



Freefall

Mindi Scott

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How do you come back from the point of no return?

Seth McCoy was the last person to see his best friend Isaac alive, and the first to find him dead. It was just another night, just another party, just another time where Isaac drank too much and passed out on the lawn. Only this time, Isaac didn't wake up.

Convinced that his own actions led to his friend's death, Seth is torn between turning his life around . . . or losing himself completely.

Then he meets Rosetta: so beautiful and so different from everything and everyone he's ever known. But Rosetta has secrets of her own, and Seth will soon realize he isn't the only one who needs saving . . .

Freefall Details

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Author : Mindi Scott

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From Reader Review Freefall for online ebook

Reynje says

I really liked this.

Freefall is a small book with what seems to be a fairly run-of-the-mill plot: guy's best friend dies, guy is messed up, guy meets girls, girl has issues of her own... and so forth.

Yet the characterisation in Freefall is excellent, and I found myself invested in the story within pages. Scott captures Seth's voice so well, the rawness of his emotions, without pushing the book into over-angsty territory. I liked the fact that Seth was a guy who didn't always do the right thing, who often acted selfishly or impulsively, and yet had much more going on under the exterior, while still feeling realistic.

But I'd probably give all of those stars purely on the basis of Kendall, whom I really believe carried this story. I happen to like straight-talking female characters who don't suffer fools (see also: Mim from All I Ever Wanted), yet also have their own vulnerabilities. Kendall was the highlight of this book for me, a strong, flawed, interesting, brash character that really felt alive and vital in the story. Her dynamic with Seth, and the way it gradually developed over the course of the book, was exceptionally well handled.

On the other hand, as much as I'd like to, I can't muster the same enthusiasm for Rosetta. I didn't dislike her, but I felt she faded into the paper up against the unapologetically bold character of Kendall. While Kendall and Seth's "nonenemy" relationship had a lot of chemistry and spark, Rosetta and Seth's – while sweet – was less compelling for me. That said, while she definitely a less striking element of the book, I'm glad that Rosetta didn't fall into completely clichéd territory as I thought she would.

Fans of plot-driven novels might not find a lot to get excited about here, Freefall is very much a character-centric novel that focuses on the repercussions of loss, grief and fear. There's no major plot twist and even the climax is low-key. However, I found a lot to like and would definitely read Scott's further work.

Stefanie says

Damn I really wanted to be different from all the other Bookers and give a different rating(I like to be unique)...and up until the last half of the book I really thought I was going to, with 3 stars. But Mindi Scott turned it around for me!

This book had a subtle complexity to it and I loved the rawness of it. It was gritty and one of the most realistic YA fiction books I've read. I loved that the author wasn't trying to make this a "pretty" read. I never felt like she was trying to force the book to be anything it wasn't nor force the characters to be anything that they weren't....I could've said that more eloquently, but meh, who has the time???

Okay now to the story..it took me a little while to warm up to Seth. I thought oh great...I used to deal with guys like this in my life in high school. The ones who think they're worthless and self-pity yet blame everyone else for their miserable lives...and I thought Seth was going to be like this but turns out it's his friends who are like this. I felt bad for him, because it was like his friends weren't really his friends. I mean

they played in a band together and partied together but it's Seth who didn't seem to get a say in much, he was just along for the ride to either please someone else or make sure his friend didn't kill himself from reckless partying. I felt like he stuck around with Daniel because he was so scared of Daniel making the same stupid mistake Isaac did. I couldn't tell if he really enjoyed their friendship or not. Maybe near the end I thought he did.

And Kendall grew on me SO much. The weak girl who can't stand up for herself. I was so sympathetic to her situation because I've been there. And it's so hard, especially in high school when all you're looking for is approval and somewhere to fit in. When you get yourself in situations like that it's hard to get out and I was rooting for her the whole time to stop trying to impress whatever dickwad she was hooking up with and to end it. And thank God she does!!

And that fight between the two boys...LOVED IT. I was so happy that someone stood up for Kendall even if she was annoying at times. Everyone needs someone.

Okay I feel like I'm rambling now and am going to stop.

The characters, the ending, the intertwining of characters stories. I loved it. Awesome read.

Morgan F says

I am pretty much the last person in my group of friends to review this book, which is ironic because I was the first one to finish it. But I'm lazy so here I am with nothing to say.

Um.....I was expecting more. The writing was good and Seth was funny and real and yada yada yada but I wanted it to be darker. Is that a sick thing to say? That I wanted this kid to be more screwed up? But it's true. I kind of felt like this novel was a well-written anti-climax.

Do you looooooove it? It's a pony!

Mindi Scott says

I'm allowed to give my own book five stars right? Writing it was certainly an amazing experience! :-)

Nomes says

Ahh, I had really psyched myself up to love this book and... it just didn't happen for me.

There were some scenes in there I really liked, and some genuinely funny/sweet/sexy moments. Also, some of the prose was gorgeous - scenes in the rain were well done and atmospheric.

But mostly, I just feel like this didn't go anywhere. I kept hoping it would build towards some great moment but then the storyline started petering out and it all felt like a bit of an anti-climax really.

A lot of mates had LOVED and ADORED this - so maybe it was just me wanting it to be more - to go deeper or to somehow be more unique (the whole dead friend, dead parents, romance from the wrong side of the tracks is nothing new - and although it was well handled - it failed to stand out for me).

I found the beginning lacklustre (I'm not a huge fan of the drunken party scene in books), the middle picked right up (it had some great moments) but then I feel like the climax and ending never arrived. Still, it's a well written book and I think teens could really dig this. It doesn't get cheesy or melodramatic - which earned it an extra star from me.

Courtney says

Freefall follows the life and times of Seth McCoy (or maybe call him "Dick") after his best friend, Isaac's death. Seth and Isaac were part of the same band and they were both hard partiers. One night, Isaac drinks way too much and ends up choking to death on his own vomit.

In the months that follow Isaac's death, Seth spirals hard. He can't shake the feeling he's responsible for Isaac's death. He's bored of helping his egocentric friend Daniel, supply booze for the rich kids at school who think they're both trailer trash wastes of space. He often binge drinks before playing gigs to cope with stage fright and the general pressure his bandmates are piling on him. And after bender number whatever, he winds up waking up next to dead Isaac's (ex, maybe) girlfriend, Kendall.

Oops.

Basically: Seth is not a happy guy and things need to change. And that's when this novel begins, really--with Seth making two positive choices for himself: to stop drinking and commit himself to an intense class schedule so he can graduate. Both of these decisions are the beginning of the rest of his life. In one of the elective classes he attends to boost his grade point average--Interpersonal Communications--he comes face to face with Rosetta, a beautiful girl he may or may not have nearly run over with his car. Thankfully, she gets over it and what follows is a really tender and sharp debut about two similarly wounded people coming together to bring out the best in themselves.

So I've been looking forward to Freefall forever. I think Mindi Scott is awesome, first of all, and I've loved following her publication journey. The book released in October, but I was smack in the middle of eighty million different things and couldn't sit down to read it until now. It's always a dangerous thing when I have to wait to read something. I will either lose interest or put the novel on such a high pedestal it is like, doomed to fail. Not fair, I know, but hey. Life isn't fair, and if anyone knows that, it is SETH MCCOY.

Anyways, I am so thrilled to say that there was no fail in the pages of Freefall. I'm even more thrilled to say I loved reading this one. It was funny, engaging and romantic. I just adored the voice; Seth's quick wit had me chuckling repeatedly. Laughing out loud with a book is always a special thing. The humour was spot on and just very cleverly timed. I don't think Mindi has any sequels to this planned but I'm just saying that I would read more of Seth doing stuff if she wrote it. I mean, I am going to read whatever Mindi Scott writes next but I just thought I would put that, specifically, out there.

The cast of characters were great. Rosetta was a sweet, slightly mysterious love interest and the gradual build of Seth's relationship with her felt very natural. I think the way Rosetta dealt with the tragedy in her own life, compared to how Seth dealt with the tragedy in his own, was a great juxtaposition. The way she coped gave Seth new insights on how he could deal. I just got the sense of two people who needed each other and were good for each other. I wanted them to be together.

As for the other characters, I totes must admit I was kind of digging on Daniel in an alarming way, hah. And KENDALL is quite possibly one of my most favourite secondary characters ever. She stole every scene she was in. I've known Kendalls in my time. They grate a little, sure, but they're good people, you know? Kendall was hysterical to me. I liked the glimpses of her vulnerability as well and felt her thread was strong enough to be its own novel. I was pretty much rooting for every single one of these people all the way. I wanted everyone to be happy. Well. Except for Carr. Carr, you are a douche.

As I said above, Freefall is about two similarly wounded people coming together to bring out the best in themselves. It is three hundred pages of two characters trying to do right by themselves and each other. I LOVED watching Seth try to discern the best course of action for himself and the people he cared about and his stumbles along the way were very genuine. I adored the sincerity in Seth's screw-ups because they were immediately followed by him sincerely trying to fix his mistakes.

And that's another good word for Seth, his voice, this story as a whole: it's sincere. It's hopeful, despite the heavy subject matter. Overall, Freefall to me, is the epitome of a feel good novel. I felt good when I read it. I felt good after I finished it. And if you read it--and you should--I think you will too.

Jessica says

Yeah well, this is kind of awkward now...I read all those great reviews my fellow bookers wrote and I can't really come up with anything to say about this book.

It was a nice and steady read, the characters were all likeable and I flew through the pages. The romance between Rosetta and Seth was cute, I liked that the author gave them time to grow close and get to know each other. It also had a nice touch of humor – it made me laugh out loud several times. Um, yeah...that's all. *spreads her arms wide* Tadaaa!

Maybe I should just go with "you say it best, when you say nothing at all" next time. ;-)

Meaningless little comment: Rosetta and I share the same birth date and from now on I'm going to consult a magic 8 ball in any life situation.

PS: I feel like a three-year-old that proudly presents her unrecognizable scrawl of a painting to the parents.
^^

Janina says

Freefall by Mindi Scott is a great debut novel of 2010. It took me about two chapters to become fully immersed in the story, but then I finished it in one setting. The writing flows effortlessly and I couldn't put the book down until I'd read the last page.

I have to admit, the group of friends Seth hangs out with – and, at least at the beginning, Seth himself – aren't characters I like to read about that much. They drink and do drugs, they don't care at all about school or their future and they have no intention of changing their way of life. It's not that these people aren't realistic or authentic; I just can't relate to them that much. They tend to make me furious with their I-don't-care-about-anything attitude.

Nevertheless, I found Seth extremely likeable and you can see from the very beginning that he actually is a good guy who wants to change. His character definitely shows a lot of growth as the story progresses. Additionally, I loved his sense of humour and the loyalty he showed towards his friends and family. As far as I am concerned, I found his voice authentic and believable. I'm always a little cautious when it comes to books with a male point of view written by a female author, but Seth is a refreshing change from the mostly female narrators in the YA contemporary genre.

Concerning the two female characters in this book, I have to say that I liked both Rosetta and in the end also Kendall immensely. The banter between Kendall and Seth was fun, and I loved how Seth stood up for her in the end.

The chemistry and slow development of the relationship between Rosetta and Seth was extremely well done. I liked the dialogue between them a lot, too. I would have loved to see some more development concerning Rosetta's issue, though, but I understand it's not something to overcome quickly.

(Side note: Seriously, did it have to be *Rosetta*? That name just sounds so ... ridiculous. Took me some time to get used to.)

The two things that made this book 'only' a four star read for me:

- I would have loved to find out more about Isaac, to see how he really was like. I couldn't really get a feel for his character.

- This book is dealing with loss and guilt, but I found it to be less intense than other books I read on the topic. It didn't make me cry or feel all heart-broken about the characters' grief and sadness.

All things considered, a great read and I'll definitely be checking out the next book Mindi Scott writes, whatever it will be about!

As a conclusion, two quotes I absolutely loved:

"I just love that feeling when things are about to change. Like when you know that in a few seconds you're going to do something and become someone else."

"Maybe it's like free-falling. You feel like you'd rather do anything than face it, but once you do it you realize it's the best feeling you've ever had."

Nic says

Favourite Quote: *"But maybe it's like free-falling. You feel like you'd rather do anything than have to face it, but once you do it you realize it's the best feeling you've ever had."*

Lately I have been craving contemporary fiction and Freefall filled my need nicely. It had all the things that I look for - good writing, a plot that gets you thinking and most importantly honest characters.

Freefall is not a tear jerker but a book that gets under your skin. My emotional reading experience went a little like this - sad, hopeful, happy, extremely happy, sad, anxious, ahhhh happy again. Scott's writing talent is the characters she creates. You become invested in them and the compelling journey they are on.

Seth is flawed, honest and broken. He caused me plenty of anxiety waiting to see if he could turn his life around and making it extremely hard to stop reading. Rosetta, was a surprising character. She was sweet, sometimes shy and a lot more complicated than I thought. I could easily relate to her, especially her awkwardness and shyness around Seth. There is one scene in the book where she is trying to get Seth to kiss her and uses a metaphor. It is quite funny and something that I would have done.

Seth and Rosetta had a strong connection. They both could relate to loss, guilt and fear. Their romance was a little bit awkward at first, there were mistakes, misunderstandings but plenty of sweet moments too:

"She smiled at me in that way she has that gets me all wound up, but somehow calms me at the same time."

It was just nice to see an honest portrayal of a teenage relationship.

Overall, a wonderful debut.

Some interesting info: On Mindi Scott's website you can read her old diary entries from age 13 to 16. Very entertaining - worth a read.

She was originally going to call Freefall The Fake McCoy, then Scratching at the 8-ball before settling on Freefall.

Yin Chien ?? says

Hmm... What should I say about Freefall? I can't say I don't like it, but I can't say I love it either. I guess I have mixed feelings about this book. Let's get to the good things first. Freefall is a portrayal of the modern

teenage world - a world filled with wild, recalcitrant [1], obstreperous [2] teens. Most of them love partying, drinking alcohol and do drugs. Though this is clearly a negative interpretation, it also sends a strong message to people about how awful the situation of teenage misbehaviours is.

Mindi Scott's writing is undeniably good. She uses her words to effectively craft a realistic fictitious world which encourages the reader to plunge into it. Seth McCoy is a typical sixteen year old boy - he drinks booze and enjoys himself in parties. But the difference between him and his peers are: 1) he doesn't do drugs; 2) he is drowning himself in guilt. Seth blames himself for his friend's accidental death and feels culpable [3] for it. But he soon meets a lovely girl called Rosetta and discovers that he is not the only one with problems.

Well, this sounds great, right?

Except that's one of the main things that I'm a little disappointed in. While it has the potential to be a great story, it seems to be going nowhere - there is not a main plot but only a few subplots. And there's no climax in the story - the ending seems to be quite anti-climatic. I kept hoping to discover a great secret or two - but the secrets (both Seth's and Rosetta's) are lacking of the "shocking" factor.

The characters that I like are Rosetta and Kendall. Rosetta seems to be a pretty troubled girl because of her secrets, but she is likable. Kendall is a gutsy girl whom I learned to understand although I kind of despised her at first. I'm happy that Seth is willing to stand up for Kendall at the end even though Kendall accidentally spilled Rosetta's secrets.

Freefall to appeal to those who are looking for books with some inner depth and emotion. If you like reading *If I Stay* (If I Stay, #1) by Gayle Forman, you'll most likely enjoy this book.

Rating: 3.5 stars

Milly says

My initial reaction into picking this book up: reluctance. I was reluctant to read it because of initial perception based from the plot. Death and drinking = depressing. So not!

My fellow Street Corner Bookers: Who ever selected this book out for our November reading has good taste or good luck in choosing a book! Wow, we actually all agreed on giving this book a '4'. I concur that this is a wonderful debut for Mindi Scott. It felt real and honest. Seth and Rosetta could easily have been students in my high school or for any high school for that matter. Their relationship and the way it developed were believable because it resulted from a more natural consequence due to similar life experiences and personal struggles. Their pairing just felt nice altogether, more natural, like things falling into place.

The story is told in the voice of Seth, a 16-year old musician who lives in trailer park. Though I couldn't relate to Seth in a personal way, it was easy to feel his pain, his anger, and his helplessness. Mindi Scott did a wonderful job describing these emotions in a riveting manner. I cared for Seth and felt so compelled to hope for him each step of the way. He was so broken that you can't help but wish the best for him so he could put his broken pieces back together: to find a way to heal all his hurts, to move past the grief, and to just live.

Rosetta, the girl from the right side of town, the nerd in a cute sort of way, and a friend of the rich and popular kids in school, find herself attracted to Seth after Seth thoughtlessly handed her a rose one day. I

found Rosetta appealing and someone I could relate to, perhaps because I was a nerd myself in high school and the new girl in town. But deep down the likable personae facade lays another broken person. Perchance, this is the reason too why Rosetta was subconsciously drawn to Seth. Though Rosetta is not the protagonist of this story, I still felt that she deserved a better resolution in the end. Yeah, her issues with Seth were, but what about her other personal dilemma? That is probably my one only criticism for this book. Otherwise...

I really took pleasure from reading it. It's a feel-good book! We could all use one every now and then. And...I know better to judge a book by its plot next time!

Sara Grochowski says

When I first read through FREEFALL's description I was torn. The cover seemed to call to me, but the description worried me... To be honest, only one seemingly small detail of the description gave me pause: Seth. I often have a difficult time relating to male narrators. In fact, there have only been two such novels that I enjoyed enough to compare to female narrated novels: PAPER TOWNS by John Green and BLACK RABBIT SUMMER by Kevin Brooks. I should never have underestimated author Mindi Scott; I found it remarkably easy to empathize with Seth.

In ways, this novel was horrifying. I'm from a small town where most kids consider a "good time" a weekend of drunken debauchery. I now live in a college town where the weekend starts on Thirsty Thursday ... and there are still people that like to get an early start. So, for this reason, the drinking and subsequent consequences that occur in FREEFALL hit home. Seth's best friend loses his life on one of their many drunken nights. It's terrifying to think how many times the exact same circumstances could have led to the death of someone I actually know... someone real. I must give credit to Scott for portraying underage drinking and partying in such a realistic way. There's no sugar coating, no shiny veneer - and anyone who says that the situations in FREEFALL aren't realistic is terribly naive. I think it takes an honest portrayal for a message like Scott's to have any real impact on teen readers and authors do a disservice to teens if they try to soften those sharp edges.

As an onlooker, Seth's journey towards the acceptance of Isaac's death and the role his actions played invoked various emotions. I was grateful for the minor characters throughout the novel, who not only facilitated Seth's journey, but provided a much needed reprieve from his darker thoughts. Mrs. Dalloway, who teaches Seth's interpersonal communications class, was definitely one of my favorite characters and reminded me of some of the quirky teachers I've had. She provided humorous situations throughout the novel and the tools and guidance Seth needs to reach out to other characters, like Rosetta.

I found Seth's relationship with Rosetta to be completely believable. Scott's representation of many of the firsts Rosetta and Seth share is, at times, painfully realistic. I closely identified with their first real fight; it was so easy to draw parallels between reality and fiction. The accuracy of the depiction renewed the emotions I had felt when I was in the same situation, causing my bond to the characters to strengthen that much more.

FREEFALL is a tremendous debut from an extremely talented author. Not only did Scott write a male narrator that I could easily identify with, her novel imparts an important message about the choices we make and the consequences that follow... and how, afterward, we must pick up the pieces and move on.

Grade: A

Cover Notes:

I love the simplicity of the cover! Sometimes a cover clearly appeals to one gender over another, but, thankfully, FREEFALL's is neutral.

Arlene says

How do you come back from a point of no return?

Freefall by Mindi Scott is an absolute brilliant debut novel that's honest, funny, sad and hopeful all rolled up into one captivating book.

I expected this novel to be depressing and to be honest was a little reserved about diving into it at first. But then Seth started sharing his story, and I couldn't ignore him even if I tried. There was something about his narrative that had me leaning in and trying to capture every thought and emotion he expressed. Great character development and style of writing that works perfectly for this story.

About the book:

Seth McCoy was the last person to see his best friend Isaac alive and come the next morning the first person to find him dead. The struggles Seth faces in the aftermath of this tragedy propel him in a direction that force him to face his new reality and reevaluate his life. There was so much IMHO to admire about this character. As the novel progresses, we witness Seth struggle with choices along the way, but once he sets his mind on something, he faces the consequences and moves forward. There were parts in the story where he shares his insecurities and disappointments despite the possibility of betrayal, which I found extremely admirable. And most of all I really liked how he tries... tries to make a change.... tries to move on and improve. I thought that was great and it made it so easy for me to feel a ton of compassion for this character.

The secondary characters, including Rosetta and Kendall, that were infused in the storyline demanded their time on stage and wasted not a moment in giving an honest portrayal of themselves that left nothing on the sides lines.

In the end, this book forces the reader to consider that with every choice comes a consequence and when people make decisions they must own those consequences good or bad as a result... no one else but them. Gripping themes and solid plot development that serves a purpose and provides closure when the last pages are turned. I highly recommend this book to my fellow avid YA readers. Time well spent indeed!

Kim says

Um, yeah, some spoilers ahead kids.

This book is about a Seth. The people who know me, know what that means. To say that I'm madly in love with the name is still an understatement. I don't know why, but whenever I hear or see the name I that thing dogs do with their head and their ears whenever somebody mentions words like 'walk' or 'treat' or whatever. You can tell me you've named your mailbox Seth and I'd still be interested.

Random oddball information aside, I liked this book. Seth is pretty much your average kid with no future. He drinks, he does drugs, isn't doing well in school and plays bass in a band. His best friend Isaac died Jimi Hendrix-style and Seth was the last to see him alive and the first to see him dead. He feels like he killed his best friend because he wasn't there to save him.

There are two girls who play a part in his life:

Kendall, Isaac's ex, who let's Seth believe he had sex with her (he doesn't remember a single thing about it and even that doesn't ring any bells with him) and runs around calling him 'lover' (that word always makes me think of Phoebe Buffay). She's pretty eccentric and I didn't like her at first. She pays Seth to go to homecoming with her just so she can make her secret boyfriend jealous. I ended up liking her very much, but I won't tell you why because I want you to read this book.

Rosetta, the girl Seth is in love with, who doesn't ride in cars, and, of all sports, plays golf. I adore her.

It wasn't the most original book, the reason why Rosetta doesn't even want to be near a car wasn't hard to guess, neither was the secret boyfriend and of course, the ending was pretty predictable as well. I felt like bear hugging somebody after reading the last page.

Oh and last but not least: I want a Magic 8 Ball key chain!

~Tina~ says

Seth McCoy was the last person to see his friend alive, and the first person to find him dead. He's been a wreck ever since, convinced that it was his fault. He should haven't made sure Isaac was okay. He should have been there for him. He's been punishing himself ever since. Ever since, Rosetta walked into his life that is....

Freefall is a wonderful debut about about fears, letting go, moving on and finally finding something in yourself that you want to become.

The concept of taking the issue of fears and converting it into a realistic storyline was pretty awesome. There is a real solid message laced within these pages that I think is very believable and honest. It's penned with sparks and style to get the point across which I thought was very well done.

Seth is such a wonderful character. Totally punk, but he's got a good heart. His voice really carries through out this novel, bringing the reader into his world and with him on a journey of self discovery.

Rosetta, has her own issues and I think the only thing that bothered me was that it wasn't quite resolved once

this book was said and done and it sort of just left it hanging to take care of others issues. Never the less, I still liked her, she kept things real for Seth and it was a good thing.

Kendall, I liked. She was a challenging character but her support through out this book was well played. I loved the "nonenemy" aspect of there friendship very much.

The plot was well crafted, the writing was smooth and the characters were all likable. It was easy to get lost in there story and while I thought the ending may have been a bit rushed, it turned out to be just right.

All in all, I thought this was a good and decent read and I'll be sure to look out for more books by Mindi Scott in the future!
