



# Stay With Me

*Elyssa Patrick*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# Stay With Me

*Elyssa Patrick*

## Stay With Me Elyssa Patrick

I've been famous since I can remember. Singing, acting, dancing—I've done it all. The tabloids cover my every move, but I don't want that anymore. I want to be normal, whatever that is.

When I leave Hollywood for college in Vermont, I'm on my own for the first time in my life. This is my chance to figure out who I am and what I want in life.

But it's a lot harder than I expected. I can't escape my image. Classes are difficult, and I'm struggling. And then there's Caleb Fox.

Sexy, intriguing Caleb Fox.

Caleb is the one man who doesn't want to use me. He breaks down my walls. He challenges me. He wants *me*. And I just don't know if I can give him the same—or if he'll stick around when he finds out my shameful secret that the tabloids haven't managed to uncover.

Dating him is risky enough, but loving him could break me.

**New Adult/Contemporary Romance with a HEA - Recommended for ages 17 and older.**

## Stay With Me Details

Date : Published August 30th 2013 by Elyssa Patrick

ISBN :

Author : Elyssa Patrick

Format : ebook 276 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

 [Download Stay With Me ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Stay With Me ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Stay With Me Elyssa Patrick**

---

# From Reader Review Stay With Me for online ebook

## Donna ~ The Romance Cover says

Stay With Me by Elyssa Patrick

3 stars!!

This is the story of Hailey Bloom, she was a child protégé, her mother being the driving force behind her acting, singing and dancing career. She had been living this life since she was a baby, she had enjoyed it “once” but not anymore. Her mother wouldn’t give her a break, everything was monitored, what she wore, her appearance, her weight, her diet and her down time. She had, had enough and wanted to just be herself, find herself and do something for herself. She decides at eighteen that she wants to go back to college, find her niche in life, find something that she is good at, but most of all she just wants to be normal. Therefore she leaves her mother, the fame, the glamour and Hollywood behind and goes and enrolls at a college far away from her mother.

Her “new” life begins. She tries to blend in, but that is hard when you are famous, I must admit I thought she would have had it a lot tougher than she did, but was glad her transition was fairly seamless. She gets talked into going to a party, she is not really wanting to be there so she sneaks outside to get some fresh air. There is already somebody out there, Hailey meet Caleb Fox! This was definitely lust at first sight for both them, but Hailey had her head screwed on and tries to put her studies first and her old life behind her, she doesn’t need a man to confuse her and basically walks away! She meets a new friend, Daphne, she was adorable and so funny. She befriends Hailey, not because of the fame but because they genuinely like each other. She has her own posse of men that are her “protectors” and it is during one of these encounters that she realises that Daphne’s older is the “Caleb Fox.”

Being in such close proximity to each other through their mutual connection to Daphne, eventually the lust gives in and they do get together. Caleb was totally adorable, he was super sexy, smart, thoughtful, genuine, just a really lovely guy. Hailey was obviously wary, she always thinks that people are only friendly because of who she is, so it takes her a while to, trust and open up.

**“It’s too rainy,” I say. “I’m so wet.” He pauses, then rocks against me. “You’re about to get a lot wetter.”**

The rest of the story is Hailey and Caleb’s journey, there are obstacles of course, but it is a tale of learning to trust and love and appreciate genuine friendships. I think her mother should be shot, god I had an extreme dislike for the woman!

It was a super cute story, which I liked, I didn’t fall in love with it though. I think that this is mainly because I found the writing style to be a little bitty, meaning it didn’t really flow. It didn’t detract from what was a lovely story and as this authors writing develops I can see that this is going to be a great series, I would still read the next one. I can’t wait to see who is up next!!

[www.theromancecover.com](http://www.theromancecover.com)

---

## Heather says

Stay With Me is a refreshing New Adult Romance that is relatively drama free. Hailey is a former child actor/rock star who is looking to leave her former life behind. She does what so many other nineteen year olds do, she enrolls in college. She's hoping to keep a low profile, but things rarely go as planned and soon she finds herself back in the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Hailey was in the spotlight before she was even able to walk. Her mother took her to Hollywood as an infant and she became the next Gerber Baby. Hailey was an actress and eventually she began singing. She sold out arenas around the country and she hated every minute of it. When she became an adult, she decided to take control of her life and find out who she really was.

Caleb is a student in a small college. He lives close to his family and when he begins his junior year, he runs into none other than *the* Hailey Bloom at a party. He is immediately drawn to her. Hailey is afraid to get close to anyone because they may not be interested in her but her persona.

Hailey just wants to blend in. She tries so hard to not be Hailey Bloom the star and just be Hailey the person. One day while trying to blend in Hailey encounters Daphne. Also a freshman, Daphne quickly befriends Hailey and Hailey discovers that Daphne is Caleb's sister. Hailey falls into this tight knit group of friends and finds something she has always wanted.

In Hollywood you have to constantly watch your back and even "friends" can stab you in the back. Trusting others does not come easily to her.

Hailey's mother was the mastermind behind her rise to fame. She isn't happy about Hailey going to college.

Hailey has turned her back on her mother but she may not be able to move on so easily. Caleb and Hailey continue to get closer. She finds something she never planned on.

When Hailey's secrets are threatened, she is sure that Caleb will disappear. Caleb is her rock and he is absolutely swoon worthy.

This was a sweet and mostly uncomplicated romance. Hailey is a young woman who is just coming into her own and finding herself. Caleb knows who he is and where he is going and he helps Hailey in her journey. If you are looking for a light sweet read then this one is for you.

## **Arlene says**

**Stay With Me** caught my eye right away, and I was really looking forward to jumping into this novel about a rock star who leaves it all behind to finally start to live the life she defines for herself. Hailey Bloom had it all... fame, money, and fans that loved her movies and music. However, being in the spotlight from a very young age, she never got a chance to feel what “normal” was like; until the day she decides to walk away from the only life she’s known, to try something new.

I really enjoyed this story and was not disappointed one bit. What I loved most about **Stay With Me** was that it didn’t over-dramatize the character’s life in any way. From beginning to end, I felt like I was traveling right alongside Hailey as she started a new chapter of her life as a college student.

Caleb was a perfect addition to this story. He was not only too good to be true, but genuine, sweet and swoon-worthy. What’s not to love? Right from the beginning, there was no pretense with this character. What you saw is what you got. And, I loved to see how he handled falling in love with someone famous.

There was definite chemistry between Hailey and Caleb and they sure knew how to steam up the ePages of their story, but most of all their romance felt sincere. From the beginning, they were compatible. Caleb was a perfect fit for Hailey’s new life.

The secondary characters were fun to meet, and I even look forward to reading some of the roommates’ stories. The friendship and camaraderie among the cast is a storyline I’d like to continue reading.

Finally, I’m so glad the showdown between Hailey and her momager didn’t swallow up the essence of the story. This was about Hailey starting a new chapter in her life and learning to adjust to the pressures of being a student. It was very well done! I look forward to the next story in this series. Give me more!

---

## **MELISSA \*Mel Reader\* says**

ARC provided from Netgalley.

This book is about a girl named Hailey Bloom. She has been her mother's money maker since she was little. Tired of being a star & in the public eye Hailey just wants to know what it's like to live a normal life. She leaves Hollywood and the acting & music career behind and enrolls in college. She wants to find herself, and figure out what she wants to do with the rest of her life. Shortly after starting college she goes to a party one night and meets a guy named Caleb Fox.

I thought this was a fabulous book!!! I have never read anything by this author before, and was seriously missing out! I loved Daphne & this whole group of guys. I can't wait to read all their books! I am excited to read Jamie, & Griff's books, but am dying to read Nick's book the most! This book was extremely hot & I just can't get Caleb, kisses, blackberries, & birthday cake out of my head!

-My skin prickles with awareness. I'm nowhere near him, but it feels like he's standing right next to me.

-He's easily one of the most handsome men I've ever seen in my life, but not in the pretty boy kind of way.

-He smiles, and my heart gives a hard, swift kick in my chest.

-Caleb a`la mode sounds really sinful and awesome.

-"I want to kiss you. Everywhere."

-He is so damn sexy. And mine.

-"Yours," he says, his voice low, harsh with desires. "All yours."

-I love his kisses. I could get drunk on them.

-Two heartbeats, two hearts, but there's something here - something I can't name yet. It almost feels like there's this thread, this oh so delicate thread connecting us.

-Caleb is the best man I've ever known. He deserves the best me possible.

-I started believing in me. Because of you. You are everything to me."

---

## **Ashley says**

I wanted to like this book, but I just didn't. The plot and characters had the potential to be interesting, but the execution was poor. The concept of a former celebrity trying to blend back into the "real" world, was an interesting one, but I didn't think it was handled at all realistically in this book. Besides being mentioned over and over again, I didn't see much of how it actually effected Hailey's life. Having been famous and knowing that people may very well be out to use her would have probably, in my opinion, have given Hailey a bit more pause before she just fell into Caleb's arms.

Speaking of falling into Caleb's arms, talk about insta-love! They were up close and personal within the first few pages after just barely exchanging names, she's up all night thinking about him at the end of chapter one, and they're making out by chapter two. A lot of the dialogue felt awkward too, and I'm wondering if the insta-love was part of the reason. The dialogue between Caleb and Hailey was striving to fill in all this information that would have already been there had they not gotten together basically upon meeting.

The pacing of this book seemed off to me. It seemed split between inappropriately intense (since they just met) Caleb/Hailey 'love' scenes, and endless rambling descriptions to try to fill in a plot that wasn't all that strong. Oh the descriptions! I understand that characters need to get from point A to point B, but we don't

need to read about every single step and breath and leaf along the way. They were actually so long and involved that they distracted me from what was actually supposed to be going on. I also thought Caleb and Hailey's college experience sounded a bit more like high school, but maybe that's just me.

In the end I feel like there really wasn't much of a plot at all. That the whole premise was just set up as a shaky framework to characterize these two people a certain way and the main focus of the book was just one 'love' scene after another. After initially finding a couple good books in the New Adult genre when it first began, I was excited that this new market had opened up. I'm very disappointed in the way it's so quickly gone. In my opinion it is not "YA with sex scenes" as a lot of people describe it, it's more like erotica lite for the barely legal set. Which is actually kind of disgusting when you think about it. YA books have actual plots, whether characters are sleeping together or not. New Adult seems to have unfortunately become about nothing but sex and I don't think I'll be trying any more in the future.

\*I'd like to thank Netgalley for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

[www.wanderingthepages.tumblr.com](http://www.wanderingthepages.tumblr.com)

---

†† ?aisy ♥ †† says

## 5 MELTING ADORABLE STARS

How can you not love Caleb?!

**"I'm so glad you came here, Hailey. So very, very glad. You are my every heartbeat, and I love you"**

My God, this book turned me on, made me melt and smile! I love this book :) There's something about the intimacy and connection between Caleb and Hailey that definitely not only melts but keep you gripped to their story. It was a very sweet love story and it's beautiful journey!

My sweet and adorable Caleb

**"And you were all dark and mysterious in the shadows"**

And our heroine, Hailey, who is teenager movie star, singer and leaves everything behind for a normal life.

**"But you walked out onto that deck, so shiny, so bright"**

I really warmed to her. I felt for her, where her parents were concerned, but she was strong to fight for what she's wants. N having Caleb right besides her was the best! He was the best boyfriend <3

I friggin' love Caleb!! And oh boy, everything just gets hot and steamy daily with them!

Besides Caleb, all this room mates are hot too! I so can't wait to see how they end up!

27/8/2013

Am re-reading this book so frequently, it just makes feel so in love! **Elyssa is magical** <3  
Caleb so so so my new book boyfriend!

**If you are in mood of romance, read this book! Caleb and his mates will bring that romance alive!**

**\*\*ARC received from publisher\*\***

---

**Anne OK says**

As the lucky recipient of an early reading copy, I just finished Elyssa Patrick's latest, "Stay With Me." A truly delightful and wonderful fun-to-read story with such captivating characters you'll enjoy getting to know.

FULL REVIEW TO FOLLOW CLOSER TO RELEASE DAY.

---

**Joana says**

*"You are my every heartbeat, and I love you"*

Since she was a little child, Hailey was famous...singing,acting, she was always on the spotlight. Until the day she cut ties with her mother and left the Hollywood world behind and start fresh, to have a new beginning and to figure out what she really wants for her life.

And then she meets Caleb, that see her and not a celebrity persona...an intriguing forst meeting, that becomes more when Hailey become friends with Daphne, without knowing she is Caleb's sister. So she starts hanging



out with him and his friends, and love blossoms between them.

Meanwhile, her mother, since she lost all the money Hailey gave her, is set on revealing secrets that she wanted to remain buried.

Can she have a shot on a brand new future or will she always be stuck with her part?

\*\*

I really enjoyed this story...it was sweet and surprisingly wasn't overloading in drama. The last couple of books NA I read had just too much drama, hurt or abuse, so it was refreshing that the hero/heroine actually spoke to each other and didn't let many misunderstandings set between them.

I really liked the romance between them and how slowly it was building and I loved her relationship with Daphne.

***"Girl." Daphne bumps her shoulder against mine.***

***"You're not alone anymore. Get that through your thick skull. You have me. And though I may be short, I am one fierce motherfucker."***

Hell Yeah!

Now I want Daphne's book! :)

\*egalley given via Netgalley in exchange of an honest review\*

---

## **Claire Robinson says**

4.5 Wonderful Stars.

I just finished this book, and I almost wanted to jump up fist-pump, and wave my arms around in excitement.

Stay With Me is the beginning of a series focussing around a group of college students, and I love a good series. If this book is any indication of things to come, I predict major book hangovers in my future while I anxiously wait for each subsequent part to be released. Whilst reading I was reminded of the awesomely talented Samantha Young and Kristen Proby with their Dublin Street and With Me series. Like them, Elyssa Patrick's book is well written, the story down to earth and not over exaggerated, I love the familial feel to it, and WOW can she write a HOT sex scene.

We are introduced to Hailey Bloom and Caleb Fox in this book and this is their story, but as with a series a great cast of secondary characters are introduced to us as the story progresses. Daphne Fox (Calebs sister), Nick, Griff and Jamie are featured as well as a few others.

Hailey had it all, musical and acting stardom, but fed up of being used for what she is, she gives it up and starts the process of looking to find out who she is. She moves to Vermont to study, and try life as a student. Having been let-down in the past and having a secret that leaves her feeling vulnerable, trust and self-belief are in short supply for Hailey as she struggles just to pull through her college courses. That is until she meets Caleb Fox.....

Ahhhh and what a Fox he is. Cool, confident, with a middle name that will make you laugh out loud and boy

did I love his dirty mouth. He sees Hailey for who she is and not what has been printed about her, and over time manages to help her deal with her self-doubt and insecurities, by showing that she can trust and rely on him when the outside world threatens to upset her newly found freedom and stability. She is welcomed into his family, and it shows her just how much she has been missing in the past.

There are ups and downs, a lot of laughs and some really sweet moments in Stay With me, and I cannot wait to read more of this series and more from Elyssa Patrick in general.

Look out for future books –

Christmas With Me (Dec 13) for Jamie's story

Go With Me (Spring 14) for Nick's story (I cannot wait for this one)!

And we get Griff's story in Dream With Me later on in 2014.....

ARC Provided by the author, and it was my pleasure to read and provide the above review.

---

## Bee says

### 2.5 stars

*\*I received this book from the publisher via Netgalley for review. Thank you!\**

Well... I'm sad to say this but I'm so happy I finished this book because I didn't think I'd make it through it. I didn't like it that much. There were some good elements, but for the most part I was frustrated, annoyed and bored. And I'll explain why.

This book is about Hailey. Hailey has been famous and in the spotlight for as long as she can remember. But she's getting tired of all that. So she's going to college. Start over. But that's easier said than done. Classes are harder than she thought they'd be and her mother is determined to ruin her life because of her choice to leave Hollywood. And there's Caleb Fox, the guy she never expected. He doesn't want her for her fame, he just wants her. And Hailey isn't sure if she can give him what he wants. And what if he finds out the one secret the tabloids don't know yet? Will he still be there?

First the bad things. Get it over with.

1) I didn't like the writing that much. It was pretty simple and there were a lot of cliché things in the story. And some of the things the characters said were just... No. Just no. I can compare it to the writing in Fifty Shades. Not exactly the best I've ever seen.

2) Hailey was SO annoying! Most of the time I was thinking: 'Why do you have to be that way? Seriously! Why???' Whenever someone wants to be friends with her, she immediately thinks they want that because they're famous. Yeesh. And when she walks into a room at school she's like: 'Oh hey nobody stops and

stares. That's weird.' Again... No. Just no. On top of that, in the blurb they mention some secret and I thought it would be something big that would make the story a whole lot better but when I read what it was... I was banging my head against the table. Such a stupid stupid thing. Why would anybody hate you for that? It's not like you're the only one in the world to have done that. Seriously. NO. That's all I'm going to say about her for now.

3) The insta-love. Well not really love but they do have an instant attraction to each other and even before talking to each other, they NEED to have the other person. They just NEED to kiss and all that. Yeah... Also a no for me.

Now the good.

1) I actually liked Caleb. He was a sweet guy and cares for Hailey (even though I wouldn't understand why...) And I liked most of the other characters too. Griff may be my soulmate.

2) The story itself wasn't that bad. If the writing had been better, I probably would have liked the book a lot more. And Hailey too.

Okay that's it for this review. I'm sorry I didn't like it, but hey that's the way it is sometimes.

---

## Michelle says

### ARC provided by author for honest review

**Stay with Me (With Me #1)** is the first installment of the "With Me" series by Elyssa Patrick. This book follows the life of a famous young adult singer/actress Hailey Bloom as she transitions from former childhood/teen/young adult celebrity to an ordinary normal college student. Hailey leaves behind her former Hollywood life and showbiz stage mother and goes to college in Vermont.

Hailey is in a period in her life where she wants to find herself away from the limelight and showbiz. At college, she begins her journey of self discovery of finding herself and true happiness. At a party, she meets Caleb Fox. There is an instant attraction and connection between the two. Caleb is a sweet, loving, romantic guy who sweeps Hailey off her feet. Through Caleb, she makes new friends with his sister, Daphne and his group of guy friends. Finally, Hailey is surrounded by genuine people who care for her and wants the best for her. Caleb and Hailey's relationship was not only sweet and loving but was also steamy. With the support and love from Caleb, Hailey was able to face her darkest secret and get her HEA.

I really enjoyed this book because it was just sweet and romantic. There was no angst and focus on two people opening up and loving each other and about self discovery. **I would rate this book 4 stars.** I look forward to reading the following books of the "With Me" series since we were introduced to a great supporting characters: Daphne, Nick, Jaime, Griff, Kai and Dylan.

---

## Michelle says

Hailey walked away from Hollywood, from the movies, from the stage... from it all. She wanted a chance to be herself, a person she hadn't met over the last 18 years, and someone she had no idea how to be. Leaving Hollywood for Vermont to attend college was the first step.

Hailey's never had someone in her life that wasn't looking for a way to cash in on their friendship, so when it comes to interacting with her classmates it is not an easy task to try to sort those that she can trust. Enter Caleb. Instant attraction and chemistry. But she holds back just a little. Unsure if Caleb sees beyond who she is, but there is something about him that makes her feel like she's on fire. A way he has about him that allows her to trust him with almost everything. Everything but one secret that she knows would make him hate her.

This was a very, very sweet romance. But don't let that fool you, because there were some scenes in this that were off the charts hot. As a reader there are a few key things that I love in a story. One of them is the first kiss. Some authors will just brush past this, but in *Stay With Me* we get one helluva first kiss. One that leaves a lasting impression. I enjoyed the way the author balanced the sexual chemistry and the romance.

I really liked Caleb, but I wanted to know more about him. There was this feeling like there was something that just wasn't revealed. He was nearly perfect, but there were a few things that were touched upon but never discussed further. I think had more of Caleb's past been discussed a bigger connection would have been formed. With Hailey I wasn't completely won over, but I did not dislike her; which is a win.

In the end, the author had several ways she could have played out this story. I am glad she went with the way she did. This was heavy on romance and light on drama and angst. And although there were plenty of places some angst could have easily been added, I don't think it was necessary or that it would have helped the story. Sometimes people just need to simply fall in love.

The cast of characters in this offers up some interest was well. I know that I'll read the rest of this series at some point, but not quite sold on it jumping any of the books already on the list.

ARC provided on behalf of Elyssa Patrick from NetGalley

---

## Jen says

Caleb and Hailey

GIVEAWAY TODAY!!! 8/28.

Really enjoyed this one. It has a great main couple and some really fun secondary characters. Full review on *Fiction Vixen Book Reviews*

Hailey Bloom just wants to be normal. She has been famous her whole life and now she doesn't want to be. She has left that life behind and enrolled in college hoping to be just like everyone else. There she meets Caleb Fox. He is different. He doesn't treat her like she is famous or like some conquest he will run and report to the media. Hailey has real trust issue because of the life she has lived but maybe Caleb will be the one to show her that she can have something different.

Hailey has her 19th birthday in this book so while it is a romance novel I also felt it was a novel about a young girl discovering herself. Hailey had a real piece of work in the mother department and with her move to college she was finally out from under her. This was Hailey's time to figure out what she wanted from life not what she had always been told she wanted. The parts with her discovering who she is are very heartfelt and well done. I think that is the crux of NA and what makes it so different from other romance genres.

Art sings in my every nerve, my blood...and what if this is really who I am. Who I'm meant to be. But I don't want to be famous. I don't. I want to be normal. Have a normal life. Not have to open a paper or turn on a TV screen and see my name all over the screen. I want to fall in love, get married one day, have a family in the far future and have a career that I love.

I don't want to stay in Hollywood. I don't want to be the Hailey Bloom.

Now let's talk about Caleb, wonderful, sweet, sigh worthy Caleb. Could he have been anymore perfect? Where was a dude like that when I was 19? He was so sincere in his love for Hailey and is so sweet in the things he does for her. He didn't let her run or turn away and he took everything she had, all the insecurities, and only gave back happiness and love. I can't tell you how many times I wanted to take him home with me, you know if something like that could be done. Heh.

For about the first 10% of the book I was thinking it was kind of slow. Hailey and Caleb meet and then don't meet and it is kind of a back and forth game. Then we meet all the secondary characters. Daphne, Caleb's sister and Hailey's new BFF and all Caleb's friends. Once they are introduced the story takes off. The interaction between all of them and how they are with Hailey and Caleb made the book for me. I think they served well to balance the main relationship.

I don't read much NA because I find that I can't identify with the younger characters. I had heard really good things about *Stay With Me* so I decided to give it a shot. I wasn't disappointed. The characters might be young in age but they are mature in life and in the way they act. I had no issues with their age nor at any time did I roll my eye at the angst as I am often wont to do with NA. I did have one small issue with the book and that was how easily the main conflict was resolved. Hailey stressed for most of the book and then it was done in two pages. I would have liked to explore more with her mother or more with how something was done about the conflict.

I know that Ms. Patrick has several books in this series releasing over the next year and I cannot wait to read them! Final grade- B

Favorite Quote:

"Awww, you two lovebirds are so cute." Jaime leans forward. "So, show her the magic trick."

“I’m trying, but you still haven’t disappeared yet.”

---

**[~Ami~]♥Sexy Dexy♥ says**

Hailey left her famous life behind to go to college...

It was insta love with Caleb...

Something's holding her back...

A secret that may destroy their relationship...

### **My thoughts**

I actually thought I would end up wanting to slap Hailey but she wasn't too bad. She was holding back a big secret and the reveal just made me roll my eyes.

I quite liked Caleb but the two of them as a couple was just... alright.

*"You are my every heartbeat, and I love you"*

There was some really nicely written sex scenes which is always a plus.

If your looking for a sweet drama-free college romance with some nice sex scenes then this would be the book.

**ARC courtesy of NetGalley**

---

**Rose says**

I think Elyssa Patrick's biggest problem with "Stay With Me" was that it was incredibly boring and shallow. I really dislike saying that, but I don't think there's any other way to say it in succinct terms as far as why this novel didn't work. The prose is dry, most of the time the focus in the narrative is on Caleb and Hailey making eyes at each other and having sex, and for a novel that supposedly had moments of building up over a "tortured past" female character, and a male character who was so perfect and helping her "find her place" I couldn't stomach how uninspired and lacking in emotional resonance this was. .

Hailey is a former child star - actress and singer - trying to adjust to a normal life by going to college and leaving her celebrity life behind her. She's estranged from her celebrity mooching mother, and has a "deep, dark secret" which she believes that everyone would hate her for. People have betrayed her in her life and she won't allow herself to get close to anyone. Lo and behold, she meets Caleb, a guy that she can't keep her eyes from, and the narrative spends the longest time having them gaze into each others eyes with lust among other dwindling moments of romantic possession. The chemistry felt so elongated and forced. I actually hoped it would improve as the narrative went on, but I didn't feel their connection - it was threadbare at most, and for some reason, I thought that the characters in the novel were at arm's length for most, if not all the time they were featured. Caleb's sister was an interesting character, probably the most vibrant the narrative had to offer, but even with her, something felt like it was missing - like the characters could've been developed and given more substantial weight and stakes in the respective narrative. There was very little intimacy and emotion throughout this.

The narrative keeps driving attention to Hailey's secret and when the reveal is pulled - I felt absolutely nothing. It wasn't a shock, it wasn't a surprise - it wasn't handled well for the reveal. I've seen many narrative deal with the emotional ties of that measure, and by far and large, the disconnect in the style of the narrative ruined it, if it had any point of suspension at all. I could also note that for the presentation of celebrity and music (including some very threadbare turns of lyricism), it was underwhelming.

I can't say that I would recommend "Stay With Me" because of its formulaic measures and stylistics. Granted, I know this is supposed to be a coming of age and branching out story in the root of celebrity life, but I think there are far better narratives to be had in the scheme of contemporary romance, New Adult, and tough subject stories than this. I will concede that there were surface moments that I thought were promising, but those were far and too few between for me to rate the narrative higher.

Overall score: 1/5 stars

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher.

---