



Unwanted Stars

Melissa Brown

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It's funny how the tiniest of things can change your life... an invitation, a simple kiss goodnight, a matchbook...

Auden Kelly is in need of a change.

She's trading in her nine-to-five sales job for the adventure of a lifetime: a one year contract with a European tour company.

For one full year, Auden will get paid to see the world. What could be better? Her brother gives her a journal, instructing her to document all of her adventures as she travels from country to country. And that's exactly what she does.

When a mysterious stranger enters her life, however, everything changes: her expectations, her priorities and her view of the world. And nothing for Auden will ever be the same.

Note: Although these books are part of a series, they do not need to be read in order.

Unwanted Stars Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Melissa Brown

Format :

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Drama, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Travel, Business, Amazon

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From Reader Review Unwanted Stars for online ebook

Lisa says

Fave of 2014

If you are a fan of Author Melissa Brown, you know that the Love of My Life Series is linked and continually gets better than the previous. This one takes the cake. She really pulled out the big guns for *Unwanted Stars*. She finally shows us who Auden Kelly is, and what happens when you fly by the seat of your pants.

Not only is this story taking us on an adventure, but we get to dive headfirst into the life of Auden Kelly. We know her as Hadley's BFF and Jason's little sister, but really that is all we know about her. But not for long.....

Auden Kelly. Remember that name. She will stick with you forever. She is a lady after my own heart. I just love her dearly and want to keep her as my own. She is young, carefree, and ready for any adventure life can throw at her. Auden leads us through her day to day activities in a way that I loved, it is priceless and in a sense freeing for her and us. With her moving to a new country, one that she is familiar with, she is able to finally soar and do it the way she wants without being held back or judged by her family.

Ok so this isn't your typical girl goes away, meets boy, falls madly in love. No, this book from the minute you start reading is an experience of life and new beginnings. Auden takes the meaning of journey literally. She is on a mission to pave her own path and show everyone that she can and will succeed!

Charming, I mean Campbell Hutchins killed me. He swept in and took over the Jason Kelly top spot. Sorry JK, I am smitten with him. Hutch as he prefers to be named, is a bit of the mysterious type. He is gorgeous, willing to please, and freaking wonderful. He is like a bright sun on a dreary day. There is always something that he can do to brighten your day. And brighten he did. So get ready to be swept away with this charming gentleman!

Chemistry can be a silly thing. Forbidden romance isn't. These two share some wicked chemistry, the kind of stuff you see in movies. These two gave me butterflies and made me all sorts of school girl giddy. But with work and the non-fraternization, they have to share hidden glances and stolen kisses, and all the while hoping they aren't caught. Those few precious moments sizzle. You can feel the longing and want from Auden and Hutch. But you know their time is going to get cut short, and wish and pray that they can carry on with this relationship when Auden is done with this leg of her job. Will Auden take the leap of faith, and jump into Hutch's arms? Can Hutch wait this job out? Or will these two fall flat after their forbidden love story is over?

I have mad love for Melissa Brown. Her books always make me swoon, but this book swooned and wooed me like no other. She brings to life the true feelings of lust, longing, and need. She shows us that her characters are perfectly flawed, in their own right. Auden and Campbell will undo you with their feelings and words. They will bring you to your knees, and make you weepy. Yes, they will. I cannot wait to read more of this series. But I do have to say *Unwanted Stars*, was my absolute favorite!

Beth says

Full review coming closer to release date, but WOW... this is Melissa Brown's best work yet. Holy crap can she write a swoony guy!! Put this on your TBR's people, you're gonna want to get to know Campbell!! <3

Sarah - Books to Breathe says

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

The following is a completely off the cuff, unfiltered review. Full review coming on my stop of the blog tour.

As if it were ever ANY question, Melissa Brown has proven once again why she is the queen of romance! I've read all of her books multiple times, and like a fine wine, she just gets better and better with age. Just when I think the next book cannot possibly be better than its predecessor, there she goes proving me wrong. This book will make you feel. Ooh how it will make you feel. MB writes women who while at a crossroads in their life, are so incredible headstrong and independent. She writes women that you can relate to, women you want to be friends with, and women who don't take crap from anyone! Women who are dealing with real life issues. While some of the issues may seem trivial compared to others, there can be no comparison when it comes to pain. Pain isn't a contest, and you have every right to feel the way you do. Despite all of this, Auden isn't afraid to go after what she wants.

Through Auden, we are able to go on an adventure of a lifetime. Some authors will write about a locale yet you feel like a spectator. Not MB! She doesn't just simply write about it, she grabs your passport and literally shoves you on the plane. You can taste the pizza in Italy, feel the breeze on your skin as you ride in the gondola, smell the pot as you walk through Amsterdam ;-) But most importantly, throughout this trip, she allows you to not only find yourself but fall in love.

On the outside, this may seem like a cliched romance. Girl goes to foreign country, falls in love, lives happily ever after. If you've ever read a MB book before, you know this simply just isn't the case. Once you scratch through the surface, the depth that lies beneath will have even the blackest of hearts melting. While I thought no character could EVER top Jason Kelly, Campbell has officially thrust himself upon the throne. And he plans to back down for NO ONE! I loved this character not simply because of who and what he was, but more-so of what he wasn't! What he wasn't: full of drama, full of insecurity, full of IT and himself, ashamed to say what was on his mind and how he was feeling, and afraid to call Auden on her bull crap. I loved how he saw through all her walls and said so. I loved how he seemed to know what she was thinking and feeling, sometimes even before she did. I loved the relationship he had with his family, always loyal. But mostly I loved the way he loved her.

It wouldn't be a MB book without a few twists and turns, but those just made the book even more delicious. There is one scene involving a trench coat that STILL has me rolling! I could go on and on about this book til the cows come home. I love the love. MB teaches us that it is never to late to chase your dreams and that sometimes you can't wait for your fairy tale, you have to go make it yourself!

Maida says

Fortunately or unfortunately (based on how I look at it), I read the 3rd novel in this series— *Picturing Perfect*— prior to reading the series' 4th novel— *Unwanted Stars*. Therefore, I was already familiar with the character, Auden, & I knew her reasons for leaving her home in Chicago to take a job as European tour guide.

Those of you who read my review for *Picturing Perfect* may recall that I only gave the novel 1-star due to the author's very amateurish writing style, a highly predictable plot & the use of clichés. The writing was VERY simplistic. So although the heroine & narrator— Hadley— was a 22-year old college graduate, her "voice" & (oftentimes her actions) resembled that of a 15-year old. In my review, I stated that *Picturing Perfect* is written somewhere between a 3rd-5th grade reading level, & I stand by that assessment.

Thankfully, the writing DOES improve in the author's follow-up novel— *Unwanted Stars*. As I mentioned before, the author's writing is overly simplistic & is mostly made up of short sentences which state the obvious. In my humble opinion, there's nothing earth-shattering or incredibly profound in her novels— nothing that will make a critical reader take pause or start to view the world in a different way. This writing style failed to work in the series' 3rd novel b/c the heroine— Hadley— was described as being incredibly smart & driven. She was "supposed" to be a true intellectual. Sadly, however, the unsophisticated writing made Hadley sound more like a teenager than an intellectual college graduate.... In *Unwanted Stars*, the author's overly simplistic writing style works better since the heroine, Auden, is more of a free-spirit. She can be a bit scatterbrained & flighty, and her flight of ideas & constantly shifting thoughts are well portrayed via the author's short sentences & choppy prose.

The highlight of this novel (for me) wasn't Auden's character growth or her new love interest. For me, the star of the novel was the continent of Europe!!! I've always been rather obsessed with Europe, so I devoured the chapters on Germany, Venice, Paris & Madrid. And although I *am* of German & Spanish descent, I've never traveled through Germany... I've only spent an hour in the Frankfurt airport on a layover. My dream is to visit all of the exquisite places that the reader is able to witness secondhand while reading about Auden's travels as a tour guide. I am especially interested in visiting the Channel Islands, located between the northern coast of France & the Southern coast of England. The islands sound absolutely divine! In fact, living anywhere that has easy access to BOTH London AND Paris sounds pretty perfect to me. :)

Although I DID enjoy reading about Auden's adventures in Europe, I can't give this novel a very high rating b/c the writing is just SO mediocre. Yes, it's a great improvement over the 3rd novel in this series. While *Picturing Perfect*, was written between a 3rd- 5th grade reading level, *Unwanted Stars* is probably written between a 7th-8th grade reading level.... Author Melissa Brown has "cute" storylines, but her novels present common themes & plot devices that have been used at least a million times in Young Adult, New Adult, Chick-Lit & Romance novels. (view spoiler) Melissa Brown's writing reminds me somewhat of Judy Blume. The DIFFERENCE, however, is that Judy Blume's target audience INCLUDES readers in the 3rd-8th grades; whereas Melissa Brown's DOES NOT. Herein lies "one" of the problems. If Melissa Brown intends to write for a more mature audience, then she should develop a more mature writing style. Her prose is very choppy, so she should improve upon the "flow" of her writing. Making better use of transitions would be a start. Furthermore, she needs to create better DIALOGUE between the characters (and particularly between the love interests). Auden knew virtually nothing about Campbell. How is the reader supposed to get behind this coupling when they have relatively few interactions & ZERO "meaningful" conversations before (view spoiler) Furthermore, sending love notes that read "I Ache For You" is only realistic when (view

spoiler) Dialogue is key. In this particular genre, meaningful dialogue is a major factor in determining whether a novel becomes an All-Time Favorite or just merely forgettable. There's a reason why the vast majority of readers love Tammara Webber's *Easy* or Colleen Hoover's *Slammed*. We recall the conversations between the main characters—conversations which made it abundantly clear that these two characters were meant for one another. Sadly, I can't recall any well-written dialogue between the two main characters in *Unwanted Stars*. Sure, there were some sweet moments—sweet but rather ineffectual. *Unwanted Stars* was a nice, light read (which was what I was searching for at the time).... But three months from now, I won't recall these characters' names; I won't recall how the couple fell in love; & I certainly won't recall key quotes from the book (because there were NONE).

3.5/5 stars

*** A very special THANK YOU to Amber for recommending this novel & for loaning it to me. I asked for a nice, light read, & it's exactly what I got. Thanks for being one of the best Goodreads friends ever!!! :)

Calia says

Witty, sexy and heartfelt...Melissa Brown doesn't dip her toe into New Adult, she cannonballs right into this genre! My favorite novel of her's to date!

Mari says

4.5 matchbook stars

Stars

Sigh Campbell Hutchins swoon. One thing I loved about this book was the travel aspect and add one hot British accented sweetheart I'm sold. I mean Henry Cavill maybe the perfect muse for Cam and but all through out I didnt think of him as, maybe looks wise but I got the good doctor in all scenes. I really liked Auden I can relate to her personality wise too, similar reactions and way of thinking. I did get her.

Cam is swoon, his manner and Britishisms are just so loving with a touch of playful, polite but not stiff his gestures melt, little things. Ok I'm in a mood but gah. I cant stop gushing, such a sucker for accents and his Bristishisms. I know this was Auden's journey but he added to it and I do think he made her find her peace. Melissa Brown has found my weakness British accents and Henry like heroes.

Jason and Hadley was so sweet and Marty too, they had me awww. I see how they connected and made the story work and more meaningful.

This series is just heartwarming and feel good, each had their own swoon factor. Although I don't know if this is the last installment I'd love more and these characters are so endearing and people you'd like around. Melissa Brown has such a writing style that'll make you feel, smile and teary gets you into the story and in the lives of the characters, makes it relatable and still retain that romantic feeling.

Autumn Review says

First Impression:

New adventure, new love, self discovery...sign me up!

The story:

Auden was in need of an adventure. So, she got a job as a tour guide in Europe. The job proves to have its own set of challenges, but she likes it. On one of her trips, she meets a smart, sexy Brit. Just as her love life and her job are becoming more interesting, her world is rocked by a mysterious stranger. This changes everything she thought she knew about her life.

The characters:

Auden was a lot of fun. She's a bit dramatic, but not in an annoying way. I loved that she craved adventure and that she wasn't afraid to take chances.

Campbell just might be the perfect guy. I adored him! He actually courted her. He valued her. And he really supported her when she needed him the most. He seriously is the best! And he was quite sexy at times too.

I loved seeing Hadley and Jason again too. They are such a great couple and it made me miss them a bit. I just might have to go back and read Picturing Perfect.

What didn't work for me:

I'm not so sure I could pin point anything that stands out to me. I suppose if I want to be nit picky, I would say that Auden may be slightly irritating to some, but she didn't bother me.

Overall:

I would have to say that Unwanted Stars just might be my favorite Brown novel to date. During college, I always wanted to travel like Auden did. While I'm not as dramatic as she is, I felt a kinship in her need for adventure and she is also a romantic. I got her. And I really loved the relationship she developed with Campbell. Unwanted Stars was fun, romantic and had just the right amount of drama to keep things interesting. Although this is part of a series, it can definitely be read as a stand alone. I highly recommend it!

Quotes:

~"Listen to me, okay? I want you, this, us...for as long as I'm lucky enough to have it. Losing you would destroy me." -Loc 2925

~"You're the most beautiful creature I've ever laid eyes on. When I see you, when I feel you, I'm content. The happiest I've ever been." -Loc 3684

Fred says

So, they say when life hands you lemons, make lemonade. But there's not really a formula for when life hands you a big bowl of wtf, right? Especially when you're a pretty darn prickly 23 year old named Auden Kelly, who's restlessly launched herself on the adventure of a lifetime, guiding tours through Europe. And on

top of that she's met this guy. Not just any old guy, either, but a handsome and accomplished one who, best of all, is absolutely smitten with her (smitten, I tell you!). But fate's got cards it doesn't want to show, until one day it does, and suddenly Auden's life feels like it's a house made out of those cards, tumbling around her in a dizzy snowstorm of aforesaid wtf.

I love this thoughtful and tender story of a (to be perfectly honest) kind of difficult girl, who struggles to come to terms with some tough revelations, good and bad, about who she is, and who she's going to choose to be. I love that the romance wasn't "the solution" to her problems, but rather another facet to her journey of self-awareness, maturity and understanding. I was so not expecting the big twist that hits around 60%, or for this to be a deep and sensitive treatment of issues of family and identity. And I really love how artful author Melissa Brown has become in this 4th book in the Love of My Life series of interconnected standalones. Without disclosing too much, it's so clever that key events happen at a make-up counter, a place where illusions meet with reality to either reveal or conceal a deeper truth about the layers that lie beneath our cosmetic enhancements and embellishments.

I don't mean to make this sound too heavy - it's banterific and sometimes breezy, filled with delightful snapshots of Auden's Europe, and with warm and winsome snapshots of real feeling family affection and irritation. I urge you to indulge in the rather complicated pleasure of getting to know Miss Auden Kelly, the most complex of her clan, without further ado!

Brandee - Brandee's Book Endings says

Amazon:<http://amzn.to/1cNTiVv>

B&N: <http://bit.ly/1akqDrO>

No secret here, I am a BIG Melissa Brown fan! I can always count on Melissa to give me what I call that perfect "chick flick" that I love. With Unwanted Stars there was a bit more steam than in Melissa's previous books, but if you have read any of these other books in which we previously were introduced to Auden, you know that she is a more "sexual" person, so... it would be fitting and Melissa captured that character in my mind quite well.

I am really envious that Auden is able to pick up, move to Europe and take on a job as a tour guide and travel from county to country. What a care-free adventure right? I have NEVER been to Europe and Melissa had the ability in her writing to make me imagine what it would be like to be on one of these tours. HAVE TO MOVE THIS HIGHER UP ON MY BUCKET LIST.

So, Auden is on this amazing adventure.....Then she meets the swoon-worthy Campbell....and WE have another book boyfriend!!! I don't like to spoil things, but I will tell you that I loved Campbell and his matchbooks and everything we learn about Campbell during the story. LOVE him!

Here we are back to poor Auden.... I say poor Auden (without spoiler)..... you will learn what exactly the blurb meant "everything changes: her expectations, her priorities and her view of the world. And nothing for Auden will ever be the same". I could not imagine having to deal with what she is faced with, and while being half way across the world from her family.

If you have read a Melissa Brown book before, you are like me and probably expect that by the end of every book you get your happily ever after. Will Auden get her happily ever after? Does she want one? And is

Campbell the one to give it to her? I highly recommend you pick up this book and/or series. While this can be read as a stand-alone, you will want to learn about all the characters and their stories in the previous books.

Once again, Melissa Brown has given me exactly the type of book I needed when I needed it. She never lets me down and I never hesitate to pick up the next book she releases. Next up for Melissa – A new series called “Sorority of Three” is also coming in spring of 2014 – and I can’t wait!

Christy says

Unwanted Stars is the fourth book in Melissa Brown’s Love of My Life series, but it can be read as a stand-alone. That being said, you really don’t want to miss out on the third book. It’s directly related to this one and my favorite of the series (Jason Kelly... swoon).

Auden Kelly (Jason’s little sister) is ready for the adventure of a lifetime. At 23 years old, she’s not sure what she wants to do with her life. She decides a change is in order. She takes a job with Jordan travel as a European tour guide. Auden is one of those characters that is outspoken, brash and vibrant. She is also fun-loving, sassy and completely loyal to those she loves.

People don’t always get me right away.... and some never do. When I find people who understand me, I stick with them. I’m fiercely loyal.

While on this journey, something happens she never expects. She meets someone. Campbell is sweet, sexy and fun. He is different from Auden in a lot of ways, but they compliment each other. He gives Jason a run for his money when it comes to lovable and swoony heroes. Those matchbooks... I LOVED!

Campbell and Auden’s relationship is strong and beautiful. I absolutely loved them together.

“I’m falling for you.”?
“I fell a long time ago.”

While in Europe, Auden finds out something that shakes her to her core. I loved how Campbell was there for her through this. Not to push or to pry, but to just be there. To help her be strong. This story is more than just a romance. It’s a story of self-discovery and a story of a woman finding her place in the world.

I love Melissa Brown’s writings. I am so happy I picked up this final book in this series. If you’re looking for a story that is sweet, funny, romantic and will leave you with a happy heart and a smile on your face, pick this one up! 4.5 stars.

Francine Petro says

Melissa Brown does it again with her latest novel, *Unwanted Stars!* This is the story of Auden Kelly and Campbell Hutchins. Auden is a beautiful, shoot from the hip, take no prisoners kind of gal who is looking for a change. She accepts a position with Jordan Tours based in London and is ready for travel and excitement, not necessarily a total life defining experience!

"It's funny how the tiniest of things can change your life: an invitation, a simple kiss goodnight, a matchbook..."

Meet Campbell Hutchins (aka Starsky!!) - romantic, tall, dark and handsome doctor who is on one of her tours. He is immediately taken with Auden and the feeling is mutual! All I can say is...Matchbooks, you'll never look at one the same way again!

To Auden he's a complete nerd but that is what is so endearing about him, from his surprise moves on the dance floor to his chess ribbons and how he explains to Auden his feelings towards her "This little gadget has changed all of us. No more pay phones on every corner. We have this 24-7, a world of information at our fingertips. Can you imagine giving yours up?"..."No."..."Exactly. That's how I feel about you. I can't imagine ever giving you up. Can't remember what life was like before you."..."You're my gorgeous little cell phone." Maybe I am a nerd, but this had me swooning!

One day, Auden goes shopping at Harrods and this is where the life she has always known for the past 23 years will take a dramatic turn. Who would have thought buying Clinique makeup would make her question everything she knew, about her self and her family. "I was too scared to think there was a reason why I never quite fit into the puzzle..." I will cut the quote of here, don't want to give too much away!!

With these new revelations, as much as Auden tries to push Campbell away, he's not leaving!

I truly love the way Melissa writes! She makes me laugh and yes, in this book I cried some pretty ugly tears. I adore her pop culture references and relatable moments when I was growing up...no personalized water bottles at the supermarket for this girl!

I love all of her books and, as another reviewer had mentioned, you do not necessarily have to read all of the books before you dive into this one...but why wouldn't you!?

Again, loved *Unwanted Stars* and that's why I gave it 5 stars, a must read and definitely in my top 10 for 2014!!

Heather Gunter says

I'm a reader first before anything else and when I love something, I feel it important to voice it. I love stories that make you feel and believe in the power of love. Love that is real. Where you make mistakes, learn from them and make new ones. I love stories that can sweep you away and give you the possibility of hope. That is what I think of this series. It's a series of hope.

I'm a serious Melissa Brown fan. *Unwanted Stars* follows Auden on her quest at being independent as well

as the best darn tour guide in Europe. I love Auden; I always have. She's quirky and complicated. I also love the man that is completely made for her in every possible way. Cam is simply swoony! The author has this uncanny knack at making me love every one of her male characters just a little bit more than the last. The banter is brilliant, sexy as hell and story heart warming. Don't even give it a second thought.

Sharon says

I was lucky enough to get an ARC copy of Unwanted Stars by Melissa Brown and I have to tell you this book is awesome!

The book is a journal of Auden's journey as paid tour guide. Auden is on the journey that is going to change her life.

Melissa Brown did it again! This was another book I could not put down. I could not wait to see what each need day brought for Auden.

This book had many feeling so many emotions and feelings. I felt fear of the unknown journey, love, sadness, and happiness.

As part of the descriptions says "It's funny how the tiniest of things can change your life ... an invitation, a simple kiss goodnight, a matchbook.. " This book shows how true this is.

I highly recommend taking the 5 Star journey with Auden.

Laura says

By now you know I'm not a fan of the barfalicious romance novels. EXCEPT for where Melissa Brown is concerned. She could write me an encyclopedia and I think I'd read AND enjoy it. Her attention to detail and the way she can tell a love story, keep it absolutely romantical and yet not make me wanna barf is just spectacular. I may have a slight girl crush on her.

We first were introduced to Auden as Jason Kelly's little sister and Hadley's best friend...but the fabulous thing about this series is, even if you haven't read the previous books, this isn't one of those bits of information that you NEED to know. What you do need to know is that Auden is out to conquer the world. She's independant, she's ready for an adventure and she's gonna have fun, damnit. She couldn't have landed a more perfect job than she did when she got the job with a touring company in Europe. The thing that I loved about Auden's adventures is that Ms. Brown made you feel like you were right there with her. You could smell the foods, you could taste the coffee...you could see the stars...it was just so well told.

As you know, this is a romance, so you know there's a boy. Campbell Hutchins isn't just any boy though. He's a mystery. He's fun. He doesn't let Auden get away with her BS. He's just...well, freaking fabulous.

As with any Melissa Brown book, there is some drama, there are a LOT of swoonworthy moments, and well, there is just flat out fabulous storytelling.

Do yourself a favor and read this book. I promise, you won't be disappointed.

Shannon says

Good book! Campbell is very swoon worthy and Auden is just awesome! I liked this book a lot but I think Picturing Perfect was better. The story was good in this one but the beginning half of the book features so much of Auden and Campbell's relationship that I wasn't quite sure where it was headed especially since there was never any conflict in the relationship. To me Campbell was just a little too perfect that I kept wondering when something from his past or a flaw was going to show up. But it never did. So when the big conflict did show up I was pleased. I do wish it showed up sooner in the book because by the time I got there I was expecting it. But other than that I thought this was a great book. Much steamer than her other ones ;) haha. Can't wait for her next book!
