



The Last Dance

Kiki Hamilton

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Two people couldn't be more opposite...

Kellen Peterson, the gorgeous star quarterback of the Griffin High football team, seems to have it all. Until the night of the Homecoming game, when Kellen gets tackled and suffers a traumatic brain injury - an injury that changes his life - including his ability to walk, talk and throw a football.

Ivy Ly is a senior and counting down the days until she can escape to college. Though her parents have big plans for her to be a doctor, Ivy is afraid to tell them she'd rather pursue music as a career.

Ivy's best friend, Mira, is obsessed with Kellen. When Ivy is asked to tutor the injured football player upon his return to school, she thinks it's the perfect opportunity for Mira to get to know him better - but sparks fly - in more ways than one...

The Last Dance Details

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Author : Kiki Hamilton

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From Reader Review The Last Dance for online ebook

Coranne says

Alright, I will be honest. I didn't go into this book because I thought it was the most fantastic premise for the book and I was incredibly excited for it. I wanted to read this book because Kiki Hamilton and I have a history (and I doubt she even knows it!).

When I first started really getting into YA blogging (I had been book blogging for years prior, but made the transition and really went from a casual blogger to an every day one), I wrote to Kiki- essentially a fan email. Kiki was so awesome- she sent me bookmarks and a handwritten note. This solidified Kiki into the "awesomest person ever" standing with me. Kiki's book " The Faerie Ring" was also the first ARC I had ever reviewed. So I was excited to be able to support her on this book.

Now all that to say, if I hated the book, well you wouldn't be reading a review today. I am excited to say that Kiki's jump from fantasy to contemporary was flawless. I really enjoyed The Last Dance. I loved reading the multiple POV between Ivy and Kellen and found them incredibly easy to follow. Ivy and Kellen are both likable characters and I found myself rooting for them to get together and to work things out.

The Last Dance is a sweet story with an important message. My husband is really into wrestling- it is interesting to see in another sport where the athletes are taking constant hits to the head and getting concussions how very real the problems in the story are. I know this is a bit misleading because what I am talking about isn't really what the book is about (but then again it is). Anyway I thought the correlation between football and wrestling was interesting (along with all the medical stuff that went with the story).

The Last Dance is a simple and lovely story that will stick with the reader long after the book is through.

Valerie says

3 1/2 stars - It's a sweet love story with some life lessons woven into it.

I went back and forth between 3 stars and 4, so I finally fell on 3 1/2.

This book was hard for me to read but it probably won't have the same affect on you. I have someone very close to me that has had a brain injury and so this story touched a few sore spots for me. I think that's why when I started this book, I couldn't put it down. I needed to know the ending. So I read it in four hours straight through.

I like Kellen, a lot. He's worked hard to get to the place he's at and the fall is hard on him. I saw the stages of grief as he denied, was angry and finally accepted things. He also did some growing because of it. I liked that about him. He figured things out. Not an easy thing for someone so young. It was also nice to see him still be a high school boy. He was trying to stay cool but that was pretty tough. He was torn up about his losses especially where his girlfriend was concerned. (BTW, can I rip Laurel's face off? Did. Not. Like. Her.) But he held it together. I was so proud of him. He worked so hard to recover.

Ivy was so different than Kellen yet so much the same. She's been driven by her parents to succeed, to become a doctor when she's not sure that's what she wants to do. I admire her willingness to work hard, her dedication to her slightly strange friend Mira, and her willingness to help Kellen though it makes things hard for her. She's talented and a little bit quirky. She's not popular but she's beautiful. She's exactly what Kellen needs.

These two come from such different worlds and no one would consider them the same, yet they are. They so are. I loved how they healed each other. I loved how they caused each other to grow. I loved how they were together. Theirs is a sweet story of figuring out life together.

This book is YA. It's a sweet love story with some life lessons woven into it. If that type of story appeals to you, then this one is a good one to read. - See more at: <http://www.stuckinbooks.com/2013/07/t...>

Heather Sowalla says

Romance is on the horizon for these two main characters in The Last Dance. The main character, male lead, known to us as Q suffered from a horrible brain injury suffered after taking a hit during a football game that changed his life forever. Ivy our female lead was the complete opposite than who Q normally hung out with. Being stereotyped we see how Ivy with her Asian family was the model for what a student should be like. Study hard, practice all the time, and aim high. Ivy was a brilliant student and musician and was headed for an Ivy League school after much pushing and nagging of her parents. They wanted her to follow in her uncle and brothers footsteps. That doesn't change for Ivy even when she gets paired up with Q after his accident. However, they find that they are really two halves of the same whole but it takes forever for them to actually be together. There is a lot of drama and action in this book - and I can relate to the main character in his depression and anger of having become paralyzed. Kiki Hamilton did a great job on this story and I loved every second of it. It was a quick paced read and I had it done in twenty-four hours! All around the perfect YA romance novel!

Nicole says

Overall Rating 1.5

My thoughts of the The Last Dance??

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This book would seem to be written by a person like myself. And trust me that is NOT a good thing. Despite my passion for reading, I don't have what it takes to write a short story for school, don't even get me started on writing a novel.

The Last Dance was utterly disorganized and mighty irritating. Each chapter kept rehashing what the previous chapter already said. So much for drama. I found the main character to be such a hypocrite. Who the hell is Ivy for telling Kellen what to do. She doesn't even have a pear to tell her family what she actually wants to do with her life. And at the end, did that ever change? NO FRICKING WAY!! Ivy didn't even mention to her parents how she wishes to have a career in the music industry. She just kept her mouth shut and complied to her parent's wishes. The author didn't even mention what Ivy chose to study in college the following fall. That's one reason the novel called for a sucky ending!

And what about Mira?

Mira was the sort of character that scared the crap out of me.

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She like stalked Kellen 24/7, since middle school or something. It was creepy and inappropriate. The boy had no feelings for Mira, so stop stalking him!! Kellen was even cool with the whole thing and didn't judge her for it, yet she played it off with the I'm pissed off you card. I mean hello! I assume Mira would have preferred to have a relationship based off of a lie?

Ad for Kellen, I'm glad that he realized that football wasn't everything in life. It really crushed me how all his classmates were treating him like a retard after his accident. I found his girlfriend to be a backstabbing whore. She basically stayed with Kellen due to his popularity and his status of a quarterback. I was a bit angered with Kellen for having to be the 'big' person to apologize to Ivy. It was uncalled for since who is Ivy for dishing out medicine when she doesn't even take a dose of her own.

Overall, don't waste your time on this novel. it will just bring you anger and ruin your perfect weekend, like it did to me.

Kiki Hamilton says

"Funny, serious, sad and joyful, Kiki Hamilton will pull you in by the heart and never let you go." - Amy Fellner Dominy, author of OyMG and Audition & Subtraction

Sara says

Kellan is the star quarterback at high school. He's got a hot girlfriend, an incredible future ahead of him, and great grades. All of that is changed when he is seriously concussed during the homecoming game. When he gets back to school, Ivy is assigned to tutor him. She's a stereotypical Asian girl: she's very intelligent, pressured at home, and planning to be a doctor. The only hitch is that Ivy would rather be a musician than a doctor. Mira, Ivy's best friend, has a huge crush on Kellan and sees this as an opportunity for Ivy to hook her up with Kellan. Eventually, Ivy and Kellan start to fall in love with each other much to Mira's dismay.

This is the worst, most unoriginal, cliched, trite book I've ever read. I could tell from page 1 exactly what was going to happen to the characters. The writing was awkward and juvenile. The romance was forced and didn't ring true for me. The characters were so stereotypical and flat. There was absolutely no point to this novel. It was pure fluff, through and through. I'd say this is "light reading" but it was a struggle to get through this without wanting to smash my head against a wall repeatedly.

I didn't like the characters. There was no development or depth to them. Mira's originality was a breath of fresh air compared to Kellan and Ivy's cliched personalities but that isn't saying much. When Hamilton attempted to create romance between Kellan and Ivy, she straight out told us. Romance cannot be told; it has to be shown. Unfortunately, the romance between them was like a brick to the face; it wasn't subtle and gradual at all.

Unless you like reading this type of books, I highly recommend you skip this. You won't miss out on anything.

Rachel says

It's sounds so sweet.. Something different from everything I have ever heard before.

Once Upon a Twilight says

It's been a while since I've managed to read a book, let alone a paperback book, in one day. That being said, I couldn't put this book down. Every second of downtime with my children on Saturday found this book in my hands and my eyes furiously devouring the story.

The Last Dance centers around Ivy Ly, a high school senior with a very planned and prepared for Ivy League future waiting for her after graduation. Ivy has a mother who has been strict with her time since she started playing the piano at the age of three. Ma, as Ivy calls her, desperately wants her daughter to follow in her older brother's footsteps and go Pre-Med but what Ivy really wants is to follow her own dream and pursue music, though she'd never tell her mother that.

Every high school girl dreams of falling in love and living her happily ever after. But Ivy has long ago given up on this dream since she is 17 and never even had a boyfriend. Who has the time with her mother breathing down her neck about expectations. But there is a hero to this story and his name is Kellen Petersen or "Q" as Ivy and her best friend Mira refer to him. "Q" has become their code word designator for Kellen meaning Quintessential Quarterback. Mira has been in love with Kellen for over a year but of course he doesn't even know she exists. Ivy will never understand Mira's attraction to Kellen or any other jock in school.

Kellen has always considered giving up football and going Pre-Med in college but football is the one thing he truly shines at. That is until the big Homecoming game or "dance" as he and his friends refer to all football games. During the game Kellen suffers a vicious assault on field by a helmet to the spine and appears to be fine afterwards but he is anything but okay. When Kellen blacks out at the Homecoming Dance later that night his whole world comes to a screeching halt.

Now Kellen must come back to school after suffering from severe brain trauma and battle to finish his senior year and recover from his internal and external injuries. Armed with Ivy as a tutor, the two put Kellen on the road to recovery and a few "heart zings" later, a chemistry that neither can deny begins to build between them.

Oh I could go on and on about this story but then you wouldn't have to read it and what fun would that be? This book touched me on a personal level. I think we all remember the different social classes in high school and how some more than most always ignored others while some gravitated to each other. The cheer leader will always get the football player but I just love a story where the geek gets the guy even if he has to be broken to finally see her. I got a little of this attention my last few months of high school with my very own football player so maybe that's why this story touched me so much. It was real, the characters were overwhelmingly believable and it made me miss those carefree and sometimes stressful high school days. I just really loved this book and am even happier that Kiki Hamilton personalized the book to me when she sent it because it now has a very prominent and special place in my heart and on my book shelf! Enjoy!

Megan (The Book Babe) says

Other reviews at The Book Babe's Reads.

Due to copy and paste, formatting has been lost.

The Last Dance was a bit of a disappointment for me. I was expecting a fun, sweet romance, but it turned out to be more of a cliched fluff book. Sometimes that's good, but in this case it kind of sucked. I have no inspiration about what I want/need to say about it-- it didn't provoke any real emotions for me.

I found Kellan and Ivy's relationship to be...I don't know, boring. They didn't have any true chemistry together, nor did I really think that they "loved" each other after such a short time. Not only that, but Kellan had such a messed up view of Ivy-- he saw her totally different than I did, and seriously, I was in her mind. That just screams no to me.

I liked Kellan's courage, but in my opinion that's really all that he had going for him. I would've hoped that he was unbelievably sweet or something, but it just kind of seemed like courage was all he had going for him. I did like that the author was trying to make a lesser known condition more read about, though.

Ivy...wasn't very good for me. Sometimes she seemed okay, but I can't think of one thing that stood out about her to me. I think that the biggest problem I had with The Last Dance was the lack of character development. That, and well, the lack of originality. Ivy's friend Mira appeared to be a token "quirky" best friend who wears crazy clothes and drives a VW beetle. Then we have Ivy, who's super smart and only has one friend, and then Kellan who's crazy popular and a football player. These are all such stereotypes! Stereotypes that I personally am sick of, but I don't want to go on a crazed rant.

All in all, The Last Dance really wasn't for me.

Michelle says

The Last Dance took me through so many different emotions. I was happy, I was sad, I was shocked, I was laughing. This is one of those books that makes you feel things. It takes you on an emotional journey. Ivy and her friend Mira are a hoot. Where Ivy is serious, Mira is totally zany and unpredictable. And then you have Kellan. And honestly, those three characters are enough to make this book great. But the story is also so compelling. Kellan had a super serious injury from football that kind of mimicked the symptoms of a stroke. I have witnessed first hand what a stroke can do to a person and it is a very scary thing to lose control of your body in the way that Kellan did.

Ivy's parents push her towards what they think greatness is. They make her take all AP classes, and play classical instruments, and go to a great school to become a great doctor. And Ivy likes all of that and she is the perfect daughter, but she likes making and playing music more than the idea of medical school. Her link to Kellan is when she becomes his tutor after his injury. Kellan is bitter at first for obvious reasons, but as soon as he gets to know Ivy, he starts to see what an awesome person she is. And he opens up too.

The book is told in split point of view, alternating between the two of them. This is always a plus for me. I just love getting that inside peek into a guys head. And as usual, the writing is great. I love Kiki Hamilton's writing style. She makes all the of the characters very approachable.

Mira is a hoot. She is always dressing in crazy outfits and always saying exactly what she is thinking. And overall, she is a really solid friend to Ivy. Sure they had a little snag and a few bump in the road, as you can probably expect, but she always came through in the end. The one thing that bugged me a little was that she changed her outfits. I wasn't exactly sure why she changed her super unique style and she never really talked about it. I would have liked to have gotten some more insight into that decision of hers. I also kind of wanted Kellan and Ivy to talk about the Homecoming dance. They never did, even after Kellan found out what happened that night. I thought it was a little strange to just let it hang there. But those are both small points overall.

The Last Dance is a very feel good book. I just felt happy after reading it. And it is a pretty quick read too. I devoured it in one sitting and when I was done I was just satisfied. It could have a follow up if Kiki Hamilton wanted to write one but it also stands great on its own! The Last Dance will put a smile on your face.

JeanBookNerd says

The Last Dance by Kiki Hamilton is a poignant story about two people on opposite sides of the spectrum. Kellen Peterson is the high school football quarterback star whose life is changed after suffering a serious brain injury during a game that leaves him paralyzed. Ivy Ly is the quiet girl that cannot wait to graduate high school and move on to college. Going against her parents' wishes, she wants to pursue a career in music. Agreeing to tutor Kellen in order for Ivy's friend, Mira, to get to know him better, Ivy and Kellen discover that they have a lot of things in common and begin a long tenure of courtship.

The dual point of views that switches between Kellen and Ivy was the perfect delivery for a YA romance. Readers are given a full understanding what the two are feeling as their friendship develops. A great love story is told from the ground up and that is exactly what author Kiki was shooting for and it was excellently executed. Being able to get deep into their thoughts, it offered a channel to give them emotional depth that ultimately enhances their story.

Kiki's writing style is very magnetic right from the start. It leaves the feeling that something magical will happen in spite of the Kellen's horrible injury. The developmental romance is certainly full of heart-aches and uncertainties, but it reminds us that even when things are going wrong, there is always room for hope and love.

Another aspect of the book that readers will appreciate is the inclusion of Kellen's sports injury. Although this is a love story, it also educates readers on the seriousness of the injuries sustained from high-impact sports. The Last Dance is a love story that is full of drama and action with memorable characters .

Donna {Book Passion for Life} says

As soon as Kiki Hamilton revealed her plans to release a YA contemporary book, *The Last Dance*, I was thrilled. I love her Faerie Ring series so I was excited to see her try her hand at something different and *The*

Last Dance proves just how talented she is.

The Last Dance is told in alternative points of view, going between Kellen and Ivy. Kellen is a star football player for the school's team and Ivy is a quiet girl who likes to keep her head down and study. Both characters feel a certain amount of pressure from everyone around them to be the best that they can be, so when Kellen gets injured, these two characters come together like no one could have predicted and they find they have more in common than they realise.

I really enjoyed *The Last Dance*. It's a quick read, one that I managed to read within about 24 hours and it's one that was completely compelling. Once I started reading I just had to finish it and find out how Kellen and Ivy's story would end because their story was so entertaining. It's full of heart-ache and uncertainty but it's a story also about hope and love, so their story really touches your heart. They were also both enjoyable characters - ones I found easy to connect to.

In all, Kiki Hamilton is a wonderful writer and I can't wait for more of her work whether it is fantasy, contemporary or if it's something different all together.

Thank you to Misty @ Bookaholic Book Club for gifting me this book!

Angela says

This is an interesting change from Kiki's Faerie Ring series: fantasy to contemporary. But it looks interesting and I'm looking forward to reading it! :)

Karla Mae (Reads and Thoughts) says

The Last Dance is a totally cliché and fluffy book.

Some people may get tired of this type of story but for me, it's still a big hit. It has your typical high school jock and quite girl and the happy and sad in between. I don't really know but once I started reading I just had to finish it and find out how Ivy and Kellen's story would end. Good thing, the majority of the story works out well for me.

Their paths rarely cross.

He's the star football player and she's the quite future Ivy League Girl.

Until a tragic injury happens.

Kellen Petersen aka "The Quintessential Quarterback" - is the star football player of the senior class. He has his future set with football until one of their homecoming games ended in a not so good way.

Ivy Ly is set to go to an Ivy League School. She's this quite honor student who has the saying '***Study hard, practice all the time, and aim high.***' engraved on her mind. But unlike her parents wish to follow her brother's footsteps in Pre-Med, she wanted to pursue music.

Kellen and Ivy couldn't be more different to one another and even though an uncertain circumstance brought

them together they find solace to one another. Both of them have this big baggage of pressure on their shoulders and that has brought them more together.

Yes, it's your typical football jock and quite girl storyline and the dramas and actions have been written for over a few times now, but it's just nice seeing characters like them overcome their own things plus they are both entertaining!

The story is full of heart-ache, choices, uncertainties and love. Kellen recovered and learned while Ivy learned to work up to pursue what she really wanted. It was tough but a very sweet journey for the both of them.

The Last Dance is a pretty quick read that definitely left a gaping smile on my face. Yay!

Vicki Rowland says

A story that will pull at all of your emotions. Read it all in one day. Won it thru a Goodreads giveaway. Looking forward to more by Kiki Hamilton.
