



The Last Letter

Rebecca Yarros

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Beckett,

If you're reading this, well, you know the last-letter drill. You made it. I didn't. Get off the guilt train, because I know if there was any chance you could have saved me, you would have.

I need one thing from you: get out of the army and get to Telluride.

My little sister Ella's raising the twins alone. She's too independent and won't accept help easily, but she has lost our grandmother, our parents, and now me. It's too much for anyone to endure. It's not fair.

And here's the kicker: there's something else you don't know that's tearing her family apart. She's going to need help.

So if I'm gone, that means I can't be there for Ella. I can't help them through this. But you can. So I'm begging you, as my best friend, go take care of my sister, my family.

Please don't make her go through it alone.

Ryan

The Last Letter Details

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From Reader Review The Last Letter for online ebook

Shannon says

*I'm still having such a hard time with this book, weeks later. I originally wasn't going to give this a star rating, or post my review on any retail sites, but that honestly goes against everything I'm always preaching about when it comes to reviews. I think it's unfair to other readers if all they see is glowing praise. And yes, everyone will relate and react to a book in different ways, but that's exactly why we shouldn't be afraid to post our thoughts, even if they are the complete opposite of everyone else. Just because someone adored a story doesn't negate the fact that I, or other readers, will have the complete opposite reaction. While I will not be posting what's under my spoiler tag on any of the other sites, I will be sharing some of my thoughts and feelings, and that this book was a journey I wish I had never taken.

Nope, nope, nope.

I'm about to go drink a big bottle of wine to try and block this book from my memory.

(view spoiler)

Days later and I'm still so angry about this book. I wish I could delete it from my memory as easily as it was deleted from my Kindle.

Jennifer Kyle says

[I would have preferred if this incident had to have happened that the hero died than what occurred.<\spoiler> (hide spoiler)]

Karen Mc says

"You don't really value something until you've lost it."

OH MY WOW!!! OH MY FEELS! Oh my tears! So many tissues from tears of the heart, tears from ugly crying, tears from Rebecca Yarros' *THE LAST LETTER*. Tears still fresh and still real from one of the realest stories I've met. A story that still dances in my dreams. The best and most moving military romance I've ever met. **A heartbreaker in the best of ways. *The Last Letter* took me on the biggest emotional journey, bringing words like honor, sacrifice, duty, and courage—the creed of my soldier and all soldiers—to**

life. I LOVED this romance and emotional journey so much!

As both a military wife and mama, I felt a deep and indescribable connection to these characters and this story, a military romance with one of the best heroes and heroines ever written. A story where I fell hard in love with the hero, Beckett, and heroine, Ella. A story of a hero and heroine saving each other. A story so raw and real. A story that stripped me bare where I was broken and bleeding, nearly brought me to my knees.

"I would take on armies for her, kill for her, or die for her."

My heart was ripped out of my chest—yet my soul swooned in a romance that touched every part of me. The pain became almost unbearable to read at times, feeling all too real, but that pain brought immeasurable pleasure too. I caught myself smiling through the tears, and holding my breath again and again. I was DESTROYED ... DECIMATED! **I cried my way through this book as my heart both shattered and soared. I felt every word. I FELT EVERYTHING!**

He used both hands to hold my head and kissed me until I couldn't remember my own name—only that I belonged to him.

The writing? It's off-the-charts powerful. I was so in awe with this author's superb storytelling. **Rebecca Yarros has set the bar so high for military romance that you'd be hard-pressed to find another writer who gives you a bird's eye view of the battlefield, the aftermath of war, the employment of courage and sacrifice, the fragility of friends and family, and what it truly means to love a soldier.** Yarros pulls out all the emotional stops—delivering big time in a DEVASTATINGLY BEAUTIFUL BOOK that shows the bravery among the broken.

"In case no one ever told you—you're worthy. Of love. Of family. Of home."

ACHINGLY EMOTIONAL and EXQUISITELY RAW, *The Last Letter* is a rip-open-your-heart roller coaster of a romance with the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. An epic story of love and loss with substance and soul. TRULY EXTRAORDINARY. Unequivocally beautiful. Unparalleled. Unforgettable. Unlike anything I've ever read. **I've never met a more stunning and soulful military**

romance.

”Just be my happy, and let me be yours.”

There aren't enough stars in the universe for this heartfelt and soul-striking story. Prepare to be blown away by this tear-jerker of a tale told in passionate and poignant love letters. ***The Last Letter* is THE best military romance and Rebecca Yarros' best book yet!!! A heartbreakingly beautiful book that I will forever feel. I just want to read it and feel it again and again.**

A must-read, top 2019, and lifetime romance!!!

????? soul-striking stars but worth all the stars in the universe

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Carrie says

The Last Letter by Rebecca Yarros is as much a heartbreaking as it is heartwarming contemporary romance. For anyone not familiar what the title, The Last Letter, is referring to the book is about a soldier who was killed in duty leaving a letter to be read after his death.

Beckett and Ryan were best friends serving together in the military with both men not having much in the way of family. Ryan did have his sister back home though and seeing Beckett with no one to communicate with he set up Ella and Beckett as pen pals. When Ryan was killed in active duty he left his last letter to his best friend asking him to take care of Ella.

Ella is a single mother to twins, a boy and a girl that she lives her life for and would do anything to protect. Having been left alone and pregnant and her only family left in her brother that joined the military Ella has had to fight to get where she is in life. Now Ella is also fighting for her daughter's life when she's diagnosed with cancer.

The story in this one actually begins with briefly showing Beckett and Ryan serving and the letters to Ella beginning but then heads to Beckett's arrival in Telluride in the present time. As the chapters begin happening in the present readers still get to read the letters written in the past between the chapters to get the backstory of how Beckett, Ryan and Ella all came to know one another.

The title alone hints of this being an emotional story but even with that hint I wasn't prepared for just how emotional it really was. Needless to say a box of tissues needs to be on hand while reading this book and each time you think the roller coaster of emotions is going to end it heads back up the hill to come crashing down yet again. I was hooked on every single page of this one and would highly recommend buckling up for the emotional ride.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Sophie "Beware Of The Reader" says

4,5 "you'll need tissues" stars

"Sometimes bad things happen. And there's no blame to be placed. You can't reason with the universe, no matter how sound your logic is. And we can either breathe through the pain or we can let it shape us."

Emotional rollercoaster!

The kids were fantastic, Ella was an incredibly courageous mom, Beckett was just perfect (no way such devotion and dedication exist else where can I meet such fine male specimen?), Havoc was my doggy superstar and my box of tissues is now empty!

This was a very quick rundown of what my thoughts were while reading this beautiful and dramatic story.

Now let's give some meat to that review without spoiling your fun.

From the synopsis you've guessed that someone has asked Beckett to take care of Ella. That someone is her brother.

He told Beckett she would fight him even if she needed him.

Well Ella did. Fight him. And need him.

Because what Ella had to go through was the most awful things that could happen

And she went through it for months! And no woman or man should be alone to face that ordeal. Yet Ella did and she was so strong!

Anyone would have crumpled.

But not her.

And when Beckett wanted to help her she pushed him away. **Because why bother relying on a man when they all left her right?**

Yet Beckett was nothing if not persistent! He would have run through fire for Ella or the kids. **In this story Beckett danced to Ella's tune.**

He came second. Always.

And that's why I was sometimes mad at Ella. Because as good as her reasons for mistrusting I still thought she was frozen in her resentment. Yet I knew she was simply still grieving all these losses. She was afraid to be hurt again. And she wanted to protect her kids.

But hey, what can I say?

I was team Beckett all along. And I hated to see him hurting. That man who carried so much guilt. That man who had always been alone. That man who did not think he was loveable. That man who ...

Beckett was just fantastic and each time he protected and cared for the kids my heart just fell for him further. **Gosh! So many time did it feel like my heart was caught in a vise when Beckett wanted acted like a dad to these fantastic and brave kids!**

I don't know you but I am a sucker for single parent stories. And when the kids are "done" just right, all cute, honest, blunt and brave I JUST MELT!!!!

"Is this what it feels like?" he whispered so quietly that I leaned down. "What it feels like?" I asked. "Having a dad?"

And don't start me on the "**graduation scene**"!!! I cried in the train (yes once again) and did all that I could to hide my tears behind my semi long hair!!!!

This book teaches that you don't need to be a soldier to be a warrior. Moms can be brave and spectacular.

Kids can be the bravest of superheroes.

Don't read this expecting fluffy and light. Because it tells you that life can be a b*tch sometimes and there is no rhyme no reasons.

Recommend it? Absolutely if you are looking for gorgeous stories bashing your little heart again and again. If you hate angsty reads ...abstain!

Thanks for reading!
Sophie

Find me on:

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Jenny••Steamy Reads Blog•• says

I finished this book nearly 2 weeks ago. Fourteen days and my heart is still shattered, yet so full of love for this story. It is so hard to put into words what this book is for me. And the love that I have for this author. I have followed Mrs. Yarros for years, read her books, loved them, and followed her blog on her life adventures. Let me say this, if you haven't read this author, you are truly missing out. There is so much heart in her stories, she lays her heart out in her words. And this book, by far my favorite so far.

I fell in love with words just like Beckett and Ella did. I fell for these characters, all of them. They all play and hold such an important part to the story. Beckett I love your commitment, i adore your love and passion. You stand true with your words, and do what you need to do to make up for your one mistake. I envy your patience and absolutely love your heart. Now Ella, I can say I've never loved the strength of a character as much as I do yours. You have so much strength, your heart is huge, it's battered, broken, shattered, yet it's so strong. So very strong that you still love with a light that is breathless. Keep finding your happy Ella♥?

In this book my heart was always on Maisie & Colt. Innocent, sweet, so lovable, and so deserving of a full life and loads of love.

It's hard to write a good review of this book without giving anything away. So let me end this little review with saying this, I am a mom to three beautiful children. I've learned from personal journeys that life is indeed short, to cherish every moment, and to never leave my children mad. Live for today and dream of tomorrow.

Well done, Mrs. Yarros you did so damn well, I'm in complete hangover mode ?♥?? Hands down a book I recommend to all of you that love a good romance. Some angst, lots of love, and yes loads of sobbing, but that once in a lifetime love that carries you.

The Book Bee says

????? S P O I L E R • F R E E • R E V I E W ?????

REVIEW: How do you rate *heartbreak* on a scale of 1-5?

"Funny thing about broken hearts - only the living have them."

I feel like I need to preface this review by saying that even though the teasers show romance, and the romance community spread this book around and embraced it, this is not a romance. This will not read that way either. There is a romance element, and it is beautifully romantic in hindsight, and in truth, and in reality.....but it's a very painful, sorrowful read.

I just finished this book and I will **never** be the same. This is a spoiler free review straight from my emotionally broken and torn heart, but it's going to be jumbled and raw and honest. For that, I apologize in advance. Only two other times have I audibly cried like I did with this one. It's rare, but I'm exhausted now...

I can honestly say I feel depressed.

I'm staring out the window.

The snow is falling.

I'm sitting on the couch, letting the tears fall down my cheeks untouched. Why stop them when more will come?

Staring off....not focused.....not even sure where to begin.

I know I always say I'm not a crier. I don't cry and I am usually strong enough to get through most subjects. But as cold-hearted as I pretend to be and as strong as I try to be while reading, this one broke me. The one recommendation I got for this book was to **FEEL**. And **FEEL** I did. I am pretty sure I swore I'd never read a book with this subject matter, and I'm confident it was because I was too afraid to **FEEL** this heartfelt pain. But the way Rebecca wrote this journey, the way her words invited me along to **FEEL**, I had no other choice but to cry it out. To suffer through the agonizing emotions. To **FEEL**. But I'll never willingly read a book with this subject matter ever again, though. Ever. She either set the bar really high, or scarred me very deeply....either way, never ever again.

I had to take a few breathers while I was reading this. Heartache, pain, and crazily enough: fear. Those are just some of the emotions I felt in spades, and they were accompanied by more, you guessed it - tears. The notes I took while reading this one now seem so inconsequential in comparison, after it's all said and done. But while I was reading it, I was sad, then happy. Angry at Ella and sad for Beckett. I was fuming because her rationale was way off. Yet, if I sat back and thought about it, I could understand where she was coming from because I am just as stubborn as she is. Her courage was beyond anything I have ever read and could imagine dealing with. Beckett's strength was probably the best book boyfriend material I've ever read. His allegiance and his honor, his truth in his understanding of love and loyalty. He was perfection, but he had a very selfishly-stubborn, or stubbornly-selfish, side to him that was admirable and I loved it. Moving. Painful. Heartbreaking. Compelling. The emotions I felt ran the gamut, of that I can't lie. I fell in love with their love. I cried when they hurt. I was angry at the universe and shocked at 'fate'. I have no words.

I can't recall the last time I wanted to DNF a book so late in the game, but I couldn't put it down because I was too freaking invested. There was a sad reality to the guilt, the regret, and the requirement to push

through. I'm not sure I was willing or even ready to face the guaranteed heartbreak I was sure to receive. But I can't lie and say that the place that Rebecca came from, and the story that she gave me? That is why I read the heavy stuff. That is why I like the deep reads. The intricacies in the story, the love that is unwavering, the pain that is indiscriminate....it was all dished up with a healthy dose of reality.

But if I could emote the beauty in her words, and how well she flowed, I'd be proud to have been able to share that much. With a fractured soul and a broken heart, I can tell you I won't recover from this one anytime soon. It's almost a hollow, sad feeling in my chest - resigned....as if I went through this entire ordeal myself, and I have no recourse. I'm tired and I feel like I could sleep for a week straight. But again, the power in Rebecca's words are written with the tears falling down my face.

I want to be mad, but I'm sad.

I want to be sad, but I'm angry.

I want to be angry, but I can't stop crying.

I can't stop crying.....

This is NOT a romance, but that love story was so beautiful.

This is NOT for the faint of heart, and I'm not sure I'm going to ever be the same.

I'm not sure I can recommend this book to many people in the romance community without a heavy warning. Again, it's not a romance and it's not something I would willingly spring on anyone without a warning, but I can't ruin the journey for someone who understands that this is Contemporary Fiction. I likened it to Contemporary Depression.

These aren't the kind of emotions I enjoy from a book. These aren't the kind of tears I enjoy from reading a book. But, having said that, I am glad I weathered through it. I'm glad I felt it. And if I'm honest with myself, I loved the journey. But again, **never** will I ever read this subject again.

This story was a lesson on living in the now. This was a lesson on seeing the truth in a love destined to withstand life's curveballs. But most of all, this was a lesson to never take anything for granted. Hindsight is always 2/20.

To borrow your words, Rebecca: *You don't know me, but you touched me.*

"You can't reason with the universe, no matter how sound your logic is.

~BEE

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KOBO: <http://bit.ly/2OAOjxz>

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The first thing I ever read of Rebecca's was a blog post she posted on Twitter recently. I came across it and after reading it, I knew that not only was this story going to be an emotional one, but it was going to be told with intimate knowledge of many of the scenarios and circumstances that came into play in this book. My hats off to her. Much respect to her. My thankfulness knows no end.

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Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says

The tragedy in this story is overkill. I expected it to be emotional and even upsetting. Her brother, a special ops soldier, had just died during his assignment, she grew up without her parents - they'd died when she was a toddler, her grandmother has passed away only a short time ago. Then another strike - she learned that her daughter had cancer. This all in itself is a lot to deal with for a single mom. And I would have been fine with Ella dealing with her lot.

But: in the last ten percent she had to deal with another loss, one that totally blindsided the reader - it came completely out of no-where and added nothing to the story or the character growth. And that made me so freaking mad, I can't even. This last tragedy was added only for tragedy's sake, for it to become a sobfest and I really think it was a cheap shot only for the benefit to make more money.

I also didn't think it was realistic. I know nothing in life is guaranteed but this really went overboard with tragic themes. Did Rebecca Yarros have a list she could check off the tragedies?

I know there will be people who will enjoy *The Last Letter* but I wasn't one of them.

This book should come with a trigger warning. There are mothers out there who have to deal with the loss of a child or whose children are battling cancer. They shouldn't go into this book without knowing what to expect.

Debra says

4.5 stars

Wear waterproof mascara while reading this book. Seriously, waterproof mascara and tissues. If you need a good cry, read this book. Anyone remember seeing Tammy Taye Bakker cry with mascara running down her face on TV? That was pretty much me while reading this book. Cry-a-rama occurred at my house today.

So yeah, I bawled. I also really enjoyed this book that ripped my heart out. Plus, this was a romance book folks. Geeze Louise is all I can say. This one had heart and soul. The long and short of it is that Ryan and Chaos (Beckett) are best friends serving in the military. Ryan decided to have Beckett write to his sister Ella (and vice versa) as Beckett did not have any family and received no letters. So, a pen pal relationship began. Beckett is used to being alone but loves receiving the letters as he learns that being connected to another person is not a bad thing. That it is possible to connect with someone he has never met.

Ella is a single mother to twins who is devastated when her daughter is diagnosed with Cancer. She is trying to hold it all together, take care of her children, fight with insurance, run a business and write to Chaos (Beckett). She is used to doing everything on her own, but maybe this time, she might need someone to hold her up and lessen her burden.

WOWZA! Is all I can say. This book is told in the present and each chapter also has a letter either written to

Chaos from Ella or to Ella from Chaos. When Beckett shows up at her door, the reader knows he is Chaos, but Ella does not. As I stated this is a romance, but it is also so much more.

I inhaled this book and I am so glad I did not mull over too many reviews before reading this. The reviews are mixed, and I get it. This is an emotional book which leaves the reader wondering, just how much more can one person take? The main characters in this book are extremely like-able and I rooted for every single one. Which is what pulls on the heartstrings during this book. Their actions and reactions felt real and believable. Ella and Beckett are both good people, the kids are adorable and Havoc, the retired Military dog could warm anyone's heart. Yarros knows how to write characters that will steal the readers heart, right before she rips it out, then places it back in your chest.

The writing was also wonderful and pulled me into this story and deposited me in Telluride next to the lake. So, I mentioned the crying, but it's not all sad. There are happy moments and fun moments. Moments I wanted to cheer with the characters and moments I was happy that good things were finally happening. But this book is about the good times and the love that can come out of heartache. It is about loss, family, love, falling in love, responsibility, grief, heartache and hope. The Author tackles many heavy subjects in this book with grace. This is a gritty, soft, warm, emotional, devastating, sad, hopeful, heartbreaking, sweet and riveting book. I could not put this book down.

Loved this book. I have a feeling I will be thinking about this book for some time. Romance/women's fiction/cry fest...call it what you want. I thought it was fantastic and boy did it pull at my heartstrings.

Thank you to Entangled Publishing, LLC and NetGalley who provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All the thoughts and opinions are my own.

Gina L. Maxwell says

This book is indescribably beautiful. The sheer genius of how Rebecca weaves the letters into the story to match up w/the poignancy of the corresponding chapters... I have no words. None that would do it justice, anyway. This book will most definitely rip your heart out. But then it puts it back in & sweetly sews you back together. It will leave its mark on your soul, as Rebecca intended, & hopefully you'll be all the better for it. I know I am. ?

Dri ☆ says

★ 3 STARS ★

????????????????????????????

“I didn’t know how to trust the appearance of sunshine after living in a perpetual hurricane.”

MY GOD!

It's been a long time since I've cried so much.

Livros envolvendo militares são os que eu mais gosto de ler! Eu estava à espera deste há meses, por isso assim que pude, comecei a leitura.

Ella e Beckett foram personagens da qual senti simpatia logo de início. Embora entre os dois, o meu preferido tenha sido ele. Personagem maravilhoso, que mesmo com seus defeitos, falhas e culpas, ainda assim ao meu ver de modo geral, foi perfeito.

Não que eu não tenha gostado da mocinha, pelo contrário, como mãe, foi impossível não me colocar em seu lugar ou sentir suas dores, seus medos e suas lutas. E mesmo me conectando com ela, em alguns momentos senti uma breve irritação pelos seus atos e o modo como lidou com alguns acontecimentos.

Eu gostei bastante de como o relacionamento deles iniciou e como foi progredindo ao decorrer da trama. Especialmente em acompanhar a interação do Beckett com os gêmeos.

Apesar de eu ter curtido muito a história de maneira geral, ficou difícil de ignorar os pontos que me incomodaram. A escrita e narrativa em si são boas e livro tem um ritmo razoavelmente bom. Entretanto, pra mim, houve uma certa repetição, por exemplo, muitos pensamentos internos repetitivos e isso acabou tornando a leitura um pouco cansativa.

E eu não sei se é exatamente por esse motivo que achei que a história se arrastou demais em partes relativamente desnecessárias, enquanto que nas que eram e seriam realmente importantes quase não há muita elaboração.

Eu gosto de um bom drama, mas aqui eu tive a sensação de que um drama foi se empilhando em cima do outro. Sabe quando estrapola e fica exagerado?

Mesmo depois de muitas lágrimas, inúmeros soluços e mais lágrimas. Mesmo após meu coração ter ficado estraçalhado e em mil pedaços, ainda assim, não concordo e aceito o motivo que me fez sentir tamanha dor.

Pra mim não houve lógica ou coerência. Não era necessário. Claro que a autora teve seus motivos e nem todo livro é de fato do jeito que esperamos ou queremos, porém até agora eu não consigo digerir isso.

Se esse livro foi especial? Não sei ao certo dizer até que ponto ou o quanto foi. Foi uma leitura que ao finalizar não me deixou aquele sentimento feliz, sabe? Me deixou em conflito e dividida... Não detestei, porém não amei tanto quanto imaginei que iria.

A única certeza que tenho é que alguns personagens se tornaram preciosos e ganharam um espaço enorme no meu coração.

Helena Hunting says

This book slayed the hell out of me.

A couple of things you should know about me and reading:

1. I do most of my reading on a treadmill or just before I go to sleep.
2. I cry at pretty much every Disney movie. I also cried all the way through the movie Wonder.

As someone who writes primarily romantic comedy I enjoy a good angsty read that makes me tear up. That being said, I cried through a good 50% of this book, which as you might have guessed, makes running and reading nearly impossible and also slightly dangerous. Also, crying in public as an adult is embarrassing.

Hence the reason I had to stop reading on the treadmill. Instead I found myself staying up way too late, trying to silent-cry beside my blissfully oblivious and happily snoring husband so I could finish the heartbreakingly gorgeous story.

I've tried to talk to no fewer than half a dozen people about this book and I've choked up every time and done that flaily hand thing where I wave it in front of my face as if that's going to help keep my emotions from leaking out of my eyes.

The Last Letter isn't just a romance, although there are certainly all the romantic elements that get your heart racing, starting with Beckett Gentry who is absolutely gorgeous and also absolutely broken. He's the most swoon worthy hero in the history of Alpha(ish) heroes.

But beyond the hero you will most definitely fall in love with, is a story that is so heartbreaking I often had to read a chapter and set the book down so I could just . . . breathe for a minute. Ella, our heroine is just as broken as our hero, she's lost her entire family, her brother and as if she hasn't been through enough already, she's dealt yet another blow that could devastate her entire world.

I don't think I've read a story with so many threads crossing over each other, such an intricate series of lives and events that have brought these two lost souls to each other. I've never been so gutted, so heart wrenchingly devastated and just so mesmerized by the incredible storytelling, and the emotional knife that I was balanced on so precariously throughout the entire story.

The Last Letter is so much more than a romance. It's a testament to the strength of bonds forged from trauma and loyalty. It's an exploration of motherhood and the importance of family. But above all, it's a story of survival, forgiveness, and the healing power of unconditional love.

It's been nearly a month since I finished reading The Last Letter and I still tear up when I think about it. I'm forever changed by this story. Arm yourself with tissues and some chocolate and I'll hold your hand through the experience.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

No Rating

*****SPOILERS DON'T READ IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW*****

Sorry. I can't do it. DNF at 9% That's right 9%. Why you ask at only 9% would I quit on a book. Well let me tell you. I signed up for a heart melting and maybe a little breaking book about two army friends and one dying and the other taking care of the dead one's sister. I knew going into this the brother would die. But 7% into it and I could already see where this book was going and I didn't like it. Still I held out hope. At 9% when the drs tell Ella that her 5 year old daughter has a very aggressive and advanced cancer, I stopped reading and headed to goodreads for some spoilers. Because I knew, I just KNEW that a child was gonna die. Sure enough Three spoiler reviews later and I knew I could not finish this book. NOPE! I can read dark, dark books. I can handle rape, torture, murder, death, sadness you name it but I can't do children's deaths. I just can't it's a hard red line for me. I don't want to read a book that makes me depressed.

I'm a mom of a child who has lots of health issues. I remember sitting in the hospital waiting as my son at one years old, got MRIs CAT scans to see if a brain tumor was causing his seizures and it was one of the worst time of my life. Thank the Lord he didn't have a tumor, but he still has PVL, epilepsy, and mild CP. I don't want to be reminded of that time in my life when I sat around wondering what was wrong with my baby. Doing the what ifs. I don't want to live that kind of sadness. Also I want to just add a small note to all authors. I understand that no one wants to give away spoilers in their books, and I am not a reader that thinks everything should have a trigger warning but when it comes to child death I think there should be a small warning on the synopsis. I don't know how it can be worded so that it doesn't give away major plot lines, but as a reader I felt blindsided by this book. I have to say that if I had read the whole book I would have been mad. If I had known there was a child's death in this book I would never had requested it from netgalley. I hate DNFin books, but I just can't with this subject!

Sandra ~ ♥ Cross My Heart ♥ says

A beautiful, heartfelt story with surprising depth. Grab tissues and settle in for the long haul because you won't be able to put this one down, and I guarantee you'll finish it crying. But please don't let that stop you from reading this beautifully written, emotionally charged story that now sits on my Favorites Shelf. It's truly an experience - a deeply rooted, character-based story that pushed all my buttons. The title, *The Last Letter*, is woven into the storyline in more ways than one. I found myself sitting long after I finished - thinking about this story and its relevance. Please avoid all spoilers and read this book. I don't think it'll be the same if you know how the story plays out when you begin.

I'll briefly set up the story by saying that Beckett and Ryan are friends serving in the military - hard-core special ops service men. Ryan suggests to his younger sister Ella that she should write deployment letters to Chaos (Beckett's call name) because he has no one. She begins sharing the highs and lows of her life through letters to Chaos - without ever knowing his real name or seeing a picture of him. Eventually, events lead Chaos to start writing her back, and a life altering connection is gradually forged. As you can tell from the synopsis/blurb, Ryan doesn't make it home, but he leaves a letter for Beckett asking him to take care Ella and her five year old twins, Maisie & Colt. It's complicated as Beckett/Chaos is carrying a lot of guilt and baggage. I'm not going to say more about the story that develops. It has so much more depth and meaning than I first imagined as it explores love, loss, perseverance, survival, heartache, and the trust and courage it takes, in yourself and others, to accept what you can't change and search for a way out of the darkness when your load becomes too heavy. It's a story with great passion exploring the many different connections

between people, and the lasting effect they have on their lives - including the rich rewards and high price of loving with everything you've got. I know I'm being vague, but as I said earlier - there's a reason for that. Read the book. I'll share one quote:

"I'd forgotten what this feels like."

"Being hugged?" My voice was sandpaper-rough.

"Being held together." (Quote from *The Last Letter*)

I don't want to leave the impression that *The Last Letter* is all sadness and tears, it's not. There's so much love and laughter in heart-touching scenes with a broken but strong hero and heroine, adorable, scene-stealing children, a protective but lovable military dog named Havoc, passionate romance, and a support cast that lends so much to the telling of the story. The writing is beautiful and the tie-in of the letters, revealed to readers at the beginning of each chapter, is genius. Souls are bared, hearts are lost, tears are shed . . . and hope springs eternal. In my opinion, Yarros does a brilliant job of handling the difficult subject matter thus bringing awareness to a subject near and dear to many parents' hearts. I highly recommend this book. It is on my Favorites Shelf. An undeniable Must Read!

*Many thanks to Entangled: Amara for an arc of this book.

**Reviewed at Cross My Heart Reviews

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

THE LAST LETTER: Is a full length romance novel by new to me author Rebecca Yarros. Spoken in 'Dual POV's.

MY REVIEW: can also be found on my blog:

► **KITTY KATS CRAZY ABOUT BOOKS** Chaos is a special ops with his trusty Labrador retriever Havoc by his side, being abandoned by his mother he bounced from foster home to foster home most of his life, until he was of age to enlist, having no family of his own his best friend Ryan also serving time in the military convinces his younger sister Ella to write deployment letters to Chaos since he receives no letters from the outside world.

Ella MacKenzie is a twenty-four year old single mother of two five year old twins (a girl Maisie and Colt a boy *One soul split between two bodies*), and owner of a quaint B&B with fifteen secluded cabins on a vast two hundred acre property called Solitude in Telluride Colorado, which she took over when her Grandmother died.

It was via these letters that these two connected, by words alone they became each others confidante, which Ella needed more than anything in the on coming months when things get turned upside down as she confesses all her highs and lows to a man she has never even seen a photo of and only given his call name Chaos.

Somewhere between letter number one and letter number twenty-four, I'd fallen in love with her. Fallen for her words, her strength, her insight and kindness, her grace under impossible circumstances, her love for her children, and her determination to stand on her own.

As the synopsis divulges, Ryan is killed in active duty where he leaves his last letter to his best friend

Beckett pleading that he look after Ella and the kids which sees Beckett staying in one of Ella's cabins for the next seven months where he slowly infiltrates himself in Ella's and the kids lives. Beckett is a godsend, he steps in and becomes her pillar of strength during a time of need, because she's going to have to lean on him to get through what life has thrown at her.

I'm a sucker for military reads, they always tend to hit the heart hard. This book was one of my most highly anticipated books of February, from a new to me author. I couldn't wait to get my hands on it. Once I started, I couldn't put it down, I devoured it, inhaled it, gobbled it up like I'd not eaten for years, loving the words this author shared with us.

Reading through this I knew that I was going to be in a world of pain, and then just when I thought we'd put all that behind us I was hit with a whammy, the pain that shot through my heart was unbearable, it made for hard reading, the tears came quickly, my heart broke in half, how much could one character endure because this book was brutal, it took no prisoners, just loved ones. It definitely put me through my paces, threw everything it could at me, all the feels and heartbreak walked hand in hand as it brought me to my knees, nothing prepared me for this book.

I cried, I sighed, I swooned, I raged, I loved..

This is just the beginning for me when it comes to this author, I can't wait to read more by her.

* Teaser is off the authors facebook page *
