



## Until Alex

*J. Nathan*

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*This is an alternate cover edition for B00L2X36GE*

On the outside, Hayden is every girl's fantasy, brooding and devastatingly gorgeous. And while he spends his nights losing himself in alcohol and faceless girls, it's all just a facade. An elaborate cover for the emotionless shell of a man he is. One who harbors too many secrets and destroys lives the way his was destroyed. It's the reason he avoids relationships and keeps everyone at arm's length...

Until Alex

Alex's life just shattered into a million pieces, leaving her with more grief than she knows what to do with and guilt so deep it's destroyed the carefree girl she once was. Now she's hundreds of miles from home, living with an aunt she doesn't know, finishing senior year at a college she's never been to, and trying desperately to get through a single day without breaking down. She's never felt more alone in her life...

Until Hayden

The trouble with Hayden is who he wants to be and who he is are in constant flux. And though he'd die before letting Alex learn the truth about him, he can't be sure he's strong enough to let her in...or push her away. She's the one person who just might see the real him.

## Until Alex Details

Date : Published March 2017 by Amazon Digital Services (first published June 17th 2014)

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Author : J. Nathan

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# From Reader Review Until Alex for online ebook

**Brit says**

Advance Readers Copy (ARC) provided via net galley by the author for an honest reviews

**Cover: 10**

**Plot: 7**

**Heroine: 6**

**Hero: 7**

**Ending: 7**

*Final rating: 4 stars*

Until Alex was a nice and refreshing *debut novel*. It pulled me in from the very first page and I could hardly put it down once I've started getting into.

The writing was beautiful and I felt so connected to the hero & heroine that I've felt their emotions. *I myself became very emotional.*

I loved the storyline/plot it was just unbelievable. I also loved how this book pulls two *broken people* together. It just blows you away honestly.

And also I hardly ever like dual POV's but for some reason it just worked with this book. It was just perfect. And that's one of the major reasons why I loved it.

I can see big things coming to this author. And I can't wait to see what other books she has in-store for us.

*Amazing work J.Nathan*

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**Nancy♥The♥Bookaholic says**

*ARC courtesy of author via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review*

~~5+ HEARTS~~

WOW! This was AMAZING! This is an ABSOLUTE MUST READ!!!!

First off let me give credit where credit is deserved. J. Nathan great job on your debut novel. If this is what I'll be getting from all your books then I'm going to stock up on all of them and author stalk you. The writing was amazing and flawless. You could feel each and every emotion that each character was feeling. I absolutely love the storyline. I can't wait to read more of your books.

This book took hold of me at the very beginning and didn't let me go. I enjoyed the ride from the very beginning to the very end. The thing that first drew me to this book was the cover and then when I read the

blurb, I was ALL in. This book has sex, abuse, and drugs. I love the characters in this book. Alex & Hayden were two broken souls finding comfort in each other. They both have a past that they don't want to talk about. When I first started this I thought it would be the same ole boy meets girl, they fall in love, they have their differences and then they work things out, but was I wrong. This book was more in depth than that. It pulled emotions out of you that you didn't think you had. It was above average. This is no mediocre book.

Hayden didn't do relationships. It was too much trouble. He didn't care about other people's problems and he kept people at arm's length. Bouncing round foster homes build a wall where he didn't let people in, and he didn't let emotions out.

Alex was stripped of everything in her life. Everything she's ever known. Everything she's ever loved. Her life was a complete mess. With nowhere to turn she's forced to leave the only life she's known and moves in with her estrange Aunt. She desperately tries to get through a single day without breaking down.

Alex feels like it's no coincidence that Hayden shows up out of nowhere not once but multiple times. And every time helps her in some way. She feels like he was sent especially for her. Alex manages to worm her way into Hayden's head. He can't get her out of his mind, but he keeps his real self hidden from everyone. Hayden quickly finds out that Alex is different. The difference between Alex and everyone else in his life is she expects nothing. But he wasn't sure he could let her in all the way. He felt like there was no way out of his screw up lifestyle. No end in sight. No way out, like he was stuck in a no-win situation.

I love the dual POV and when it switched POVs it picked up right where the other left off. This has no cliffhanger and a perfect HEA! This is probably one of the most well written books I've read in a while.

Here are a couple of my favorite quotes.

***“My life began when I met you. What happened before is a memory. Something that'll never happen again.”***

***“Me and you and this adventure we're about to embark on. This is my reality. And, from where I stand it's a pretty amazing reality.”***

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**Tahsin says**

i needed to read a really good book and this was it. great characters, amazing story, pretty realistic, i really liked it. i have this thing for broken characters, who have the capacity to heal and just be amazing. i found that here.

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## **Rosa Sharon (iScream Books Blog) says**

Right down to my bones...

Until Alex is J. Nathan's debut novel. I can't believe that, it's so amazing, she writes like shes been doing it forever. I will look forward to reading anything she writes in the future. Her characters are deep, they are broken, they are survivors, they will make you feel things. You will feel sympathy for what they've had to endure, you will feel proud of them for the strength they show in dealing with the \$h\*t life has dealt them. You will laugh at their funny banter...drunk knocking...sweetheart...babe...you're swell. You'll hold your breath waiting for secrets to be revealed and the dangerous threat to be removed. You'll hate the villains and yell at your kindle. You'll smile dreamily and wish a muscled, tattooed hottie with dimples would smile at you and tell you he loved you down to his bones. I guarantee you will love this book as much as I do.

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## **Sara says**

My GR friends were right. This was a good story, good characters and no smut. It's definitely worth it to read. Who doesn't love a hot, wounded guy and beautiful wounded girl? Both who don't do a bunch of stupid OTT shit. Both who have suffered immense loss, suffered endless guilt and are still able to have a huge capacity to love. I liked it.

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## **Jennifer Kyle says**

**4.25 ~ 4.5 Stars**

***"An all-consuming, rip-your-heart-out-of-your-chest-if you-were-rejected, kind of love."***

J. Nathan's debut novel delivered a swoon worthy romance about Hayden and Alex. The story is set amongst the ruins of past tragedy for one and recent tragedy for the other. These two have a connection, attraction and love that they couldn't deny. Whether or not they felt worthy of it or ready for it, it happened just the same and I enjoyed the journey.

The story is told in alternating pov of both characters and while they have both experienced great tragedy the draw that they felt for one another is magnetic.

Hayden tries to push Alex away since he has been indebted to his no good friend, Remy and a life of crime. He is very secretive about himself and has never let anyone one in.

***"The truth was I wanted out. No, I needed out. But I owed Remy. I'd always owe him."***

Hayden and Alex meet at her aunt's apartment complex where Alex has recently moved in and the hottie in 2C (Hayden) resides across the hall.

***"She saw me as someone worthy of her friendship. Someone she sought comfort in. Someone she could rely on."***

Hayden only does the typical one night stands and never really sees the faces of those women but with Alex, she is everything he never thought he could have.

The two find that they both attend the local college and when the mean girl attacks Alex, it's time for Hayden to protect and claim the girl who could be his everything.

The author did add some action scenes which for me weren't needed but I enjoyed the story as a whole nonetheless. Love those two broken souls who survived.

Well done J. Nathan!

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**Michelle says**

[image error]

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**Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says**

#### **4.5 All about Hayden Stars**

*I never thought that would happen for me. I always thought I deserved what no one else wanted.  
Until Alex.*

When I finished this book, I had to go back and make sure that I read it right because I couldn't believe this amazing story was a debut novel. Wow. Just wow. If you're looking for an incredibly emotional and angsty NA book with endearingly broken characters, a heartbreaking and heart-melting love story, and fantastic writing...You. Need. To. Read. This. Book. You will be hooked from the epilogue alone.

Hayden is the ultimate bad boy. He has the looks and the attitude that attracts women to him like no other. But beneath the surface of the womanizing, brooding and cocky playboy, is a dark secret and a past that plagues his every thought and makes him keep everyone at arms length. He's not looking for a relationship or anything lasting. Just alcohol and countless of faceless girls that he can lose himself in for a few moments to drown out the memories.

*If I learned one thing from my messed up life, it was that you didn't let people in, and you didn't let your emotions out. You couldn't. I wondered if I even had any. Emotions that is. Because if you asked me, life had hardened me beyond repair.*

But then *she* moves in down the hall. A girl who cries quietly every day outside. A girl he has no business paying attention to. Alex.

But just like Hayden, Alex is not what she seems to be beneath the surface. She's running. Running from a devastating event that forever changed the course of her life. She's running for the memories and the constant reminders of her pain.

How ironic that the one person that manages to drown out the memories for her is the brooding and mysterious Hayden.

But as much as Alex is determined to get to know Hayden, Hayden is just as determined to keep her at arm's length.

***I hated myself in that moment for not being able to control that part of me. The fucked-up part that kept people at a distance. It was a defense mechanism. My very own alarm system that kicked in when things got too uncomfortable, or in this case, too close to being normal.***

The relationship between them is a very slow burn. But it's also perfectly written, in my opinion, as it gives you the time to truly get invested in both the MCs AND their relationship. It gives you the time to really understand them. It gives you the time to really fall for them.

With each details of Hayden's past coming to light, your heart just breaks for him all the more. As hard as he tries to stay away from Alex, his fight is already lost the second he lays eyes on her. But don't get me wrong, this was no insta-love...or insta-anything. Their road to being together is filled with angst filled bumps that will tear at every heart string you have.

***I don't know what this is. This thing between us. But I really need it.***

Even at times when Hayden truly fucks up and you want to throttle him for his decisions, you still can't help but love him.

***I will do whatever it takes to make you forget. I'll say whatever you need me to say. Go wherever you need me to go. And I'll be whoever you need me to be.***

This is definitely more PG13, so don't expect a lot of steam here. Now typically I am NOT a reader that reads PG13 anything, but the story here just captivated me. The little steam that there was was satisfying while still leaving you wanting more...but in a good way.

***He kissed me like he needed me to breathe.***

This is not just a NA Romance novel, it's so much more than that. It's about second chances, finding your inner strength, and facing your darkest demons. I was glued to my kindle until the very last page. I eagerly anticipate ANY future books by this author. J. Nathan is going straight to my auto-buy list.

*\*\*ARC courtesy of author in exchange for an honest review\*\**

**For more reviews visit**

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## **Mari?ina says**

Until Alex is a sweet, romantic and heart-warming tale of young love and pain. The characters surely put a smile on my face while i read their story and made me wish for them to have a happy ever after. They are really loveable and so cute together.

With that being said, i don't want to indicate that the book is flawless because it's not. Sadly the story has many overused, derivative and inessential plotlines that really don't add anything good in the story. For example i didn't like the need to make everything right in every aspect of their lives.

Now about the story, Hayden and Alex are both in a bad place they need something or better yet someone to make them whole again, even if they don't know it. Hayden's life is tangled with danger and secrets, he does everything he can in order to push Alex away for her own good, but she won't back down.

Alex is sad, devastated really, living in a new city after a tragic accident that took her parents away. She is smart, motivated and valiant. Her whole world came crassing down very recently and she still tries to put her everyday life in order and decide what to do with the sexy walking disaster living in the apartment next to hers.

The result is a beautiful, tender sometimes playful and very endearing love story that really melts your heart. Every interactions between the two main characters was amazing. I loved them together so much and they took my mind away from all the little cliché throughout the book.

## **THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BOOK**

- I liked her aunt.
- Dual POV.
- I knew something was weird with Remy.
- Her family had two private airplanes?
- I rolled my eyes so many times with the whole mean girl arc.
- I didn't like that in order to make a main character more likeable there had to be so many explanation. We already knew he was decent and it was a mistake no matter what.
- Good debut.

*ARC provided via Netgalley in exchange of an honest review. Thank you!*



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## Annie Brewer says

This book sucked me in from the prologue. And it was a devastating, gut-wrenching prologue. Hayden is every girl's walking, talking, sexy-as-sin fabtasy. But what lies beneath the facade he puts up for everyone is just the beginning. No one knows what he went through, aside from Remy...whom I hated from the start.

Until Alex.

She bears secrets of her own. Deep ones. And she too, keeps everyone at arm's length. Eventually, when these two finally start spending time together- wow...it's a sight to behold. They're both so imperfect with flaws that run deeper than the ocean. But I couldn't put this book down. I had to force myself to stop reading about 73% in at 3 AM. I would be finished but my eyes were at the point of crossing. These days I don't get to read much...too much personal shit going on right now in my life. But fuck, when you find a book that utterly consumes your every thought and body part, yeah. You know you got a good one.

I truly enjoyed Hayden and Alex. I'll admit, I wanted these lovebirds to get their shit together and admit their feelings...and secrets. On the other hand, I understood why it took awhile for things to progress. Poor Hayden. After all he'd been through, I couldn't imagine the pain and loss he suffered. But he was a true hero. God, he was swoon-worthy as alllll hell. I sighed. I smiled. I laughed. I cried. I cursed. And I loved. I loved him. I loved his voice. I loved his inner voice. His internal struggles. His determination. His fierce protectiveness. His loyalty. His cockiness. God, his cockiness. He was just utterly imperfect, but I loved it. I loved Alex. I love everything she brought out in Hayden. I loved her constant need to stay by his side. To fight for him, even after knowing the truth about who Hayden Martin is.

I loved her Aunt Katherine. She was a great person in Alex's otherwise lonely life. Aside from Hayden. Gah, I could go on and on about this book. About how much my heart soared with happiness to how much my heart dropped with suspense and fear. It's not all sunshine and roses, I assure you. But it is worth it. Hayden was worth the lack of sleep. And don't get me started on the sex scenes. Dayum! Okay, well that's it. Obviously I loved this book. Definite 5 stars all the way. And a top favorite read of 2015.

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## Hms says

[ She is roofied at a pa

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## Dali says

This book gave me a ride on the let's get in touch with all your emotions rollercoaster. It shocked me on more than one occasion, it made me laugh and smile, cry and fall in love. It's a remarkably sweet debut novel from author J. Nathan that will grip you from its tragic start and keep you engaged with its fun and sexy banter, and heart rendering moments 'til the very end. And one thing's for sure, it will "*seep right down to your bones.*"

I've considered really hard about what to put in my review regarding the book's plot because even though you can piece together some things, it still stunned me more than once and I would really hate to give anything away. I also think the blurb does a very good job at telling us what we need so I'll include that and

then tell you my personal thoughts about it.

*On the outside, Hayden is every girl's living breathing fantasy, brooding and devastatingly gorgeous. He spends his nights losing himself in alcohol and faceless girls, but it's all just a facade. An elaborate cover for the emotionless shell of a man he is. One who harbors too many secrets and destroys lives the way his was destroyed. It's the reason he avoids relationships and keeps everyone at arm's length...*

*Until Alex*

*Alex's life just shattered into a million pieces, leaving her with more grief than she knows what to do with and guilt so deep it's destroyed the carefree girl she once was. Now she's hundreds of miles from home, living with an aunt she doesn't know, finishing senior year at a college she's never been to, and trying desperately to get through a single day without breaking down. She's never felt more alone in her life...*

*Until Hayden*

*The trouble with Hayden is who he wants to be and who he is are in constant flux. And though he'd die before letting Alex learn the truth about him, he can't be sure he's strong enough to let her in...or push her away. She's the one person who just might see the real him.*

The book grabbed my attention and heart right from the beginning. I was barely 2% in when I was in shock and hurting for Hayden and then smiling because of the smart mouthed girl that had just met the broody “hottie” with dimples. It’s incredible writing when you are so devoted to a couple of characters you barely know.

These two incredibly sad souls told their story from alternating points of view. And even though I think Hayden’s perspective went to the corny side at the end, I really enjoyed being in their heads.

Even though Hayden was broken and angry at the world, he was also sexy, and his pain didn’t blind him to what Alex had to offer, showing his flip side, which was sweet, loving and made me swoon and “*I smiled a big stupid grin*” repeatedly.

Alex’s patience and understanding with Hayden’s hot and cold attitude never frustrated me and I really admired her strength of character. She was a very grounded and real person.

The story unfolded at a perfect pace, letting us know what we, and the characters, needed for their connection to build and grow. Their sizzling chemistry was off the charts.

**“I'd have to touch you.”**

He nodded... **“I hope so.”**

**“You might have to kiss me goodnight.”**

His eye focused on my lips. **“Oh, sweetheart, you can count on that.”**

I loved and was equally frustrated watching them get to know each other.

**“I don’t know what this is. This thing between us... But I really need it.” ~Hayden**

As the book got closer to the ending, “*my heart ricocheted off the wall of my chest.*” It got so intense I couldn’t get to the happy fast enough. I felt like I hit the jackpot with this book and I’ll be looking forward to J’s next book.

Amazon US -> <http://amzn.to/1Ffu00y>

\* I was given an ARC of this book for an honest review from Netgalley. The excerpts are from that copy. \*

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## **Amanda says**

### **Items ticked off: 21**

*My apartment was a revolving door of one-night stands, each convinced they’d be the one to change my ways. And never once did I feel bad for tossing them out after I screwed them. They knew exactly what they were getting when they agreed to go home with me.*

Does this sound familiar? It should, at least if you’ve read more than 10 New Adult stories. Which is about what you get with *Until Alex*. But let’s hold that thought for a minute and let’s see what this story is about.

Meet Hayden. You’ve met him before: brooding, handsome, and sleeps with anything that moves. Of course, Hayden has his reasons for not letting people get close to him. He’s got his childhood and another big secret he wishes for no one to know about. Enter does Alex. She moves in with her aunt, who happens to be Hayden’s landlord. Alex catches Hayden’s eye when she sits outside crying a few days after she moves in to live across the hall from him. He’s immediately drawn to her, and Alex is immediately drawn to Hayden who happens to soothe her with his mere presence even if they haven’t spoken a word to each other. So after their first meeting, neither is quite ready to let the other go.

I’ll be honest. When Alex claimed that Hayden’s presence soother her grief as soon as he (quietly) sat down across from her, I lost interest in Alex’s character. The instalove was strong in this one. Nevertheless, I hoped Hayden might bring something new to this genre’s list of heroes. Did he?

*Since when did I start daydreaming about girls? That shit didn’t happen to me. Hot girls surrounded me on a nightly basis. I had my pick. No need to think about them when they weren’t around. I’d just replace them with the next. Sure, this girl’s looks might’ve caused my boxers to stand at attention, but something else ... Something I sensed watching her.*

That would be a no. His days of bagging any girl he wants are gone, because... some reason. So of course he becomes a one woman guy after seeing Alex. He's the typical abrasive and violent guy I've come to know too well after reading one too many New Adult books.

Back to the plot, because maybe that could still save this story, right? Well, that'd be another no. This book deals with some truly difficult matters such as abuse, murder, revenge porn, slutshaming (coming from the heroine), and a few other topics. None was handled with care. Like, for example, the revenge porn deal. A girl at Alex's college sends out a picture of Alex naked on the internet for the whole school to see. And the whole school *does* see it. It's mentioned once or twice. The story never take on the topic like it should; this kind of act causes a lot of consequences that have a heavy impact on the victim's life. **How does this book solve it?** Well, our hero Hayden threatens the girl who uploaded the picture, and that's it. If you find that a plausible (and realistic) portrayal, then I suggest you educate yourself on this matter. As said, this was one example, but the other topics were taken care of in the same insensitive manner.

Besides the usage of these heavy topics as plot devices, what's left of the plot are recycled cliché scenes. Or the weirdest mashup of all time, as I said in an update. High school Musical/Twilight/Grease. Or something like that. To sum up: this story didn't bring anything new to the table, and how certain topics were handled wasn't satisfying.

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## Jess-i-ca ~Sometimes a Gif Witch~ says

pretty good...Review maybe...If I decide to stop being lazy ;)

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## Amy says

Until Alex follows the story of Alex and Hayden. At first glance, Hayden appears to be every girls fantasy: Attractive, Confident, and Brooding. However, there is more to Hayden than meets the eye. He spends his nights going through girls and drinks his problems away. He just wants to numb the demons that haunt him. He never lets anyone get close and has so many secrets that he keeps locked inside.....Until one day he meets Alex. She's unlike any girl that he has ever met. She doesn't play games and doesn't want anything from him.....The thought of getting to know her and the possibility of letting her in, scares him. But, keeping away from Alex will prove to be a lot harder than Hayden anticipates.....

Alex.....Her life has been completely destroyed. She is grieving from the loss of not only her parents who died tragically, but for her friends who have turned their backs on her. She is left with no one, except for an aunt that she barley knows. She decides that she needs to get away and goes to live with her aunt. She's desperately trying to finish college and just make it through one day without falling apart.....Then she meets Hayden. Her aunt warns her away from him, but Alex will soon find out that there is more to Hayden than what he lets people see. And maybe if Alex is lucky, Hayden will learn to trust her and let Alex see who he truly is.

Until Alex starts off with a bang. I was immediately drawn in and my heart was breaking for what Hayden had to experience. I found myself holding my breath a lot while reading this book.

Until Alex had wonderfully frustrating and broken characters. I loved the drama, action, and romance. I

loved that this book was told from dual pov's and that I got to see what was going on in Hayden's head.

The story kept me captivated and there was never a dull moment. Until Alex is a great debut novel and I'm looking forward to reading more from this author in future!

\*\*\*\*\*I received a copy of this book via netgalley in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*\*\*

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