadier side. He knew they were involved with drug dealing and whatnot yet chose to ignore all of that until it became too late. Once he became more aware of it, he was angry at himself for choosing to stay ignorant all this time. At some level, I can understand his reasoning to ignore all of that especially since they are his family; however, it doesn't change the fact that they were hurting innocent people.

I did enjoy the plot a lot especially the romance between Kyle and Maddie. I found it sweet that despite everything that happened between them, they still found love with each other. The most ironic part, I think, was the fact that Maddie saved herself for him yet was the one who chose to ignore and avoid him for all those years. And Kyle didn't save himself but still reached out to her for all those years hoping that she will finally respond to him again.

Overall, I found the book endearing and it was a nice quick read. Not sure if I would recommend it per say; however, I think if you have time and you're interested in a heart tugging romance book then go for it.

To read more: <http://holedupinabook.blogspot.com/20...>

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## **Rae Sontheyon says**

Fated Adversaries or Lovers? . . .

Upon reading this book I quickly found that this is in fact a revised version of RaShelle's novel "Touching Melody." If you loved or even liked that version you'll love this one. I found the add touches helped bring the plot together and especially enhanced the main couples relationship, which is always a great plus. "Because of You" is a romance centered around the couple healing from past and present pain mixed with their young love growing into real adoring passion, it's a wonderful book that has you drawn in for the romance and turning pages for the suspense.

The pain of her parents death is one thing Maddie Martin is trying to live with but the circumstances of their death is what is tearing her up inside. Maddie was there that night and know who killed her parents, it was her best friend's father. Taken away from the danger of her parents killer Maddie lived with her Aunt and Uncle, never knowing what became of her childhood friend, whom she had promised her first kiss too and more. It's not until college that she runs into a boy at a Frat party and realizes its her Kyle. Shocked by finding the girl who has always held his heart, Kyle Hadley, tries to play off their encounter as strangers, but when Maddie and him keep meeting he know he can't keep his charade up. Kyle and Maddie become duet partners for a huge recital, and their harmony together is unmistakable. The tension of years melts as they spend time together and find their old feelings are fresh and new, but the past is ever present and maybe something they can't work through or live through if certain people have their way.

Overall, I enjoyed the book and the romance of it all equals a good read. My only problem was the constant moments of "But I didn't tell him" or "I didn't say it". Obviously, Maddie and Kyle had some HUGE issues to work out, but their physical attraction always seemed to take precedence over actual conversations to say what they needed to say not just think it. I know Maddie is supposed to be the lead, but Kyle for me shined more most likely because of his full change from ick to prince. Kyle is a semi-bad boy turned good for Maddie. His past made him make some poor choices that built him a bad rep, so when his girl came back to him full of innocence, it's downright sweet to see how he treats her with such care. So if you are looking for a story involving childhood friends split by horrific crimes and death, who are brought back together by music and their old feelings they can't deny, but have dark circumstances against them, then this would be a good read.

**\*\*I received a free copy in return for an honest review\*\***

-----Read more of my reviews at: <http://heyitwasfree.blogspot.com/>-----

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## **Nay Denise says**

*I received a copy from the publisher for review.*

This was amazing! This made me remember why I love contemporary romance novels! RaShelle Workman created such amazing characters with such dynamic backgrounds. The way this story unfolded was absolutely mind-blowing.

Maddie is a sweet girl that has had some very hard times. Her parents were murdered by the father of the guy she loves. She left him behind for seven years, but gets reunited with him at college. When she sees him her feelings coming rushing back to her. She knows she should stay away, but she simply can't. Maddie was a bit naive, but at the same time she was strong. She carried herself very high and even when she had moments of breaking down she still was able to be herself.

Kyle was amazing! He was oblivious to everything going on with his family and Maddie. I love that he tried to ignore her, but in the end his own feelings resurfaced and he righted his wrongs. Kyle was fun, live, smart and downright sexy. I love how caring he was, especially when he found out the truth about what happened to Maddie's family. Kyle was vulnerable when he needed to be and I loved it.

Evan was a douche bag -- I seriously didn't care for him at all. His disrespect towards Maddie, even knowing about her parent's death, was insane. Not to mention the whole thing with her parents was insane. Gina was a nice girl who just needs to learn how to be herself and not focus on those around her. I hated what she did to make herself feel more confident.

I definitely enjoyed this book and plan to read more from RaShelle Workman.

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### **Sylvia says**

I've gotten this book (ARC) for a honest review from Curiosity Quills.

It is a very 'easy to read' book. When I started, I did not want to put it down. So that is a really good sign;-)

I could really 'see' the school grounds and the people there so Rashelle took me to the story.

Kyle is a real hottie and he should be mine.... but.. I'm happily married soooooooo.... bummer.

I will not reveal anything about the ending but it ended in a good way. It could have been a tad more spectacular but I'm not the writer of this story, just the reader.

Sometimes I had some difficulties with the main character. That would be Maddie. She had 'issues' and I really get why she was that way but sometimes she freaked a bit too much out....

I loved the times when the two of them were together and sober. They really belong together.

Gina is her roommate and I want to know how she's doing. I really feel for her and I want to know what her story is. Maybe in a part 2?

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### **Chelsea says**

I really liked the blurb for Because of You. The main characters have this complicated history together, they were ripped apart at a young age, and they've not simply forgotten each other. So when they're reunited at university... sparks fly. I'm not usually into the second chance at love stories, but this one had the twist that it wasn't the relationship between the couple that went sour.

This is angst-filled new adult, with suspense flair. I was curious about the mystery side of things, and so the book definitely engaged me. I was invested in the story.

But, I had a few issues with the story itself. First, Maddie and Kyle were separated when they were ages eleven and twelve. But, there's a depth of emotion and connection that feels way, way older than that. I didn't find it wholly believable that they'd have had all these deep conversations or thoughts at such a young age, nor that they'd still be so connected after all that time apart (particularly as they were separated before those crucial teen years)

I also felt oddly uncomfortable while I was reading a lot of the book. Like I had to navigate all these ridges and sharp points and hard edges, while trying to get to the meat of the story. Does that make sense? Because of that feeling, I couldn't sink into the book.

There's plenty of well-written, steamy scenes. There's several different ways that sex is depicted or discussed in this novel, and I think that adds a degree of realism to the story. This is definitely a look at a darker, more dangerous side of university than I feel is normally present in contemporary romance/new adult books. And while I don't think that all university experiences will look like Maddie and her roommate, Gina's, I do like this as a contrast to the slightly more optimistic impressions given by other books in the same sub-genres.

Bottom line:

Because of You has enough highs that I feel comfortable recommending it to fans of the genre, but it wasn't an entirely fun read for me. I'm interested to see what this author writes next...

3.5 stars

For fans of contemporary romance, angst, second chances at love

Received in exchange for an honest review.

For more reviews like this one, please see [To Each Their Own Reviews](#).

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