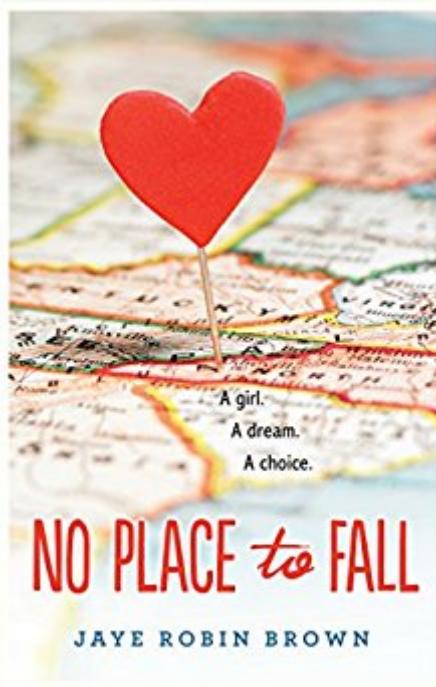


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No Place To Fall



Synopsis

The Sky Is Everywhere meets This Lullaby in a sexy and poignant debut novel about family, friendships, and first romance. Amber Vaughn is a good girl. She sings solos at church, babysits her nephew after school, and spends Friday nights hanging out at the house of her best friend, Devon. But when she learns about an audition at a prestigious arts school, Amber decides that her dream—*to sing on bigger stages*—could also be her ticket to a new life. Devon's older brother, Will, helps Amber prepare for her one chance to try out. The more time Will and Amber spend together, the more complicated their relationship becomes . . . and Amber starts to wonder if she's such a good girl, after all. Then, in an afternoon, the bottom drops out of her family's world—and Amber is faced with an impossible choice between her promise as an artist and the people she loves. Amber always thought she knew what a good girl would do. But between right and wrong, there's a whole world of possibilities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It has been a long time since I loved a book like I loved this one. I spent a lot of my formative years traipsing through the trails of western North Carolina, and Amber Vaughn was as alive to me as many of my friends from high school. Jaye Robin Brown created the most authentic sense of place and people. It didn't hurt that I recognized 90% of the songs Amber sang for her audition practices. I could hear the banjo playing in my head as I read. The friendships were so complex and real. The ups and downs of high school friends are always so messy, and Jaye did a fantastic job of showing this. And the romance! Oh, the romance. I pictured Will as a young Scott Avett. Even when he made a total dick move (or two), just like a high school boy, I was rooting for him to redeem himself.

There's something about those banjo boys. It took guts to tell this story, and I absolutely LOVE that the author didn't shy away from the real issues that teenagers face. She didn't pigeonhole her characters. It isn't just the sluts who have sex. Or the stoners who try drugs. And it most certainly isn't just the "bad" kids who make bad decisions. Even Sammy, whom I hated with the fiery passion of an untreated urinary tract infection, showed little glimpses of humanity here and there. I won't write a complete synopsis here, since others have already done it. I will suffice it to say that Jaye Robin Brown will be an automatic purchase for me from here on out. FIVE ENTHUSIASTIC STARS.

Love. Love, love, love, love! I'm a huge fan of character-driven novels and this one certainly didn't disappoint! The voice jumped out at me from page one and never let go. The writing was excellent and clean. The southern charm, twang, and location felt authentic and real, as did the story. And don't even get me started on Will! *sigh* All in all, just a great story. My heart ached for the main character, Amber, throughout and I was constantly on the edge of my seat, worried for her, while at the same time flying through the pages, dying to know how it would all turn out. And not just for Amber. There were so many great characters to love (Devon! Mama! Sean! C.A!) that I was invested in each of them and their intertwined storylines. It's interesting how few YA novels I've read that are set in small towns in the south. It was refreshing. I can't wait to read more by this fabulous author, who gets major bonus points for mentioning both Boone AND Appalachian State, my alma mater. Well done. My only complaint? Now I miss the characters.

Fabulous! Can't believe it's a first book by Ms. Brown! Her characters are so wonderfully developed and realistic. I love YA books with flawed yet endearing characters. I work with teens who are multi-faceted risk-takers who sometimes behave the exact opposite of their true nature. Others have "found themselves" already and are ready to fight for who they are. Ms. Brown has fleshed out her characters until they practically burst from the page. She has captured teen culture to a tee! I

enjoyed the plot complications, and my heart went out to Amber. Overall, outstanding first novel. This coming-of-age novel was wonderful and I plan to be first in line for her second novel. It's clear she not only knows teens, but understands them and writes from the heart. Kudos!

NO PLACE TO FALL by Jaye Robin Brown is a fast read, one I consumed quickly (and you will too!) and enjoyed every moment. That isn't to say that this is a fluffy read; it tackles some very serious issues--a dysfunctional family, drug use, small town tensions, love and loyalty--but they're handled well and in a way that made me root for Amber. Jaye Robin Brown is a flawless writer and I can't wait to see what she writes next.

Amber is gifted with a beautiful, naturally soaring voice, just possibly her ticket to a special school of the arts and a way out of the shambles of her life. But Amber makes an impetuous choice, one that could ruin not only her life, but the lives of those she loves. This well-written story both warns and uplifts. Nicely done.

If you like bluegrass and Dolly Parton and Oh Brother, Where Art Thou, you'll like NPtF. Amber's voice will have you reading with a twang. Brown is a lyrical writer and captures rural poor realistically.

This is such a gorgeous, atmospheric read! I could just hear Amber's southern voice in my head. Some of the imagery is just smack-down beautiful, and the story itself is filled with as much heartbreak as hope. A must-read for contemporary YA fans!

Character development was really good, just didn't care for the story at all.

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