



Following Me

K.A. Linde

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"I knew you were running the first time I saw you..."

Devon didn't have a game plan when she decided to leave St. Louis on a Chicago-bound train for the summer. Just a reason.

One she couldn't share with anyone. Not Hadley, her best friend from college, who lets her stay in the guest bedroom; no questions asked. Or Brennan, the bartender at the local restaurant they frequent, who she actively tries to avoid. Or Garrett, Hadley's boyfriend, who befriends her when she has no one else to turn to.

"I just didn't know what you were running from...."

Desperate to hide at all costs, Devon plunges into her new life in the city. Everyone around her starts to reveal sides of themselves Devon never expected. And just when she starts to get comfortable, her world flips upside down...

"...but I think all along you were running toward me."

4 lives.

All connected.

All with secrets that just keep following them.

Following Me Details

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Author : K.A. Linde

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From Reader Review Following Me for online ebook

Cris says

I am kind of disappointed after reading this book. I felt that it lacked a lot of emotion, drama, plot.

The first half of the book just kept dragging Devon's 'secret' and really, the snippets or dreams did not give you an idea of what was going on. It was really slow to start building into the plot, the reason for her nightmares and escape.

The relationship with Devon and each of the other characters lacked chemistry. First with her supposedly BFF which nothing really gives you that image or makes you feel she was that best friend. Then Garret, which you don't understand how she opened up to him when really, you don't feel like he was that person to make her confide in. And then Brennan, it really doesn't give you that love at first sight deal from either one.

2.5 stars

Jessica's Book Review says

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"I think I knew you were running the first time I saw you." he said. "Those big stormy eyes telling me you were lost with nowhere to go and nowhere to hide. I just didn't know what you were running from. But I think all along you were running toward me."

I was SO excited to be asked to join K.A. Linde's Following Me blog tour! I became such a big fan of K.A. after reading the Avoiding Series and couldn't wait to read something new and different from her. Following Me delivered what I was hoping by bringing me something completely and utterly different from Ms. Linde.

I do not want to say too much in my review. The synopsis does not give too much away and I think it's important going into the story without knowing too much. For this book I feel being "clueless" will benefit the reader more so than knowing the story and why Devon is running away from her life in St. Louis.

Devon wants to get away from everything and anyone in St. Louis. She leaves to visit her best friend in Chicago and does not tell her boyfriend or her parents where she is. She just NEEDS to get away and think while visiting her friend Hadley and her boyfriend Garrett. While in Chicago Devon discovers Hadley's little secret and Devon's problems are pushed aside not being dealt with until Devon meets Brennan. All four have problems that will surface and burst open in Following Me creating drama, drama, drama.

The book is told through the eyes of Devon in present time with flashback scenes of the past. As you read you will get a glimpse of what happened to Devon but what I thought what happened judging by the past totally surprised me by what the truth actually was. I was totally fooled. When Devon finally revealed the truth I was like "WHAT?!?!?!" I just couldn't believe it.

I really liked all the characters in Following Me, Brennan was my absolute favorite!! I would have loved the

story to be more involved around him. He still is a mystery to me still. I also really liked the character of Garrett, Hadley's boyfriend. I know some readers may not like him after reading it but I did. I still think he is a great guy who was just dealing with stress and problems of his own.

"I don't know why, but when I look at you I sometimes see myself. I felt like I understood you... like we could understand each other."

Following Me starts off really strong. I loved the opening and it held my interest to keep reading. Towards the middle it slowed down a bit. I just felt the issues were going back and forth between everyone without being resolved or even talked about. I just wanted something to happen with someone.

"I can already see it happening. Don't let the life drain out of you again. I can see you retreating. I need you, and I think you need me too. Please just stay here, stay in the present, in the future. Stay with me."

Following Me was different with a twist I did not see coming.

K.A. Linde is an amazing writer, I enjoy her writing style & characters! I hope everyone reads Following Me.

I give Following Me 3 Stars.

ARC provided by the author in return for an honest review.

Nancy The book junkie says

Rating: 3,75/5

Review coming soon!

Becky says

ARC provided by author for an honest review

For additional reviews please visit <http://realitybites-letsgetlost.blogs...>

I have to admit, I struggled in the first 25% of this book. It is not because the book isn't good (it is!!) but more about the fact it has a completely different vibe than the Avoiding Series. But I had a good talk with myself and reminded...ah me (lol) I was not being fair to the author or her book by comparing it to or expecting it to be like her other books. After that, I was able to open my mind to Devon's story and really enjoy it!

And since I seem to be confessing, I have another one. The suspense of what Devon was hiding killed me!! And I loved every freaking minute of it. I have read too many books where the major plot is spoiled way too early for my liking. That is definitely not happening with Following Me! K.A. Linde holds on to Devon's secret, only giving us crumbs here and there. I honestly had no clue what was until the big reveal.

And when it came out, I was BLOWN AWAY!!

It was so not even close to what I was thinking it would be. Not even in the realm of possibilities on my list. When you find out, it will seriously blow your mind! It will also have your heart breaking for Devon. Not only for the fact that she hadn't this secret but more so for the fact that she felt she had to suffer it alone. But there is always a boy in every book to help the girl right? Well, of course there is because if not what would be the point?

And lucky for us Devon has Brennan!

He is the quiet brooding type who also happens to be a musician. I loved him immediately. And I really like that things between him and Devon were slow. I love my hot and steamy books, but it is always nice to read one such as this that has the believability factor to it. Their relationship was just what they both needed it to be. Once you get both of their stories, you will understand why I feel this way.

I am going to have to end my review here because I really don't want to give anything away that could spoil the book and have you all chasing me down with pitch forks. Just remember to go into this book with an open mind, as I said before it is very different from what we are used to from this author. Which is a really good thing in my opinion!

Heather says

This is one of K.A. Lind's lowest rated books. I think this happened because the book plays out a lot more like a Kubrick film and less like a typical romance novel. Having said that, I thought it was quite good.

There are four lives that are all connected in this book. The main story is about Devon or "Dev". Devon comes from a family where country music is what they do. Her parents are legendary song writers. Devon has no interest in being a lyricist but she can not deny that she writes songs constantly to express her feelings. Devon is a college student who hops on a bus to Chicago and leaves everything behind in St. Louis. She is going to visit Hadley, her former room mate and Hadley's new boyfriend Garrett.

Devon arrives in Chicago and discovers that Hadley is not who she was just six short months ago. Her life has taken a few major turns and Devon is worried. But Devon doesn't have it in her to be supportive. She is on the run and feels like someone is following her all of the time. She looks around every corner and becomes paranoid that someone is there.

Brennan is the bartender at the local bar in Hadley's neighborhood. He is a bartender by day, college grad and singer by night. Brennan has carefully constructed walls around himself to keep everyone out. He has suffered a great deal and he is not interested in getting close to anyone.

Reid is Devon's boyfriend. For some reason she has lied to him and told him that she was in Paris for the summer. She is not returning his texts, calls or e-mails. Devon tells Hadley that she and Reid are over. She hasn't told Reid that they are over though.

Devon and Brennen start to get close and the closer he gets the more he sees. Devon is hiding something huge.

She has extreme nightmares and wakes up in a cold sweat. Garrett begins offering his support to Devon. He can't help but hear Devon's screams in the night.

Brennan lets Devon in despite trying desperately not to.

"There's that smile, that beautiful smile. I want to keep making you smile, but I can't if you walk out of this place. We pulled each other out of the water once, Devon. I can't bear to see you sink any deeper. Please, please stay with me. Just stay with me," he pleaded.- Brennan

Devon's secrets begin to unravel and her past finds her in the Windy City.

But the way Devon deals with it is not what you would expect.

Seriously Devon! Devon must choose to deal with her past and embrace her possible future, or return to the hell that awaits her.

I really like K.A. Linde's writing style. I felt like this was just a different type of book for her. Perhaps those who didn't like it were simply looking for something else. This was more of a psychological thriller than romance. There is romance in it, but there was a lot more to it than that. I didn't like the mystery behind Devon's swift departure from St. Louis. I don't think it would have detracted from the book to bring out the "problem" earlier on. As it was written, you were left guessing and it became a little frustrating. At one point I wondered if she was simply mentally ill and the issues were delusions rather than reality.

Overall I am giving this 3.5 rounding up to 4 stars. I think it could have been better if the author had focused more on Brennan and Devon and revealed more sooner. I liked this book and I wanted to love it. I got really mad at the end with how the main characters dealt with everything. Though it is a departure for this author's writing style it was still good. 4 Stars.

Taryn says

This review is probably the hardest to write. It nearly kills me to do so and for a few reasons that I won't mention- though I should. I absolutely love K.A. Linde's writing and love her stories, but this...JUST. DID. NOT. WORK.

I'm just in utter shock that she wrote this. Most know I'm a huge fan of her work, but this doesn't even feel like her work or her words- and no, that is not taking a dig at her writing. Not one bit. When I read K.A. Linde, I expect a few things:

Intensity
Emotion
Chemistry
Character development
Passion

I got **none** with that, which is why I cannot believe this is her book! I can't even say I'm mad, more along the lines of **upset** simply because I know what she is capable of and this is only a fraction of it! I waited a few days to write this review and I'm still upset over it all. That's how much I love her writing and knows what she can do. And this isn't it.

Devon has come to realization that her current life isn't what it seems- or she wants. It took an unexpected turn for the worse and she's decided she needs to get out as quick as she can. In her haste to leave, she fabricates stories to those around her and jumps on the next train to Chicago to see her friend, Hadley. When Devon asks Hadley if she could stay with her while visiting, Hadley agrees immediately. Hadley knows something is up, but doesn't push her good friend.

Once in Chicago, Devon can't help but feel as though someone is lurking all around. She is plagued by nightmares and in a constant state of paranoia. But when a moment of opportunity presents itself to Devon, she uses it to her advantage, not caring who she's effecting by it. And by doing so, a whirlwind of events follow her.

Devon is the most closed off, high strung character I have ever read! She needs to take a Xanax, or a Valium- possibly together and add a strong drink in there too. I get that she's on the run and living in fear, but Holy Moses! She's built up a fifty foot wide wall that's a thousand feet high made of steel. She's a very unlikeable heroine unfortunately. No one, and I mean **no one** can penetrate it. Not Hadley or even Brennan, Devon's new friend. That's a problem too since more than half of the book is with her saying she's 'fine' so very little character development or chemistry between any of the characters is done. I felt no connection or chemistry between her and Brennan (or any of the characters, really) even though Devon kind of has feelings for him.

But then again how could I feel anything when she's wound and locked so tight??!

The intrigue and curiosity in the beginning of why she left began to dwindle away and turn to anger and frustration. Why, you ask? Because we were given **nothing**, not even an iota of why she left or why she has these haunting dreams for at least sixty percent of the book. Not even a hint! **Nothing! Zilch! NADA!** I think that was what she was going for...not really sure? It was dragged out far too long in my opinion and I think that if we were given snippets of her past then it could of worked. But we weren't. It started to grate on my nerves because I started building up this huge, massive twist/climax of the book and expecting it to be great...

And then I read why she had the dreams....

And when I finally found out why she ran....

My heart dropped into my stomach. NOT because it was a great twist, but because....REALLY?! I'm sorry, but with that kind of build up I expected more. I can understand why she ran, it's unfortunate what Devon had to deal with, but it wasn't enough to 'WOW' me at that stage of the game.

After that point I wanted to give up, honestly. I had just spent so much time reading, something like sixty percent of the book to find the answer and it was kind of a let down. Ok, a *big* let down. Once the secrets are revealed- and it's not to who'd you expect either, Brennan and Devon have this insta love, full blown relationship which in my eyes comes out of left field. There had been some "flirting" between them (if that's what you can call it?) but nothing really between them prior because Devon wouldn't allow it. UGH! SO damn frustrating! So, another twenty percent or so goes by and Devon is still holding back from Brennan. **STILL!** And the only reason why she confesses is because she was backed against a wall. I honestly don't think she would've ever said a word had she not been in the predicament she was in.

Can you feel my frustration NOW?! Can you?! And don't even get me started on how she treated her "best friend" Hadley! There really wasn't much connection between either. I'm not sure why, but it bothered me so much what Devon did to her. Probably because I would never do that and can't imagine a best friend doing it? Or that I don't think Hadley would've said no to begin with? I don't know. And to top it off, Hadley is a pretty serious drug user which Devon hardly steps up to help. That was another thing that I had issues with too, but I think I've said enough.

The only time that I felt even a smidgen of emotion or chemistry was toward the end, but it was very small. I have to commend K.A. Linde for stepping out of the box and trying something new. It's different and unlike anything she's written as of yet. With that said, I'm hoping that this is just one of those books that everyone loves but me. Really, I do. This was just so vague and so not her and it just kills me. I think that's what she was going for and it had a lot potential, but in the end it just did not work.

Just because this didn't work for me, doesn't mean it won't for you. I still say to read on and give it a chance! We're not going to like every book. It's life, but give it a chance at least.

Christina Lyn says

For the first few chapters that I started reading this I get totally hooked by it. I was curious as hell what this 4 people lives will about to share me. As the chapters and their story continues I was stunned.

My heart is broken for Hadie, for Gareth and Brennan. For all the things they have to endure in their lives. Most of the time I wanted to hurt Devon for not telling to the police when she has a chance, in her dark times with Reid. But the greatness comes to Brennan to help her to face her own demons. For Reid karma is the worst bitch right!!

K.A Linde your works is truly an awe. You captivated us by sharing their stories to us. Great job!!!

Autumn Review says

4.5 stars

I've been a fan of Linde's writing before she even published. Her Avoiding Series blew me away. Of course I had to drink Mylanta for a week, but I loved it. FOLLOWING ME was different. Way different than Avoiding. There is drama and even a bit of romance. And there are multiple people involved, but to me...it was about Devon and less angsty than Avoiding.

Honestly, I didn't connect with Devon all that much. She's very guarded. Of course, there is a reason for it. She's running from her life. I'll admit, the mystery surrounding Devon's reason for running, felt a bit drawn out to me. I think I would have liked a few more hints here and there. And really, I was expecting something more dramatic. Not that the reason wasn't serious, but there was a lot of build up. I also had some issues with her friendship with Hadley. I won't go into it, but I felt Hadley's issues were downplayed. I know it may seem like I don't like Devon, but in the end I did. I think she mismanaged some things and I did have some issues with the choices she made. However, I did like her with Brennan. Seeing her with him, won me over.

Brennan was my favorite part of the book. I tend to gravitate towards male characters and Brennan is the kind of guy I love. He's a bit mysterious, sweet, and certainly sexy. He isn't all that nice to Devon right away, but I felt like he read her well. He knew she was keeping a secret. Ultimately, he wanted and expected honesty from her. Even though he had his own share of secrets. Brennan turns out to be the guy Devon needs in her life. I felt that they had good chemistry once Devon let him in.

Overall, I really ended up liking it. I had to think about it a few days before I rated it and my rating increased once a few things changed for the final version. But here's the thing, I may not have loved Devon throughout the whole book, but days later, I was still thinking about it. So obviously, it made an impact. Linde is a talented author and I felt that this book showed her broadening her scope. Was it perfect? No, but it did stay on my mind. I would recommend this one to readers who enjoy romance, but also enjoy a slower building plot with a bit of suspense.

Quotes:

~"I think I knew you were running the first time I saw you," he said. "Those big stormy eyes telling me you were lost with nowhere to go and nowhere to hide. I just didn't know what you were running from. But I think all along you were running toward me." -pg 229/beta

~"Yep. I'm going to kiss every inch of your beautiful skin so that when you look at it-all you see is me," he said stopping his kisses and staring down into her eyes.-pg 240/beta

Jaidee says

1 "leftover big mac" stars

2015 Second Worst Read

You know when you get that craving for a big mac. Occasionally they taste awesome but most of the time they are disgusting and gross.

This book is classified as new adult. It was terribly written but had a mystery that I had to find out about and then it turned out to be ridiculous.

I do not mind adult women reading this garbage but I worry about adolescent girls reading this crap and believing it. Rather than liberating our women this book objectifies them and makes them helpless in the hands of men especially abusive ones. This book was amoral, senseless and kind of gross but not in an arty or interesting fashion but in a congealed big mac kind of way. I am pretty repulsed right now and to lighten the mood let me give you some quotes from the book.

"How could she sing between the tears?"

""She had found her home in Brennan's music."

"All she really knew was that he had adjusted his pants, and Hadley had been right about the size of the contents that lay within."

""Somehow along the way, he had captured not just her lips but all of her."

"True love had never felt so cheap than it had in this moment." WTF?

Throw this book away before your fifteen year old daughter or niece gets her hands on it.

Gross really gross :(

Alexis *Reality Bites* says

June 21st release date!

To say that my interest is piqued would be a *HUGE* understatement. I like this authors work so I hope this does not disappoint.

K.A. Linde says

AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER --> Amazon & Amazon UK

Chapter 1 posted here: Following Me on FictionPress

Like my facebook page here: KA Linde Facebook Author Page

Aestas Book Blog says

Coming June 21, 2013.

Christy says

3.5 Stars

4 lives.

All connected.

All with secrets that just keep following them.

?Devon is running away. From what, or who, we don't know. All we know is she isn't safe. Someone is out to get her and she is plagued with terrible nightmares about it. She is going to stay temporarily in Chicago with her best friend from college, Hadley. She cuts off all ties from the outside. No facebook, no email, her parents think she is home with her boyfriend Reid, and Reid thinks she is in Paris with her parents. The first bit of the book, I found myself wondering... *WTF is going on here?*

It took me a while to figure it all out. Devon can't share what's going on with anyone. Especially not her bff Hadley. She makes friends with a bartender named Brennan. She wants to talk to him, but she just can't, not yet. She ends up confiding with Hadley's boyfriend Garrett.

After that, things get a little crazy. Hadley's got a lot of issues. Devon finds out she can't quite trust Garrett as much as she thought she could. Then there is Brennan. Sweet Brennan. The saving grace of this story. Adored this guy! He was hot and cold for a while, but he had his reasons. There was a definite 'slow build' between Devon and Brennan, which I enjoyed. Brennan and Devon were able to connect on a different level.

“I don’t know why, but when I look at you, I sometimes see myself. I feel like I understand you... like we could understand each other.”

? ?And through his music...

She had found her home in Brennan's music.

I will not spoil the ending, but let me tell you. It was wild!!!

I debated on how to rate this one... I had some really high expectations, I mean- this is the author of the Avoiding Series! I liked the book. I didn't love it, it didn't blow me away, but I did like it. It was a different read, and I enjoyed that. I love books with some twists and turns, and this one had that element. I spent so much of the book trying to figure out exactly what was going on, when I finally found out... well, it wasn't what I was expecting it to me. I give it a solid 3.5 stars. I absolutely adored Brennan, I felt for Devon, but for some reason I never connected with her like I normally do my main characters. It definitely had mass drama, some suspense, twists, turns, a bit of romance, heat and a swoonworthy leading man. Overall, a good read.

“You’re my greatness.”

Katie (GTBC) says

First of all, let me say this is the month for emotional reads. Some of my favorite authors are pulling out the big guns and tackling some pretty heavy topics. That is not a complaint. Every book can't be about super duper hot over-the-top (and totally fictional) sex and all unicorns & rainbows. That said... K.A. Linde really put it all out there in this book. If you are a fan of the Avoiding Series *jumps up and down waving hand in the air* you will see some hints of the familiar... she still weaves the past & present together flawlessly... and her heroine has a fabulous bestie with a larger than life personality... but that is where the similarities stop. This book won't have you picking a “Team” or screaming for the next in the series. This book will make you think. This book will make you feel. This book will scare you a little.

How well do you know the people in your life? Your mother, daughter, sister, best friend, lover??? Could you tell if they were putting on a happy face for you? Would you be able to tell if they were lying to your face? If they were falling deeper and deeper into something dangerous and needed help... could you save them? We all like to think so. I mean your best friend tells you EVERYTHING and if she was in any kind of trouble you would be the first to know and the first to kick ass and take names.

Devon seems to have it all. She attends the college of her choosing, she is studying in the field she is passionate about, she has a handsome and doting boyfriend who is going to be starting med-school, her family loves her, she is young & beautiful and she is in trouble. She is running from something or someone. Consumed by nightmares and trying to escape her life for just a little while, she runs to her best friend Hadley. Hadley graduated early and moved from St. Louis to the Windy City so pretending to be on a quick

summer trip Devon heads to Chicago on a one way ticket. Hadley is everything Devon remembers beautiful and vivacious with a great new job and the perfect boyfriend, Garrett. Devon settles into the guestroom of their condo and tries to become distracted with her friends and the city. Speaking of distractions... Brennan Walker... he is a bartender at the local "hot" restaurant, Jenns. He is a friend of Garrett and Hadley's and what a distraction. Brennan is a handsome struggling musician. Devon is instantly drawn to him. He seems to see right through her... it's a little unnerving but she likes his eyes on her... but she has a boyfriend that she loves back at school. How can she be attracted to Brennan when she has the perfect relationship with Reid?

Seems that Devon isn't the only one hiding, Hadley has some issues of her own and seeing an opportunity to use that to her advantage, as well as being genuinely concerned for her friend, Devon manipulates her way into staying the rest of the summer. She is not ready to head home and face her demons just yet. She gets a job and sets out to repair her life and figure out what to do next. Losing Hadley, leaning on her new friendship with Garrett and growing closer to Brennan her mask is starting to slip. Maybe she can finally trust and let someone in. Maybe she can get to the root of those nightmares. Maybe she can be free. That is if her nightmare doesn't catch her first.

I fell in love with the cast of characters in this book. Each one is facing their own "something" and they are all trying to help and protect each other. Oh they mess it up royally and hurt one another but it is real. I also loved how the city of Chicago felt like a character itself. Like I said, this book hits on several very heavy issues, but it is also about falling in love, letting go, standing up for yourself, being a friend, when to forgive and then when not to forgive. It scared me and it touched me and it made me take a deeper look at the relationships in my life. There are conversations I need to have and you can bet I'll be having them now. Thank you Ms. Linde!

Favorite Quote:

"I think I knew you were running the first time I saw you" he said "those big stormy eyes telling me you were lost with nowhere to go and nowhere to hide. I just didn't know what you were running from. But I think all along you were running toward me."

Kassi says

Let me just start with how much I love K.A. Linde's writing in the Avoiding series. When I heard that she has a stand alone in the works, I was jumping with excitement. But all that enthusiasm went downhill pretty fast.

It hurts to write this review, but I was disappointed with this book. The synopsis was what drew me in but when I finished the book, it was far from awesome. In sum:

- 1) I couldn't connect with the characters, especially the heroine. She was annoying and plain idiot. She was a tease with mess up logic behind her & other actions.
- 2) Lack of development in the romance btw her and Brennan. What's so GREAT or special about their relationship? How did they happen to *fall* for one another?
- 3) The characters' reactions were unrealistic
- 4) Story was anticlimactic--showdown made me say "That's it?!"

- 5) The book deals with a sensitive matter and it was poorly portrayed. Refer back to #3 from above
- 6) I think my eyes hurt from eyerolling, especially her scenes with Garrett (the best friend's gf).

SO yep...the book did not work for me.
