



Back To You

Leighton Rose

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When two stubborn boys fall in love there are bound to be fights, but when those fights become the norm and there are more bad times than good, is love enough of a reason to stay?

Alex Parker thinks the best way to save himself and his boyfriend, Tyler Matthews, from any more pain is to leave him and his hometown behind. He finally settles down in Texas and as they both try to move on, it seems like a lost cause.

A tragic turn of events causes Alex to drop everything and head back to Nebraska where he winds up face-to-face with Tyler for the first time since he left two years ago. The spark of attraction is still there, but will these two now grown men be able to overcome the years of guilt, hurt, and broken trust without breaking the bonds of friendship they've formed during their time apart in order to get their second chance at love? Only time will tell if their hearts can find their way back to each other.

Back To You Details

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From Reader Review Back To You for online ebook

Steph says

A great little story.

I loved Tyler and Alex's story. Relationships aren't always perfect; and sometimes they can get pretty damn ugly!

It was so sad, watching Alex leave the love of his life and knowing how heart broken they both were. But I think it was the right thing to do. They needed a good long break to remember all of the good things about their relationship.

A reason why I didn't rate this any higher was because there were some things about the story that were just too sweet and unbelievable for me.

I have no idea why Donny came back with Alex. Yes, they're best friends, but Christ! Talk about torturing yourself. It was awful!

I don't think Donny should have stuck around... and Riley? He was just a bit too 'wet' for me. I wanted him to grow a pair and stop being so whiney.

Anyway. Overall, I really enjoyed the read and will definitely read more by this author.

Shelby says

Reviewed for Prism Book Alliance

For a first novel this was actually quite fantastic. The characters were rich and there are no gaps in the story or major plot holes to fall into. In fact there's a lot of emotional impact in the deterioration and rebuilding of their relationship. There is definitely a high level of angst with this story, but it only serves to delineate the depth of love these two men feel for each other.

Alex Parker and Tyler Matthews have been dating for years. They're deeply in love, but it doesn't seem to be enough. They spend as much time fighting bitterly as they do being happy together. In fact as deep as their love is that's how bitterly intense their battles are. Alex can't take it anymore; he knows that if they continue down this path it's only going to get worse and the resulting blow up could destroy any good thoughts/memories they might have for each other. He loves Tyler desperately, but he's determined to leave for both their sake. It takes everything in him to walk out that door and he knows that cutting all ties is the only way he can make it stick. Getting in his car and driving is the only thing he can think to do.

As a reader, I have to say the prologue of this book was pretty freakin' fantastic. It's hard to write something that grabs a reader's attention and can establish an emotional reaction before we've had time to really get to know the characters and develop any sort of bond with them. The love these two felt for each other poured from those initial pages. I connected with both boys pretty much instantly. And if you accept the premise this prologue puts forth then the rest of the story falls into place quite nicely.

My only real issue is I struggle to just blindly accept the premise. I still really loved the story, but I kept waiting to get some real indication of just what these two fought about that was so earth shatteringly bad that the only option was to leave. Now, I do give some leeway here because 21-year-old boys aren't exactly known for the most rational of decision-making. Their youth does make this much more believable. I just wanted more detail. These two spend two years without any contact, not speaking to each other even once, yet both spend the entire time yearning for the other. There had to have been some pretty horrendous fights to decide that love wasn't enough. Granted Tyler never had that reaction, but Alex did. If you love someone that desperately, you don't walk away without a really good reason. I wanted more details than just that they fought. To me this was the only real downside of this story, because we walk in at the end of their first try together as the reader you must just accept that whatever it was was awful enough to justify Alex leaving or you'll never be able to accept Alex back in Tyler's life.

Ok, so minor glitch aside, if you accept that Alex had a reason for leaving then the rest of the story is very smooth. I actually really enjoyed the POV switching with this story as they were all very clearly delineated and I never was confused as to whose head I was in at any given time. I really felt like Ms. Rose did a wonderful job with her secondary characters as well, making Riley and Donnie heartbreakingly wonderful. I felt bad cheering for Alex and Tyler knowing that Riley and Donnie had done nothing wrong other than offer their hearts to people whose hearts weren't really available, no matter how much they might wish them to be.

Normally I hate love triangles, and characters being with someone other than their destined HEA, but all of the characters here were so rich I just knew that some angst was going to be necessary, but in the end it would work itself out in a way that I could be satisfied. (Though clearly if I don't get a Riley and Donnie story quickly I'm going to be tearing my hair out, going "Why, oh you terrible world why?") Alex may be a little immature in his decision-making, but he has a good heart. I really felt like he was trying to do what he thought was best even he was making decisions for other people without really hearing what they needed or wanted. Poor Tyler was such a devoted sweetheart and while I actually really loved Riley every time they were together I just couldn't help but have an internal "nooooooooooooo" going on.

You know, I thought I would hate the funeral device here as a way to bring these two back together. Too much angst in one fell swoop, but in the end I think it was really the only thing that could have made everyone involved put aside their personal feelings to come out the other side willing to work to be friends. Grammie Bea inspired such strong feelings in both Alex and Tyler it was exactly the impetus Alex needed to come home. It put Tyler in a mental headspace to need the support of the man he loves and to allow that to overcome the anger he was holding much more quickly than a think any other situation would allow for. It also held Donnie and Riley's anger and upset in check to a degree. To be as awesome as they were they needed something that wouldn't allow them to abandon their respective guys outright. Both showed true caring and more maturity than either Tyler or Alex really ever maintained. (Can you tell who my favorite characters were? ;))

Ultimately I really enjoyed this book a lot. The writing style was lovely and created a wonderful reading experience. The story was touching and while it would have drawn me in even more to have more details of Alex and Tyler's past together, the love these two shared for each other was never in question. It radiated from the page. All in all a fantastic first book by Ms. Rose, I will be back for more. **4.5 stars overall, definitely recommended if you're in the mood for a lot of deep emotions and more than a little angst.**

I received this novel in exchange for an honest review. Thank you so much for allowing me to read this novel!

Silkeeeeereads says

Second chances is one of those hot, emotional reads that takes a hot love, takes it apart, add new people and then...

Guess, you'll have to read it. I always enjoy a well-written story that ties things up at the end in a beautiful bow. I do want to add that I absolutely LOVE the cover as well. It is perfect for this story. I am looking forward to this series.

Tina says

Every time a book of a new author pops up I look forward to reading it. When the cover is also as intriguing as this one, I'm even more curious. On top of this, the premise grabbed my attention. I'm a sucker for hurt/comfort and second chances romances.

Back To You takes place in a little town in Nebraska. The main characters Alex and Tyler have been together for two years. Their relationship teeters on the brink, though. They still love each other but the good times seem to be gone. Alex can't bear their increasing disputes anymore and leaves Tyler, his hometown and his family behind. He tries to move on and begins a new life somewhere in Texas. Tyler never has gotten over Alex, even after two years he still misses him badly. When Riley, a new guy comes to town, Tyler hopes that he might be the one who can help him to start a new life.

Of all things the death of Tyler's beloved Grammy Bea brings Alex back to Nebraska. The attraction is still there but Tyler and Alex, have both moved on. Tyler has hooked up with Riley and Alex brings Donny, his best friend with benefits along. Not the best constellation to take the second chance and get back together. They have to overcome guilt, hurt and broken trust without breaking the bonds of friendship they have formed during their time apart.

Sometimes there is a second chance. You just need to grab it with both hands and don't let it slip away. It may be your last...

The prologue is amazing and heartbreakingly written. It grabbed my attention pretty fast. Both guys are so in love and so broken at the same time... they pulled at my heartstrings instantly. Tyler's devastation, when Alex doesn't change his mind and despite his love to Tyler is still determined to break up with him, touched me deeply.

"I know we fight and argue and we hurt each other, but I also know that what we have is real and I'm not giving up on it. Alex, I love you so much and if you love me like you say you do, you won't run away from me, away from us. Love doesn't run; it stays and fights for what's right. It's tough and it doesn't give up... Leaving is taking the easy way out, and I know you. You never take the easy way. You're stubborn, pig-headed and you fight for what

you want. Don't you want me anymore? Don't you love me?"

OMG, I could have beaten the shit out of Alex for hurting them both so much.

The only weak point for me was that I never found out what those two fought about. What was so bad that Alex didn't see a chance to fix his relationship with Tyler? What happened that was so beyond repair? Okay, they were both very young and their youth did make their separation believable. A few more details would have been nice.

The supporting characters are just as loveable and wonderful as the main couple. Riley and Donnie are just wonderful guys. They did nothing wrong. To fall in love with someone whose heart wasn't really available wasn't their fault, right? And both show true caring and more maturity than either Tyler or Alex really ever maintained. By the way, there is no cheating involved. Both MC's are single before they get together with other people, and they are not together with their "friends with benefits" before coming back together.

Overall, the writing style was entertaining and the story was touching. The author really reminded me that life can be bitter, it can be harsh and unfair, but at the same time it showed me that it's never too late to hope for a second chance. I'll definitely look forward to more stories from Leighton Rose - hopefully the next one will be Riley and Donny's story! They deserve some happiness, don't they?

Recommended to readers who are in the mood for deep emotions and don't fear more than a little angst. Leighton Rose is definitely an author to watch out for!

F loves to read says

watch out, people!!! there's a new author to look forward to!!!

I'm a sucker for second chance romances, they are by far my favourite and this one hit the spot right on. as one of my best friends likes to say: 'it hurts so good'. :) the story of Tyler and Alex was simply amazing, heartbreakingly so. I couldn't put the book down because I wanted to know what happens next and if these beautiful boys will get what they deserve, each other. I was so conflicted throughout, because Leighton managed to write supporting characters that were just as loveable and wonderful as the main couple and I felt so much for them too. even though it says #1 in the series, this book is a stand-alone and ends with a well deserved HEA! so go and grab your copy and read this beautiful story, you won't regret it!!! well done Leighton, I couldn't be more proud of you and I'm very much looking forward to read more from you!!! ♥

Amanda says

This was a decent read, there are a few things niggling me. First, both MC's are supposed to have similar personalities, both stubborn and hard headed. Throughout the book I felt like there was a lot of whining, I didn't really see the two strong personalities they were supposed to have.

Also, holy angst batman.

If you don't mind when 2 MC's break up, sleep with other people, then end up back together while still friends with those other people then give this a try. I felt it was awkward and both MC's were complete assholes to their other lovers. (NOTE: There is NO cheating. Both MC's are single for a long period of time before they get with other people, and make it very well known they are NOT together with their other lover before hooking back up together. Although they are assholes about it. Assholes!)

I can see a lot of people loving this story, the writing was great. Unfortunately it hit one of my nerves.

Awilk -never sleeps- says

The only great thing about this book was that it was a shorter read and so I didn't spend a great deal of time reading it. I also liked the cover.

The writing seemed very immature to me, as did the characters. I also feel it would of been greatly helped by some editing.

My dislike could very well just be me, so try it if you are interested, but it didn't work for me in any way.

Jeanie V. says

Beautifully written. I really enjoyed this book. Please let there be a part 2!!! Will there be a part 2?!?! If so, I'm definitely reading it also!!! :)

Tiffani W. says

First, let me say that I am NOT an angst person. At all. But I gave this book a chance, and I'm glad that I did. Honestly, I had to stop reading a few times because I kept crying like a big ol baby.

The boys were supremely frustrating, but that's what made it such a good read. A+ for Leighton Rose's great debut.

Chutchy says

This book was amazing! Tyler and Alex were in a relationship that wasn't working. Alex left but neither of them were able to move on. You know when you meet THE ONE. No one else will do. Circumstances and fate intervenes and they get a second chance. People are hurt along the way, but there is a HEA. What struck me as ironic was the fact that Tyler's grandmother dies. Today would have been my grandmother's birthday and she had the same impact on me, the in-laws, other family members and others and Grammy Bea. And guess what? We called her Grammie as well. I cried for Grammie and Grammie Bea. They were carbon copies of each other. I was feeling so down, I needed this book today.

Thank you Ms Rose for this book.

Looking forward to Riley and Donnie's story!

Vallie says

2.5 stars.

Well, there was plenty of steam in this book but it honestly read like high school drama. Really unbelievable high school drama. The characters were only defined by how the other and the relationship affected them. No other development than that. The plot was not very realistic and in general I can't say I was impressed. I liked the beginning with the break up scene, where Tyler and Alex have this god awful fight, and I was gearing up for angst heaven, but...didn't quite find it. Also, at times I felt that I was hearing the author's voice instead of the character's voice. When a character is well developed, it's a fascinating process to hear their thoughts and find out things about their personality. In this story, I didn't always feel like I was hearing Tyler or Alex talk, but the author forcing the words through them, if that makes sense..? Not to mention how annoying it was that these guys are supposed to be in their early 20s, but they keep referring to other people their age as "boys", what's up with that? I won't discourage people from trying this book, but I personally didn't really like it. It is the author's first book, so I am rounding the rating to 3. I probably won't read the sequel, which is most likely about Donny and Riley.

Kade Boehme says

This was really good. Felt a little rushed every once in a while, but it didn't really distract me enough to ruin the story.

OMG, though! This book stressed me the fuck out. That's a good thing for my angst addiction. Kudos. I was cringing and huffing and cussing the characters. These boys, tsk tsk tsk. Foolish. I definitely enjoyed.

Mona says

DNF @ 60%

I won't bore you with my reasons, I'll only say...there were too many wrongs, to make this a right for me.

ηι??ισρ?ι?ια {?ιηg???? & ?θ??η fσ??v??} says

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Really connected with the charcaters, hence why I liked something kinda seen before so much ;) I hope there's a book #2, and soon, as I know who'd I'd love to read about next.

Samantha says

This book broke my heart and then put it back together again! It brought me to tears at certain points, and then had me smiling like a fool!! I fell in love with these boys, and couldn't get enough of them. I could not ask for a better read! Bravo! Leighton Rose on your debut novel! I couldn't put it down and found myself wanting more! WHEN CAN I GET MY HANDS ON BOOK TWO?
