



## **Skipping Stones**

*J.B. McGee*

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\*\*This is a stand alone novel. Now available\*\*

They say there are five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

Not everyone will grieve in this order, nor will everyone go through every stage. It's during the stage of denial when Alex Hart meets Andrew Foster. He takes her one-step closer to acceptance: the stage when new, meaningful relationships are formed. The stage when the realization occurs that this is now the new state of normal.

Just when Alex thinks she is on her way to healing, she enters the bargaining phase. That's the phase where you wonder what you could have done differently. You wonder "what if?" Specifically, what if the ones you loved hadn't left you?

Leaving...this is what makes heading off to war so difficult and frightening for Alex. She knows all too well what it's like to be the one on the losing end of life, which is why she's made it her personal mission in life to save as many lives as possible. The extreme high she gets from treating trauma victims turns into Alex's own form of therapy, or so she thinks.

When faced with her world being turned upside down, Alex may just find that her true therapy is in the one who has always saved her.

## **Skipping Stones Details**

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Author : J.B. McGee

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## **From Reader Review Skipping Stones for online ebook**

### **Stephanie- The Boyfriend Bookmark says**

I am not so sure my heart was ready for Skipping Stones, but it was a fabulous journey for me to take.

This is a beautiful story of love, loss, heartache and family. Of course, the most important of these things in love and this book conveys that in such a beautifully told story. Alex has just lost her parents within days of each other. She is having a hard time understanding why. She has lost everything. She has lost herself and what she considers her life. But on one of those fateful days following the death of her mother, she meets Drew.

Drew is kind and compassionate. He is caring and witty and he has a heart of gold. One other thing Drew has is the ability to calm Alex and make her feel almost human again. He makes her smile and she knows that even though she just suffered the greatest loss she will ever know, he is the only one that can comfort her. Alex knows that she shouldn't be flirting or having fun after such tragedy, but Drew brings it out in her. When she is with him, her life is somehow less complicated and she is able to let down her guard.

Drew wants nothing more than to help Alex in her time of grief. He is so drawn to her and he knows that there is something special there. He feels the strong need to protect her and take care of her.

But when he suddenly disappears from her life, Alex is completely crushed. The only thing she has left to focus on is school her papa and memaw. She does everything possible to forget about Drew, but many, many years later it is the one thing she has never been able to get over. Will Drew and Alex find their way back together? Will they never see each other again? Did Drew miss her as much as she missed him?

This story just tore me to pieces. I spent a great deal of it in tears. But I spent a lot of time wondering if Drew was even real or if he was just a figment of her imagination sent to guide her through the toughest point of her life. It seems that Drew always seems to appear when Alex needs him the most. It is a bond that cannot be broken and it was such a beautiful love story amidst all of the tragedy.

Despite my heart and my tears, I adored this book. It is a great journey through not only the grief process, but the journey to true love. It was well told and my heart broke with Alex's and my heart smiled with hers. I really have a great appreciation for this book. Yes, it is not a typical romance. It is tragic, emotional and beautiful. It takes real talent to take such a big loss and still make it a beautiful love story at the same time.

\*I received a complimentary copy of Skipping Stones in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Skye Burling-Briggs says**

\*\*\*ARC received by author in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

Firstly let me say this, you will need tissues, lots and lots of tissues!!

'They say there are five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.'

Skipping Stones ripped my heart out, not just once, but repeatedly and I loved every second! I was on the verge of tears for the first 60% of this book (as you can clearly see from my progress updates!)

"I think I know what it feels like to die. I think I must be dying. "

Alex Hart just 15 years of age when this story starts, is off to spend the summer with her papa and memaw while her parents travel overseas for 3 months.

Surely a summer full of fun is to follow for this happy teenage girl, right? Wrong! So, very, very wrong!

There isn't a lot that can be said that won't give this story away, so I will keep this review short and sweet.

The first 3/4's of this book had me so enthralled that I downloaded it to my iPhone so I could sneak read at work!! I just couldn't put it down, the emotion, the raw intensity drew emotions from me in buckets! So many beautiful heartbreaking and heartwarming tears through out!

"God won't give you more than you can handle. You know that because there have been times when you didn't think you'd make it, but you did."

The relationships were beautifully written, the story's twists and turns hit all the right button.

The last 1/4 of this book felt a little rushed, the relationships didn't have a lot of build up, I know they have been in love for a long time to some degree, however I believe there could have been a little more to these two as a couple. I wanted the first date, the lead up to the deep and beautiful love that these characters share, I wanted to see inside this true love story. I also would have liked to have Drew's past explained a little more ( not that it took away from the book in any way, this is just my personal preference )

Over all I thoroughly enjoyed this book and as such this is a very solid 4 1/2 stars for me.

Thank you so much to JB McGee for allowing me to read and review for you x

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### **Kaitlyn says**

Alex Hart has suffered far more than any 15 year old should. Her parents dropped her off with her grandparents for a temporary visit while they go on a trip. Sadly, her parents never made it.

Alex and her grandparents heard a crash and went out to investigate. What they found changed their lives forever. Their worst fears were confirmed when the police showed up at their door. Alex's father was gone and her mother was badly burned in critical condition.

Alex had a hard time accepting what's happened. She goes to the creek to calm herself and escape from the grief.

At the creek, Alex meets Drew Foster, who helps her escape her pain, but it's short lived. Her mother's condition turned for the worst. Now parentless, Alex must learn to deal with her new life. Drew helps for a few weeks, but disappears.

Now, she's 30 and the pain has dulled slightly. She's in the ROTC program to become a doctor, who specializes with burn victims, but while in Afghanistan working, their unit is under attack. Someone from her

past saves her, or so she thinks.

Now everything she once knew is changing. She must learn to face these problems and move on.

This story is an emotional roller coaster. I constantly found myself hoping for the best for Alex because she's already gone through so much.

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### **sue says**

I had the chance to read this as an ARC and have just managed to get around to reading it.

I read what it was about before accepting it, and I heard around the net that it makes you cry, they were not wrong.

This is the very first book I have read by J. B. McGee and will be seeking out more from her. You won't be disappointed if you purchased this book, it is told in such sincerity, with such feeling and full on emotion, it will grip you from its first page.

Skipping stones is a well thought out title, little things like that make all the difference to me. There are 2 meanings I found to this title, not sure if they author intended them both, but it sure stood out to me.

The layout of the pages were good, and the fancy bits on the pages were a nice change, I think sometimes because its an ebook not all authors realize that it makes all the difference to your reading enjoyment just as much as it does if you pick up a paper book. Again, only something small to point out, but did make a difference for me.

I loved the content of the storyline, well thought out, progressed well at a nice easy pace. I cannot speak highly enough about this book.

Well done to J. B. McGee for allowing me to read such a splendid story which again these authors have left me in tears! Loving it!

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### **Danni says**

I so want to leave a review but my emotions are all over the place. But right now my heart and my mind are on my on Papa I need a moment to get myself together.

Now I have had time to pull myself together I can now leave my review. This is a book that made me ugly cry and I love books that pull that emotion out me. Loved how the book started didn't take too long to get into what it was going to be about. This wasn't a book that had a whole lot of secondary characters and that is okay because it didn't need them. When Alex meets Drew at that very moment you know that he is going to be somebody that has come to her life to make it better. The pace of the story did move kind of slow but it needed to. If it moved any faster than it wouldn't have been as good as it was. It gave to a chance to see how Alex and Drew fall in love with each other and then allows you to feel her heartbreak. Alex loved her Papa like I loved mine and that was the part of the story that took my breath away. I felt every single emotion on

those parts when she lost him and it was harder for me to read than the beginning of the story was. I guess because I could relate to that heartbreak so it really hit home (tear drop).

I was not expecting that story line on how Alex and Drew ended back up in each other's lives and then the book even had a little twist in there. If you are looking for a book where they are ripping each other clothes off this is not the book for you. This is a nice vanilla story about love and heartbreaks and it was a nice breath of fresh air.

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### **Donna ~ says**

Ok, yes I heard the hype that there was “no sex” in this book and that it was different from JB McGee’s other works. Yes, I am a huge fan of Erotica and Contemporary Romance, BUT I am a “cover girl” first and foremost. If the cover gets me then I look further. Something about this cover just screamed “READ ME”.....and boy am I glad I did. Now that being said, let me just warn you that tissues...yes tissues, and lots of them will be required. I wore my red, puffy eyes with pride the morning after I finished this AMAZING, heart wrenching and beautiful story. Please do not let the fact there is no “sex” in the story deter you from reading. You will be depriving yourself of a great read.

Spending your summer vacation with your Papa and Memaw while your parents travel abroad should be a recipe for fun. But when tragedy strikes and sends your world crashing down around you what is a 15 year old girl to do. Alex Hart has always found solace at the creek and although grieving is pleasantly surprised to find a stranger there.

Drew can sense that something is wrong but he does not push for information, instead he just comforts Alex and eases the ache in her heart.

“I don’t know what’s going on with you, but I know that I just met you and already I wish I could make it all better.” ~ Drew

Their connection was almost instant and you could feel the love pouring from the pages but just as quick as Drew arrived in Alex’s life, he was gone....just like that.

I think I shed as many tears reading this book as Alex did. It was such an emotional roller coaster. How much pain and loss can one person take before it breaks them. There were moments in the story that Alex shared with her Papa that brought back similar memories of my grandfather and I giving the story a personal connection. I was hoping that Alex would find peace and more than anything happiness.

As time passes and life happens, Alex is always haunted by memories of Drew. Then when he suddenly reappears again in her life she is a mix of emotions. Will Alex and Drew be able to overcome the pain of their pasts and finally find what has eluded both of them for years.....happiness?

“Fight for us, Alex For Me. Don’t try and fight our destiny –“ ~ Drew

Not much more can be said about the AMAZING story without giving away too much. I read this book in one day because honestly it was an emotional train wreck and I just couldn’t tear myself away. The pain was just that good. All I can say is that this story left me unable to read for a few days after finishing and even a few more days before I was able to write this review.

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## Foxy Roxy says

### ARC Was Given To Blog For A Honest Review

When deciding what to read next, I tend to fall back to my standard type of book: troubled, alpha, tattooed males with hearts of gold who fall hard for their lady loves. I have grown rather fond of those types of books and tend to use them as my standard in choosing a book. *Skipping Stones* was not this type of book. Ok, wait; hear me out. Don't let me lose you yet. I am not saying this isn't a good book, it is. It's just not one I would typically choose to read. This is one of the reasons why blog tours are such a good idea. They give you the opportunity to read something you might not ordinarily choose for yourself. Change is hard and I am the poster child for not liking change. In this case, this was a change for the better.

*Skipping Stones* is a contemporary romance that starts out with the two leading characters, Alex Hart and Drew Foster meeting as teenagers after a tragedy has rocked Alex's world. When tragedy strikes, Alex finds solace in her beloved creek. As a child, her father would take her to the creek to teach her how to skip stones. At the creek she finds that she is not alone, a boy is there, Drew.

“...It's hard for me to do anything other than smile when I'm around you.”

Drew becomes the air in her lungs reminding her to breathe. He gives her the relief from her reality. She finds herself wanting to experience her “firsts” in life with him. First kiss, first boyfriend, first love. She never wanted him to be her first love lost. When fate steps in and her world is turned upside down once more, she is left reeling from the experience. What do you do when life leads you to a fork in the road. Do you take the easy route or the road less traveled? After all that life has thrown at Alex, she must make this decision of whether to follow her heart and let it turn to stone or find the man who has her heart.

“...God gives us the people we need in our lives for the amount of time he sees fit.”

First, let me start out by saying, I do not like to cry while reading books! It's not a rule; it's more of a preference. But by Chapter 3, I was at a point where I couldn't read from the tears that were blurring my vision and by Chapter 20 the floodgates were wide open. I had to blow my nose and wipe my eyes repeatedly just to make it through! I haven't had a good cry like that in a long time. It was cathartic. This book hit a part of my heart that I reserve for birthing babies! It turned me into a big ol' crybaby.

With every written word, I felt Alex's pain as she struggled to make it through her life. It made me reflect on my own loved ones and what it would feel like if I were in that situation. The chord was struck on my heartstrings as each melodic word lifted from the. Just like Alex, I have had panic attacks, and I know what it feels like when the proverbial bricks are pushing down on your chest.

This book made me remember what it was like to fall in love for the first time. To experience the wonderment of what it is to be in love for the first time, the quickening of your pulse, the rapid breathing, the little nuances like staring into someone's eyes and actually feeling like you are seeing into their soul at that very moment. The thrill of being in love; I felt it in every word! This had nothing to do with sex; this was about love, intimacy and being wanted. I had forgotten what that experience was like.

“Love conquers all, always.”

From now on, I am going to be more open-minded when choosing a book to read. I was surprised at how emotionally connected I was to this book, and it had nothing to do with sex. If you want to be reminded of why we want to be in love, read this book. It's a manual of falling in love...with a book.  
<http://bookfri-ends.com/skipping-ston...>

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### **Karen says**

I was lucky enough to receive an ARC of this truly enchanting book. I've read JB's other books and really enjoyed them but feel that the writing in this has moved on leaps and bounds.

The characters are described so well that you feel that you know them, particularly Papa. You can feel the closeness of the relationship between Papa and Alex. The key places are described in a way that make you want to be there.

The story starts as Alex suffers a devastating loss. It is a truly emotional read because it is written in such a way that as Alex's world is turned upside down you are right there feeling it all with her. Her feelings of shock and grief are helped when she meets a young man called Drew, and they seem to have an instant connection.

It's tricky to explain without spoilers but you follow Alex for the next 15 years seeing how her loss, grief, and those she's met in her life impact on her future path. Does everything happen for a reason? Is the idea of 'one true love' just a myth?

If it's oodles of sex you're after then this isn't the book for you but if, like me, you love to lose yourself in a character, feel their emotions, and love some real romance then I think you'll find that once you ARE Alex you won't be able to put the book down!

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### **Kathy says**

**“If the night never ends, then there’s never a new day ... and with a new day comes renewed hope, light.”**

**J.B. McGee has outdone herself and completely showcased her imagination and ability to tell a story with Skipping Stones.** This heart-wrenching novel requires a survival kit of tissues, bottled water (to replenish the loss of fluid through tears), tissues, and...more tissues. I knew reading this story was going to be emotional for me, given what I've recently gone through in my personal life. I didn't know that Alex's story ran so parallel to my own recent events, bringing forth emotions from me that needed release but had been held inside until just the right moment. Skipping Stones was the catalyst for an emotional meltdown that I hadn't yet seen but desperately needed.

Alex is a young fifteen year old girl when her story begins and is very wise beyond her years. Her relationship with her grandparents, particularly her papa, is touching; I really felt the author's love for her own grandfather channeled through Alex. This young girl has experienced so much tragedy and loss in such a short span of time, but then she meets Drew at the creek near her grandparents' home. She is immediately drawn to Drew, and he is the only one who can comfort Alex in her grief. Just his presence alone sends a wave of peace over Alex.

Drew recognizes something special in Alex that he hasn't seen in other girls. During the three weeks Alex

and Drew spend together, the mutual attraction they feel quickly grows into a beautiful friendship and turns into deep seeded love for one another. Drew harbors a secret of his own, which threatens his friendship with Alex and robs her of the one comfort she has to sustain her through the worst time of her life.

**The emotionalism, the intensity of Alex's losses, and timing of the events in her life all serve as a test to her strength and character.** You can't have a testimony without a test, and Alex has been tested with more than some could muster the courage to stand. Drew carries Alex literally and figuratively when she is unable to carry herself. He wasn't always physically present, but he also never really left her.

**For as much sadness and pain I felt in my reading of Skipping Stones, I experienced a deeper feeling of happiness and hope in the end.** I've had difficulty finding the words to write what I want in this review because it is such an emotional reading for me. The more I think about Skipping Stones, the more I realize just how much it made me "feel" something. **The depths of the emotion I felt for Alex's situation and the parallelism with my own connection to her loss is astounding.**

If you are expecting sex and steamy heat, then you will be surprised because there is none. In fact those actions or scenes weren't necessary to the plot or relationship between Drew and Alex and would have been out of place, taking away from the true message within Alex's story. The author has led the reader to use his/her own imagination, alluding to the possibility of sex without actually stating or distracting from the deeper meaning of the story - the story of grief, recovery, and finding that shelter to sustain you in the midst of tragedy. **This is a novel which offers messages of strength, comfort, and hope.**

There is a deeper, hidden message within the pages of Skipping Stones: There is hope to be reunited with loved ones again, and with faith, the strength will be provided to us to propel us forward....life goes on.

### **Some of my favorite quotes:**

*His lips brush my ear as his voice causes my body to come to attention. "If the night never ends, then there's never a new day ... and with a new day comes renewed hope, light." Turning my head so I can look into his eyes, I strum my fingers across his cheek. "You're right. I think we've both had enough darkness. I want to live in light." ~ Alex*

*"I've learned through the years that it's not where you live, it's the people who surround you that make you feel at home." ~ Drew*

*"This time, I want the hugs, kisses, and love that comes with a farewell ... even if it's a temporary one." He takes a step and cups my head in his hands. "I want to say 'see ya later' and know that it's not a final goodbye. I want to memorize every line," he strums his finger across my face, "every line of your face, Alex. When I walk away, I want to know that I've made every last second I had with you count." ~ Drew*

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### **Becca says**

Oh where to even start with the amazing book! I am going to warn you now, it is a tear jerker of a book. I cried from the beginning to the end.

Alex Hart was ready for a Summer with her grandparent, while her parents go on a three month trip of traveling. Her Summer soon turns into a nightmare and this story is her story of survival, love, loss and

promises broken and kept.

I can't tell you too much without giving away the plot. Know that this a book that will speak to your heart and let you know that even when you think your life is over, it just might be starting.

Love this book J.B.!

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### **Jennifer Noe (The Book Blog) says**

This book absolutely put my emotions through the ringer! You know those books, where after you are finished you just sit there and stare at nothing? Yeah, I was there. *Skipping Stones* is about losing those most important to you but, it's more than that. It's about finding comfort in another's arms and making the best out of the worst. It's about never giving up, even if you want to. And, finding strength within yourself and those around you, to help you get through. It's about finding your first love and never letting that love go, no matter the circumstances.

Alex lost everything as a teenager. Her world changed so quickly that it didn't even seem real. What was supposed to be a summer with her grandparents turned into always. Alex needed some time alone and decides to head to the creek. She takes solace there but on this day, someone else is there. This is where she meets Drew and once again, her life is forever changed. He brings a new comfort and she clings to these new feelings. Sometimes guilt takes over. With everything she's dealing with, she just wants to spend more time with Drew. He helps her forget. Nothing wrong with that, I say! It doesn't hurt that he's easy on the eyes either!

Alex is growing closer to Drew and he looks forward to seeing her, whenever possible. He teaches her to skip stones when they first meet.

“*Skipping Stones* always helps me when I can't talk about stuff, too.”

Drew really cares for Alex but she doesn't know much about him. She knows she trusts him and her grandparents learn to trust him too. When the time comes for Alex to go back to her home and get her room packed, she is only gone for the day. But when she gets home Drew is gone. Like gone, gone. The only things she has that let her know he was real was the pile of rocks they used to skip across the creek. So, I was like ‘what the what?’ Where could he have gone? My heart broke for her all over again! She was beginning to put her herself together again...

I could go on and on telling you about the story but, of course, I'm not going to do that. I want you to read their story for yourself. *Skipping Stones* is a clean romance that is so beautiful that I don't think I can handle anything else. The story sucked me in immediately. I'm usually reading several books at once and every time I sat one book down and picked this one up, I was quickly grabbing tissues and watching the story play out in my head. I hope you love this story as much as I did! 5+ stars!

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## **Jennifer says**

### **\*\*5 Heart-wrenchingly Beautiful Stars\*\***

I don't even really know how to write my review for this book. I have so many different thoughts and feelings going on in my head and heart right now. This was my first book by JB McGee. I have her This series on my kindle but I haven't had a chance to read it, but when I saw the blurb to this book I just knew I had to read it right away. It totally captured me. Plus I LOVED that it is a standalone. There are just so many series out there that it is so refreshing when I find a standalone, and let alone a standalone that is as wonderful as this book. This book will take you on an emotional roller coaster. There were times while reading this book that I was smiling and swooning, but then by the next page I was crying my eyes out and my heart was breaking. I loved how JB made you feel apart of Alex's life. I was totally invested in her life and all the things she went through. This book does deal with a pretty tough subject matter, but it was so beautifully written, that you can't help but be sucked in. I will say that this book is a very CLEAN book, as in there is no sex in the story, but I have to say that this story doesn't call for sex. I think that it would've been wrong to add that into this story. There are just some books and stories that sex can actually take away from a story and I feel that this is one of those books. Now I will admit I am one of those people who enjoy reading about sex in my books but let me tell you, you won't miss it in this story. The amount of emotion and feelings that are expressed in this book are strong enough that you really don't think about there being no sex. I could probably go on and on about this book but I just think that everyone needs to experience this book for themselves.

This story is about a girl named Alex. When we first meet Alex, she is 15 yrs old. She is going to spend the summer with her grandparents like she does every summer, while her parents go on a 3 month vacation to Europe. That is when things go horribly wrong for Alex. Through this book we got a very accurate portrayal of what a person goes through when something horrific happens to them. This book is the emotional journey of Alex going through the 5 stages of grief and how she copes and handles many different situations. Like I said before this story was so beautifully written that you feel everything Alex felt....every emotion!!!! In the mix of everything going on in Alex's life she meets a 17 yr old boy named Drew. Drew was absolutely adorable. He was so sweet to Alex and was such a strong shoulder for her to lean on. You can tell through the beginning of the story that Drew is also broken some how and that he is hiding a secret. We did eventually find out all about Drew's past and let me tell you it was just as heart-wrenching as Alex's. But his past never stopped him from being there for Alex. I loved them together, I liked how she felt at peace with him. To me this couple was very believable and I could totally feel their connection. As the story goes on and they are separated, we still follow Alex and everything she is doing to be a stronger person and overcoming all of her grief. This story expands over many years, so that in the end Alex and Drew are in their 30's. I loved the ending of this book....it was great to see how they turned out as adults and what became of them as they got older.

Even though this book had a love story between Alex and Drew, this book to me was so much more. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is looking for an emotional read with a love story built in. You will for sure need tissues handy with this book.

### **Lucinda Claire says**

I was offered an ARC of *Skipping Stones* in exchange for an honest review. I typically read (and review) erotic romance, and since one of the biggest concerns/criticisms I had read was that there was no sex in this book. I was mildly intrigued by confusing comments, so I had to check it out for myself.

Okay, so first, let's just get this out of the way. Hands-down, unequivocally, clearly, and indisputably, this is a book about love, and yes, for a romance junkie like myself, there's even some of that too. Is there sex in the book? No, but sex without love is just mechanics. Without a good love story, really what's the point?

Alex Hart is a survivor, and *Skipping Stones* is her journey of survival and resilience; living, breathing testament to the axiom that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. Her story is one of overcoming tragedy and loss, and of using the experiences of those losses to help make the world just a little better. It's also a story of hope and trust. Trust that we will never be given more than we can bear, and hope that out of every tragedy, the possibility of rebirth exists.

C.S. Lewis describes four types of love as storge (affectionate love – the love between family members), phileo (love between friends), eros (romantic love – being in love), and agape (unconditional love – the love that brings forth caring regardless of circumstances). *Skipping Stones* is not only a story about romantic love, it's a story about all of the aspects of love, and how love can not only shatter you, but it can also make you whole again.

At 15-years-old, Alex suffers an unthinkable tragedy – one that few of us could ever even fathom. Then, just three days later, another equally-unimaginable tragedy strikes. Alex is not just devastated; she is completely overwhelmed by the reality of her loss. The one thing (the only thing) that keeps Alex grounded in the face of her overwhelming grief is love – that of family, and that of a new friend, Drew. Drew shows Alex the unconditional love of a friend, and through that friendship, the evolution of romantic love. Then, just three weeks into her journey of healing, and with Drew as her near-constant companion, another loss occurs. And while this loss may not be considered necessarily tragic, it is equally catastrophic, and it's confounding, and it threatens to decimate Alex's already shattered heart.

Author J.B. McGee has written a beautiful story of unconditional all-encompassing love. But *Skipping Stones* is much, much more. It's an exploration of the resilience of the human spirit and the promise of a second-chance love. It is also a story of enduring heartbreak and of finding the courage and hope to persevere. You'll need a box of tissues, because there will be tears, but I promise that for every tear of sadness, there will be tears of joy in equal measure.

*Skipping Stones* would be wonderful for a book club or grief support group.

Beyond five courageous and resilient stars!

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### **Tami Talbert says**

*Skipping Stones*

To say I don't know where to start this review just doesn't describe my feelings for this book. This was just... What I mean to say is... Oh my gosh... Just WOW! Such an emotional journey of life, loss and a deep love that can and will survive.

The story begins with Alex who is only 15 (but is described as an "old soul") who is on her way to stay with her grandparents while her parents take a vacation. When tragedy strikes leaving Alex crushed and heartbroken she meets Drew. From the moment they see each other Drew realizes Alex's immense grief and begins to comfort and console her trying to help her deal with her devastating loss. As this terrible time in her life envelopes her soul, she feels a gratefulness for Drew and wonders if he is an angel. But when Drew unexpectedly disappears, Alex begins to question whether he was even real.

Drew has always been a loner and kept to himself. When he sees Alex for the first time he feels a chemistry and almost an immediate need to help her. Knowing that he is the only one seemingly to have a special connection with Alex, he feels the best thing he can do to help her is to stay close. Unfortunately there are circumstances in Drew's past that are out of his control and although he wishes to always be there for Alex, he quickly has to leave and never gets a chance to say goodbye.

Although I would love to and feel a deep need to say so much more, I don't feel that I can without risking spoiling the story for those who make the decision to read this book. Skipping Stones is nothing like anything J.B. has written before. I would compare this novel with others that have had such a great impact they have ultimately been made into motion pictures. Standing ovation and applause to you J.B. for this story. Unbelievably beautiful and well-written. This book should come with a box of tissues. Even now that I've finished reading it, I can still feel the emotion, lump in my throat and tears threatening. This book touched me very deeply. Thank you J.B.

Definitely 5 stars!

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### **Lexi Buchanan says**

Wow - you are going to need plenty of tissues for this book.

75% of this book is such an emotional roller-coaster ride, one, which I'm glad I climbed aboard for.

JB's writing was beautiful and heart wrenching at the same time.

I found myself having my iPhone in one hand and spatular in the other while cooking dinner, because I just couldn't put the book down.

We are first introduced to Alex who is staying with her grandparents while her parents go away for a few months, when tragedy strikes. During the worst time of her young life she meets Drew who is living close by and a friendship and love develops, which stays throughout the following years they are apart.

As the years go by and they live separate lives (huge jump in the story), Alex still longs for Drew and to find out why something happened all those years ago when they first met.

Then Alex arrives home and from here the story just didn't seem as intense as the first 75% of the book. They hadn't met or talked for years and when they have their first proper discussion after all this time something

happens that had me frowning because it was kind of instant. There was no build up. I would have loved to see more between Alex and Drew, maybe a first date, maybe a bit of loving, but there was nothing.

It was a sweet heart wrenching love story and but for the very rushed ending it would be a 5\* read, but I just felt there was something missing.

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