



# Love and Other Train Wrecks

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A twenty-four-hour romance about two teens who meet—and perhaps change their minds about love—on a train ride to Upstate New York in the middle of a snowstorm

*One train ride. Two strangers.*

**Noah** is a hopeless romantic. He's heading back home for one last chance with his first love, whom he broke up with when he went off to college.

**Ammy** doesn't believe in true love—her parents being prime examples. She's escaping from a mom who can't take care of her to a dad who may not even want her. That is, until one winter night when Noah and Ammy find themselves in the same Amtrak car heading to Upstate New York.

After a train-wreck first encounter between the two of them, the Amtrak train suddenly breaks down due to a snowstorm. Desperate to make it to their destinations, Noah and Ammy have no other option but to travel together. What starts off as a minor detour turns into the whirlwind journey of a lifetime, and over the course of the night they fall in love. But come morning their adventure takes an unexpected turn for the worst. Can one night can really change how they feel about love...and the course of their lives forever?

## Love and Other Train Wrecks Details

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Author : Leah Konen

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# From Reader Review Love and Other Train Wrecks for online ebook

## Rebecca says

The only thing I liked about this book was its cover.

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## Laurence R. says

This is a really short and sweet novel! I was a bit annoyed by the characters, especially by Ammy, but I still enjoyed the story.

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## Mary Judson says

Like so many, Love and Other Train Wrecks started out fresh and interesting and cute. Then it turned for the worse into a cheesy, unimaginative waste of reading time. The characters were cliché, stupid, and selfish. And, I think, unrealistic. Instead of cheering on the main characters towards love and each other, I was thinking they'd honestly be better apart. But, hey, another book added toward my reading challenge goal.

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## Ana says

This was a cute read and I was really invested in the characters and their backstory. But I was a little lukewarm on them together and the ending was too neatly wrapped up. It was still good so I look forward to more from this author.

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## Danielle (Life of a Literary Nerd) says

### 2.75 Stars

*"'Here goes,' I say, without turning to her.  
I slide the safety latch on the bottom. Then I grab the long handle in the middle. It turns under my weight, easier than it should be. The door opens, and there it is. The whole world in front of us.  
Our adventure, beckoning."*

This is a good winter season contemporary, but I only really connected with one half of the couple, so the entire story felt a bit flat for me. I love the meeting and sense of serendipitous adventure that Ammy and Noah find themselves in - even with the many snags, their journey is nice to see. And I did think the romance was sweet and fluffy, with a healthy dose of snarky and angst. Unfortunately, I wasn't the biggest fan of

Ammy. I just didn't really connect with her, and our personalities didn't mesh well. Plus, I found her to be annoyingly indignant at times, and it kinda rubbed me the wrong way. Despite not loving Ammy, I thought the story was nice and enjoyable for the most part.

I received a copy of the book from Katherine Tegen Books via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Samantha (WLABB) says**

I really enjoyed Konen's last book, *The Romantics*, and had high hopes for this book. I am happy to report, that *Love and Other Train Wrecks* delighted me in many of the same ways.

- Pro: Noah was a sweet cupcake and I loved him. He was not perfect, as I found out, but he had a huge and beautiful, if slightly misguided, heart.
- Pro: I loved the dynamic between Ammy and Noah. Eavesdropping on their conversations was quite a treat, and seeing them go from strangers to enemies to friends to more warmed my heart.
- Pro: Both Ammy and Noah were nursing some serious guilt, and Konen's slow reveal really had quite an impact.
- Pro: This was a physical and emotional journey for both Ammy and Noah. As they shared their stories with each other, they realized a lot of important things about themselves.
- Pro: There is a lot of bookish love in this story, as both Ammy and Noah are book lovers. I have to award bonus points for that.
- Pro: There were some humorous travel snafus a la *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*. I felt bad to for Ammy and Noah, but I also couldn't hold back my laughter.
- Pro: The dual point of view was used quite well, and I was especially fond of when Konen had those little overlaps. I love when we get to experience the same moment from both POVs.
- Pro: I am going to give Konen a round of applause for that big speed bump she threw in there. I did NOT see that coming.
- Pro: The ending is a big YES! from me. If you read this, you will understand a why I liked it so much. (hint: I got closure.)

Overall: This was a trip worth taking! I really enjoyed making this journey with Ammy and Noah as each of them "unpacked" some of their emotional luggage and filled in those spaces with much better things.

\*I would like to thank the publisher for the review copy of this book.

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## Shannon (It Starts At Midnight) says

You can find the full review and all the fancy and/or randomness that accompanies it at [It Starts at Midnight](#)

2.5\*

I have some of the mixed feelings about this particular book. Obviously the best way to decipher said feelings is with a good old fashioned list.

### Things I Liked:

**A train trip!** Who doesn't love that idea, it sounds so *fun*, and kind of a cute, old-fashioned way to meet.

**Shenanigans ensue.** Obviously, a mundane train ride does not a novel make. So some stuff has to happen that interrupts said comfy ride. And our main characters have to figure out what to do about it.

**Character development for the win!** I did not really love either character in the beginning. Ammy was pretty full of herself, and I couldn't decide if Noah was a doormat or just an outright fool. But, as the book goes on, the characters do begin to realize some things about themselves, so that's good news.

**It was a super quick book and held my attention.**

### Things I Did Not:

**So. Much. *The Hunger Games* Hate.** At first, I was mildly irritated, because hi, that is my favorite series of all time, and the characters spend half the damn trip (fine, I am mildly exaggerating, shh) making fun of the books, the movies, and basically using it as a way to insult one another. I understand full well that this is a *huge* personal preference issue, but I kind of don't like the idea demeaning anyone based on something that they enjoy? It just rubs me the wrong way. And honestly, in a **book**, it irritates me to be making fun of *another book*. I could be reading too much into it, sure, but it aggravated me and this is my review, so there you have it.

**This is a very character driven book, and I didn't care for the characters.** Ammy is just... ugh. Look, you guys know I am usually *super* lenient with characters and flaws, because who among us doesn't have flaws. But Ammy was too irritating, too self absorbed, and I just couldn't handle her. Especially while she was making fun of my favorite books. Noah was running around trying to be a different person for some ex-girlfriend. Their relationship was totally unhealthy, and I wanted to yell at him. But he was okay, he didn't really bug me like Ammy did. Like I am totally down with characters having to grow and learn, like Noah. Otherwise, what's the point of the book? But I think for me to like Ammy, she would have needed a personality transplant, and I guess I missed that chapter.

**Bottom Line:** In a super character driven novel like this, in which we're really only seeing the two main characters, it's hard to love the book if you don't connect to them. And I kind of didn't.

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## Stephanie says

This book felt like...well, a train wreck. In order to write a review that is as concise as possible (I hope), I'm going to divide my observations into three main areas. First up:

### Characters

Um...so I thought Ammy was awful pretty much from the time she mocked *The Hunger Games* right up until the end of the book. Her snobby taste in literature aside, she's one of those feminists who apparently thinks it's okay to make rude comments to men for reinforcing antiquated gender norms by daring to (gasp!) politely offer to carry her luggage (through a freaking snowstorm). The nerve!

Now, of course, offering to carry Ammy's luggage isn't the only horrifyingly masculine sin Noah managed to commit throughout the course of this book, and Ammy was kind enough to call him on all of them - including blaming him for a ridiculous set of circumstances that was as much out of his control as it was out of hers. And the worst - the absolute *worst* part is that Noah bought all of it hook, line, and sinker. He spent half the book apologizing for things he never should have had to apologize for while Ammy used her crappy home life and a pair of X chromosomes to justify her crappy treatment of him without ever really apologizing.

And I just can't. Call me crazy, but I think it's possible to raise a generation of strong women without bringing men down in the process, and I fully believe you don't do that by encouraging behavior like Ammy's.

The irony is that Noah spends half the book waxing poetic about his ex-girlfriend - a girl he eventually comes to realize wasn't a good person for him to be with because she couldn't love him as he was - while simultaneously falling into lust with a girl who treats him just as badly, if for different reasons. He was basically a doormat who sold his soul for a chance to make out with a girl he'd known for less than twelve hours.

### Story Structure

So, I actually read the first five chapters of this book via Epic Reads First Five and *liked them*, which is why I checked this book out from the library in the first place. However, after how disastrously I reacted to Nicola Yoon's *The Sun is Also a Star*, which builds a(n) unrealistic romance along a similarly condensed timeline, I should have known better.

Look, I'll buy that two people can meet under a difficult set of circumstances and then forge a connection that will eventually lead to a meaningful relationship (and maybe, just maybe, to a forever romance), but I just can't swallow "meant to be" and "she's the one" on the basis of a string of bad decisions and some Super-8-Motel-Cheetos-for-dinner-style making out. I need more than that. And this book didn't deliver.

### Reality of the Physical Circumstances

Okay, so I admit I'm a big stickler for small details, especially in books that are set in the real world. Bend reality all you want in a fantasy or a futuristic sci-fi world, but please, for all that's holy, have someone reality check your contemporary real-world novels before you publish them.

I may live in Maryland, where an inch of snow shuts down schools for the day because we don't have the experience or infrastructure to deal well with snow events, but I've been driving for 22 years. While I'm sure they deal with snow in New York better than they do here, I'm still not buying for a minute that an Enterprise

would rent a Ford Mustang (presumably still a rear wheel drive vehicle, as most sports cars are) to two teenagers during a snowstorm that shut down the *freaking bus line*. Or that an entire 55-mile stretch of roads would be magically cleared by snowplows (which are never once mentioned in the course of the book) overnight following a snowstorm that continued at least into late-evening.

Nor do I believe that Noah and Ammy would have traveled 20 miles in 25 minutes during said snowstorm. Most people would have found a hotel in town instead of trying to drive home to begin with, especially given that both of them would have been too late for their respective engagements anyway. And that's not even taking into account the ridiculous sequence of events that led up to that point (such as how they managed to sneak off of a stalled Amtrack train without setting off a buttload of alarms) or the fact that apparently, in this book, the sun has fully risen by 7:02 a.m. in early January in New York (or at least risen enough to warm up a hotel room and blind someone walking out the door of said hotel room).

Does it really take that much extra time to read for these kinds of details? To Google something as simple as what time the sun rises in early January in New York (oh, hey, I did it just this afternoon and found out that the sun rose at 7:19 a.m. this morning, January 23rd, which is three whole weeks *after* the day this book takes place)? Or to craft a story that doesn't depend so heavily on events that simply wouldn't happen in real life?

Maybe this is a nitpick on my part, maybe most people don't care, but dear Lord, I do.

So, yeah, I guess that's about it.

Bottom line: Definitely not my kind of book.

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## **Stacee says**

I do enjoy a story with a known and specific time frame to it, so I was pretty eager to get to it.

I liked Noah. He's sweet and maybe a bit nerdy, but pretty adorable. Ammy is smart and loyal and having a hard time with what's going on in her life. Because of that, she lashes out. A lot. So much that I struggled to root for her.

Plot wise, it was like a YA Planes, Trains, and Automobiles. I enjoyed all of the little mishaps and obstacles they had to deal with. There is a slight reveal that I wasn't expecting and how that's handled was frustrating and satisfying at the same time.

Overall, I did want to love this book like crazy, but just couldn't fully get behind Amy's journey.

**\*\*Huge thanks to Katherine Tegen Books for providing the arc free of charge\*\***

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## **Zoe Stewart (yerabooknerdzoe) says**

This was so cute! I was wavering between a 4.5 and a 5, but the 5 won out! The characters really bothered me at the beginning. They were so. fucking. stupid. but they really grew on me. I got so angry at their

thinking sometimes until I realized I've thought the exact same things. The only difference between us is that I was their age 6/7 years ago, and I've had time to realize how shitty that kind of thinking is. They were me when I was a teenager. Once I took a step back and put myself back in that mindset, I was less angry and much more understanding.

This is the second book by Leah Konen I've read, and I've loved both of them!

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### **Chelsea says**

Noah is a precious little bun that just needs to be protected at all costs. I'm kind of confused at how I want to rate this because it did make me think it was so stinking cute but it kind of was just an alright kind of story. So I think 3 stars its gonna be which makes me sad but it seems about right.

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### **Sabina says**

Kone?n? pravý romantický váno?ní p?íb?h! D?j se odehrává na za?átku ledna a opravdu m? ?etba bavila. Oba hlavní hrdinové byli sympati?tí a milý a jejich dobrodružství jsem zhltna jako malinu. Opravdu mohu jen a jen doporu?it. K této knize se ur?it? vrátím.

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### **Kristy Drážovská says**

Som nadšená. Jednu hviezdi?ku s?ahujem, len za za?iatok, ktorý mi išiel pomalšie, no spôsobené to je najmä tým, že som nemala práve náladu na takú sladkú romantiku. Inak sa mi to ?ítalo jedna rados?. Bolo to milu?ké, krásne a rozhovoroy o knižkach mi zahriali srdie?ko. Príbeh, ako z rozprávky.

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### **jessica says**

this was an impulsive pick up at the library because it sounded very cute, but unfortunately i was left with just an 'okay' feeling, overall. i think the main reason was i failed to connect with, or even like, ammys character. she really wore on my patience throughout the book. also, this was very insta-lovey and sometimes that works with meet-cutes, but it didnt for me in this particular case. however, it was enough of a decent story that i wanted to finish it, so that definitely says something!

*2.5 stars*

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### **Jaye Berry says**

Not even halfway done when I decided to write this review and haven't changed anything since then, if that tells you anything.



*Love and Other Train Wrecks* begins on a train with Ammy heading to her father's wedding with his new wife. On the train she meets Noah, a boy on his way home to try to win his ex-girlfriend back, with flowers and a romantic plan in hand. A massive snowstorm is happening and soon the train breaks down. With a leap of faith, Ammy and Noah head off the train trying to find other ways to get back home in time.

I'm just not a fan. I went into this book expecting a nice fun and cute YA read. What I got wasn't any of those things, except for the fact that this book is indeed YA. My issue might start from the fact that I don't like 24 hour romance books in the first place. They are the ultimate of insta-love and I will never be behind it. If I knew this was one of those before I started, I might not have bothered.

The thing is, the romance is not good at all, and neither are the two main characters together. Ammy is cynical about love while Noah is a hopeless romantic. Ammy is also pretty pretentious and rude almost the whole time, blaming Noah for every bad thing that happens on their adventure and being an all around jerk, which using her parents divorce as an excuse to be a judgemental person. Put a sign on her that says "no fun allowed zone". Noah of course is a pushover, who never stops saying sorry for things that aren't even his fault. Besides that, I didn't hate him as much as Ammy. But my GOD was the dialogue between them so cheesy.

Plus what is the deal with all *The Hunger Games* hate? Around the first few times I was going to let it slide but it kept weirdly going on, for Ammy to insult Noah for liking it and then for Noah to realize that *The Hunger Games* isn't proper literature at all. (???) Bro this book itself is a YOUNG ADULT novel, get out of here with that.

As for their adventures of trying to get home after their train breaking down and them getting lost, it was fun. I had a few laughs at all the issues that came up but at one point, I had to throw out my suspension of disbelief. There were also a LOT of coincidences and things that just worked out too perfectly. Some things weren't that believable at all but I'm not going to get too hung up on it.

*"Paintings are supposed to be pretty," I argue. "They're supposed to wow you. Books are supposed to remind you that life is hard for everyone. That other people have it even worse than you. I know you know, that because you love reading as much as I do."*

Art isn't meant to be just *pretty* and to say that was insulting to every artist who puts their heart and soul into making artwork that goes beyond being "pretty". And there are many different reasons for reading a book and not every single one of them is to "remind you that everyone has it worse". I love to read. Say my favorite thing to read is books about cats and only about cats. Do I suddenly not love to read because I'm not reading a book that reminds me life is hard? The idea of reading for enjoyment shocks me too.

This book was an actual train wreck and I'm not into it.

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