



Desperately Seeking Epic

B.N. Toler

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B.N. Toler

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Paul James loved Clara Bateman.

Hating her would have been easier.

She was the past, and he was hell-bent on keeping her there.

Or so he thought...

Craigslist Ad: DESPERATELY SEEKING EPIC

You're my father.

I don't know much about you. I know your name is Paul James, you're a thrill seeker, and once upon a time you did stunts and people called you 'Epic.'

I've been told you don't know about me. That it's complicated.

But for me it's simple.

Here's the thing: I'm twelve years old...and I'm dying.

And as much as this could crush my mother, I have to meet you before I go.

In time, I'm sure she'll understand. She's still in love with you.

So, Epic, if you read this, please come back. You don't have to be my dad. You don't even have to tell me you love me or you're sorry. Just come see me.

Patiently waiting, but running out of time,

Neena

Desperately Seeking Epic Details

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From Reader Review Desperately Seeking Epic for online ebook

Aestas Book Blog says

::: FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED ::: 4.5 stars :::

“You are my most epic adventure, princess.”

OH MY GOSH!!! What an absolutely *beautiful* book!!

With the perfect balance between heart-breaking emotion and heart-warming love, this book completely stole my heart. It's not every day a book comes along that can make you laugh, swoon, and cry all at once, but after finishing this book, my heart was just overflowing with emotion. I loved the romance, I loved the family bonding, and I can confidently say that this is a top favorite recommendation of the year!!

Sometimes you come across a book and, from the moment you hear about it, you just know that you have to read it. This was one of those books. I read the blurb and tears came to my eyes. My heart was already involved and I dropped everything I was doing to read it. You see, I didn't just *want* to read this book, I *needed* to. Here's the blurb so you can understand what I mean...

*Paul James loved Clara Bateman.
Hating her would have been easier.
She was the past, and he was hell-bent on keeping her there.
Or so he thought...*

Craigslist Ad: *DESPERATELY SEEKING EPIC*

You're my father. I don't know much about you. I know your name is Paul James, you're a thrill seeker, and once upon a time you did stunts and people called you 'Epic.' I've been told you don't know about me. That it's complicated. But for me it's simple. Here's the thing: I'm twelve years old...and I'm dying. And as much as this could crush my mother, I have to meet you before I go. In time, I'm sure she'll understand. She's still in love with you. So, Epic, if you read this, please come back. You don't have to be my dad. You don't even have to tell me you love me or you're sorry. Just come see me.

*Patiently waiting, but running out of time,
Neena*

WOAH, right?

Like really.... WOAH.

I was drawn into the story from the very first page, instantly connecting with the characters and feeling

absorbed in their lives. This is the kind of book I spend all my time searching for. BN Toler's writing is smooth and addictive, allowing you to completely lose yourself in the story without a second thought.

The story begins in the present day when, as shown in the blurb, little Neena puts out a desperate message begging her estranged father to return home so she can meet him before she dies. Despite wanting to make Neena happy, her mother Clara had natural concerns about the idea of him returning. Thirteen years ago, Paul had abandoned her without a single word of goodbye. For reasons she'd never learned, the man she'd fallen for at a particularly vulnerable point in her life had left her without an explanation. So, when he arrived back in town, and immediately embraced his role as father to a dying daughter that he'd only just met with an open heart, Clara didn't know what to think or if she could trust him again. And with the very likely possibility of losing her daughter forever looming in the very near future, she couldn't bear the thought of losing him again too.

But Paul stepped up with such admirable conviction and dedication, that it made my heart break even as I swooned, and naturally led me to wonder exactly what had really happened thirteen years ago to make such an amazing man disappear.

He fists my hair gently, forcing me to look up at him. "Look at me. I fucked up," he rasps. "I know it. I've always known it. But I did love you, and I've never stopped. Hate me for leaving. Hate me for being a dick. But don't hate me because I didn't love you."

Since Neena had never known her father growing up, and she knew she wouldn't have the luxury of a future with him, she begged her parents to tell her the story of how they met, how they fell in love, and how she came to be. So, throughout the course of this book, we're shown their back story in their own words (not in flashbacks, but actually their story as they tell it) even as we see them move forward together as a newly formed family. And as you read, the full picture of what really happened begins to form.

Believe it or not, even though there is the deeply tragic reality that Neena is dying, much of this book is quite light-hearted and happy, focusing on enjoying the time they have together and living every moment of life to the fullest extent. But with the ever present reality of her illness, there's the heart-breaking knowledge that they essentially have to fit a lifetime of memories into a few months.

As I watch her, my heart tightens, and I feel Clara's hand rest on my leg and squeeze as she watches Neena thoughtfully. I place mine on hers as our eyes meet. It's one of those moments, and I know I'll never forget. I wish I could freeze it, or somehow box it; trap it so we never lose it.

I absolutely adored all the dynamic between these characters. Seeing the way Paul fell so completely in love with his daughter made me swoon, seeing how fiercely Clara loved her made my heart squeeze, feeling them fall back in love was gorgeous, and seeing them all together as a family for the first time was a potent mixture of all the feels you could possibly imagine. Oh, and the moment when the significance of the book cover is revealed immediately brought tears to my eyes. It was so achingly beautiful!

While this book is definitely filled with so many emotions, I want to reassure you that I didn't sob my way through it. I actually laughed and swooned quite a lot seeing them bond together as family and watching Clara and Paul fall in love again. But, I'm not going to lie, I cried at the ending. There's really no surprise as to what happens, but that didn't make it any easier to read. There are some unfair realities of life that are

simply unchangeable. But it's what you do with the time that you have that counts. And the beautiful epilogue warmed my heart, such that, by the end of the book, I was smiling again through my tears.

For those of you who need spoilers, here you go: (view spoiler)

If you're looking for a uniquely beautiful story that will tug all your heart-strings, then you have to try this! I was desperately seeking an epic book, and when I found this one, it fully delivered everything I'd hoped for and more. I absolutely loved it and highly recommend it to everyone as a top favorite!

Rating: 4.5 stars. Standalone novel.

For more of my reviews, book news and updates:

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Jennifer Kyle says

4 STARS

"Paul James loved Clara Bateman. Hated her would have been easier. She was his past, and he was hell bent on keeping her there. Or so he thought."

This was a well written "illness" book. The child of the hero and heroine is in fact dying and reaches out to her birth father. You should take that pretty seriously going in and the effect that will have on your emotions. After a posting with Craig's List to find her father goes viral, Neena's mother Clare pulls one last idea out of her hat to get Paul James to return back to the Virginia. She's holding out hope that even though he broke her heart when he left thirteen years ago, he will be a match and be a father to very their daughter, Neena (that he doesn't know exists).

"Her diagnosis is dismal but I've promised myself two things. One: never give up. I will fight to save her until the bitter end. Two: try to make every single day as happy as I possibly can for her, just in case...in case we lose."

The characters were all so very well developed and the story line pulled me in and had me holding out hope for a miracle for Neena. Claire and Paul give their story to a teenage writer, Ashley. The past unravels to the circumstances that brought Clare to Virginia and being half owner of a skydiving business called Sky High. As Clare and Paul come together to give Neena everything she could want during this time, they slowly fall back into one another's arms and this time Paul promises he won't let her down.

"Look at me. I fucked up," he rasps. "I know it. I've always known it. But I did love you, and I've never stopped. Hate me for leaving. Hate me for being a dick. But don't hate me because I didn't love you."

"We're coming together again. But why? Is it that there's something really there? Is there real chemistry? "

Paul does a great job jumping into his father role with twelve year old Neena. I adored him for trying so hard and felt just as sad that he had missed twelve years due to his misconceptions and his adventuresome soul.

The author brings humor, love, LOSS and does deliver a good story. Each of her characters all packed a punch and were unique and memorable. A shout out must be sent to Marcus what a fantastic secondary character he was! The story line is original and I just wish things went a different is all. Overall, if you're ready to laugh, swoon and cry this one's for you.

"You are my most epic adventure, princess."

*****ARC provided in exchange for an honest review*****

◆*Arianna◆* says

4 Stars!!

This was such a heartbreakingly beautiful story! B.N. Toler delivered a story about life, love, death, friendship and strength that really touched my heart. This story will move you to tears, it will make you smile, it will simply make you feel. It was equally heartbreaking and heartwarming from the beginning and it gripped me from the first chapter. Neena, Clara and Paul's story is fantastically written and I guarantee will steal your heart from the very beginning.

"You don't even have to tell me you love me or you're sorry. Just come see me. Patiently waiting, but running out of time, Neena."

'*Desperately Seeking Epic*' tells the story of Neena, a twelve years old girl who's dying. Neena has leukemia and she desperately wants to meet her father. She puts an add on Craigslist hoping she gets the chance to meet him before she dies.

"How do I say good-bye to her? How does a mother sum up in words the depth of her love for her child?"

Clara, Neena's mother is desperate. She wants, needs for her little girl to live. She will fight along her, she would do anything for Neena to be healthy, even contact the man who more than a decade ago broke her heart, Paul, Neena's father. She needs for him to be tested because there's a chance for him to be a bone marrow match and all she wants is to save her child. Clara knows Neena wants to meet her father, she knows deep down she would want him close, so she eventually contacts him.

"I don't do babies and white picket fences."

Paul left his business, his friends and also Clara thirteen years ago without looking back. Back then she loved Clara, but he believed adventure and freedom are more important than settling down with her. He was a self-absorbed man, a player, a coward and still is until Clara contacts him and finds out about Neena and her illness. Paul slowly becomes another man from the moment he meets Neena. She steals his heart with her beauty, purity and strength and in a very short amount of time falls in love with her as much as much as he falls for Clara.

"I'd gladly take her place, take on her cancer, and keep it for myself if I could. I've lived. Now should be her turn."

Neena wants only one thing before she dies – to find out how her parents met, so she convinces them to give their story to a teenage writer, Ashley. Both Clara and Paul are determined to spend as much time as they can with their daughter, trying to make every single day as happy as possible for her. They get to know each other again, to lean on one another, to realize they still have each other and they still love each other after all this time.

"They are everything. And that's what I tell them when I whisper, 'Everything that matters is right here in my arms.' "

These characters' story broke my heart. I loved how the story was told both in the past and present from the two main characters' perspective. Mrs. Toler's storytelling was fantastic as always and the story line intriguing to say the least even if I knew how everything will unfold almost from the beginning.

Like I mentioned above this story will make you feel. Reading these characters' story was hard at times. I felt for every single one of them. They made me smile, they made me cry and they also angered me or frustrated me at some point into the story. Every single one of them was well developed and was realistically portrayed. I loved Neena. My heart broke for this little girl. Broke! I wanted so much for her to be okay, to find some miraculous cure and be a happy healthy kid. At times reading her interactions with both Clara and Paul were really moving, bringing tears to my eyes. I admired this girl so damn much. Her strength was admirable and I have to say I loved her relationship with Clara and also with Paul as the story progressed.

Clara was a great heroine and I loved her from the beginning. The way she loved her daughter was really heartwarming. She was feisty, she was a fighter and she was strong as much as someone can be in her

situation. I felt her love for Neena and how desperately wanted to save her and also her love for the man who always be 'the man' for her. Paul won me over when he came in his daughter's life. The chapters from the past presents a man who is...well, a douchebag and maybe you will dislike him a little, but as the story unfolds we get to see how much something or in this case someone can change who you are. I loved the way he was with both Clara and Neena. He was everything these two needed and I loved him for that. The author really made me feel his love for both of them.

Overall, this was another great, emotional read by Mrs. Toler and I'm looking forward to read more of her work!

Snow says

5+ EPIC stars

This rarely happens to me, not being able to write my feelings down...it usually works just fine, almost like a compulsive disorder, it's like my hands are typing on their own secret language with a secret connection to my brain...but right now...

In the process of writing this I am a mess.

BN Toler's books happen to have that kind of effect on me. Every time.

And this book is no different.

Desperately seeking Epic...a story one can't just sum up in a few sentences cause one might miss smth important out and not give this book justice.

A story that starts out with a pleading add of a search, displaying a plead of a dying 12 year old girl who seeks a man called Epic, who happens to be her father whom she never met. She's desperately seeking for him before it's too late, for her...and for him. Paul James also known as EPIC for his stunt work had no knowledge of any of this, his return home after 13 years of absence will turn out to be the unexpected chapter in the greatest story ever, called LIFE.

And this is how I became involved with a remarkable young person, **Neena**, a girl with a strength of a Goliath, who will make her dying wish come true...that would too, end up being her EPIC adventure by bringing two people who love each other back together again. Uniting them through pain, tears, laughter, passion and desire for life and love. As her add becomes a global phenomenon, a few highschool students make their mission to pass on the story for Neena, to honor her with a last „insight“ into her own life, how she became to be...

Clara Bateman and Paul James became business partners of a SKY HIGH -skydiving business by fate, I would say.

Clara was a young woman who needed a change in her life – after the misfortune of losing her parents in a drunk driving accident, she grew up into a fierce woman in so much need of love, she was in a marriage that didn't work out and she felt betrayed and unloved and alone again. So the sudden inheritance of a 50 shares of a skydiving business, she knew nothing about, meant a life savor, a perfect opportunity to start over!

Paul was an adventureur, an ex stuntman for the movies who accepted his uncle's other half of the business after his injuries prevented him to continue with the hazardous work. He's a restless soul in need of an adrenaline, excitements, he's a soul without roots...he's the untamed spirit always in pursuit of freedom...

Settling down meant losing my freedom, and my freedom was too precious to me. I needed to be able to pack up on a whim and hop a plane to Brazil, or anywhere, if I felt the need.

He was self-absorbed, self-assured, a player, and an asshole by default...

"I dont do babies and white picket fences."

Paul James is one of the most selfish men I have ever known

They both started off on bad terms, fighting, yelling, not giving in, and the staff working with them gave Clara hell, never quite making her welcomed, especially Marcus, Paul's best friend and confidant... BUT still, they were the opposites attract...

With Paul, it was day to day. Some days we got along just fine, others he thought I was a raging bitch and I thought he was an entitled asshole.

We were so weird together then. We started off enemies. Then we called a truce and proclaimed peace in the name of our business partnership. Were we becoming friends now?

After hard start, they slowly got passed their issues and developed an understanding that turned into a slow friendship that eventually blew up in passionate flames that had to be extinguished.

That night, we clawed at each other, fingers digging into flesh, desperate, hungry for more. I wanted to soak her in, absorb her, take every drop of her. For every bit I gave, she met it with just as much gusto. It was beautiful.

That passionate relationship where „those three little words“ were never spoken but were lingering around them abruptly ended over a misunderstanding, over a note that held Clara's thoughts of one random desperate longing and wishful longing that were never meant to be seen by anyone...BUT those words set Paul's restless spirit into a run...a 13 years long run

Forever.

Baby.

They were two potent words that I wasn't sure, no matter how much I loved Clara, I could give her. I needed freedom and adventure. And I couldn't promise her something I couldn't give. I wasn't built that way. I just wasn't. Maybe with her, the idea was easier to swallow, but I wasn't ready for even the idea of it.

Without goodbye, without a note, without a word.

Surely a dick move.

Clara's world turned upside down and one moment that left her shattered again and alone brought her another huge change and the greatest gift of all...**Neena.**

The parts of Clara and Paul's past are interwoven with the current lives of Neena, Clara and Marcus...and after Paul's finding out that he has a daughter...and that his daughter is dying...those lives become even more intangled since there's so much to lose and so little time to feel, experience, to hold onto...

Paul is actually a different man after this acknowledgment and he sets his goal, he turns his whole world towards that little girl whose destiny was unfairly written...

She becomes his center of the universe, while along his dormant feelings for Clara burst out with each encounter, with each worry, with each struggle they try to fight off in fighting the inevitable odds in the game they can't win.

I have promised myself two things. One: never give up. I will fight to save her until the bitter end. Two: try to make every single day as happy as I possibly can for her, just in case...in case we lose.

Clara is strong from the outside but her heart is breaking inside, her feelings for Paul are awoken again, and she dislikes the potent power he has over her even after so long...they were never gone.

„Look at me. I fucked up,“ he rasps. „I know it. I've always known it. But I did love you, and I've never stopped. Hate me for leaving. Hate me for being a dick. But don't hate me because I didn't love you.“

So, in the darkest hours when Paul says:

I'm here, Clara, I'm here for you.

Even after all these years he's missed out on everything...I believed him.

The second chance they both got was because of that little girl's dying wish, because of her desperate search that was far from a desperate attempt in the first place.

This kid could give a lesson in strength. I could see what Neena meant when she said she was afraid to die. I don't think she meant she fears the actual act – at least not entirely – but she fears its aftermath. She's afraid of what dying will do to the people she loves. She's afraid of what will happen to her mother when she's gone. She's the strongest kid I have ever met – strongest person for that matter.

Every moment could be the last one. Every breath is precious. Every single word counts as forever. Every thread of a dream is a possibility of an immortality in the lives that go on...

„How long do we have?“

„A few months, maybe half a year, if we're lucky.“

„Will you let me stay? Will you let me have this time with her, too?“

I can't really shorten this experience, I can only try to present the depth of the events that went on in this story. Even when they finished one journey too early it went on on a deeper, higher level...

I loved Clara. She was a truly remarkable heroine. A true heroine. A mother. A fighter. Even when the obvious was not the real thing presentable her strength was undeniable and unmistakable.

„I know Paul was the adventurer...the fearless risk-taker. I know they joked how you never jumped, but if you think about it...you did.“

„You left your home and moved to a different state, taking on a job you knew nothing about. You bought a house on your own; fixed it mostly on your own. You had a baby as a single woman. It may not be jumping out of planes, but it sounds like one hell of an adventure to me.“

„You're pretty badass, Clara“

Paul redeemed himself in my eyes towards the end. He was a complete person even if he had to acknowledge the fear, the unjust, the unfairness, the helplessness, the despair...he found himself through the role he never imagined was possible for him.

I never imagined I could find such peace in this type of life. I never imagined feeling like a family would satisfy me. But it does. It's everything. They are everything. And that's what I tell them when I whisper, „Everything that matters is right here in my arms.“

Neena – the most difficult part of the story to read about and yet the most beautiful one. The way this girl was portrayed made my heart burst in so much emotions, I can't even begin to describe. She was the guiding light, she was the strength, she was the force within and the most precious gift.

CLARA:

„You were a gift, something I thought I'd never have. You are by far my greatest accomplishment, Neena. I'm honored to be your mother. It's been my greatest privilege. Thank you for being more than I could have ever hoped for. Thank you for the joy and laughter you have brought into my life. Thank you for the kisses, the tickles, and hugs. I'm so proud of you, of who you are. I love you so much, baby.“

PAUL:

It's one of those moments, and I know I'll never forget. I wish I could freeze it, or somehow box it; trap it so we never lose it. Here we are, with our friends and our daughter. Our daughter is sick, weakening before our very eyes, and she's laughing. How many more might

*we get? I'd give anything to see that smile forever. I've missed a lifetime of these moments...her lifetime of moments.
I stood and looked down at my daughter. She was mine. She was the best of me.
„You are my most epic adventure, princess.“*

**"Remember...no good-byes...
There's only see you later. And untill we meet again."**

This moment. With my daughter who is smiling.

„Life is too short to be subtle.“

LIVE bold. LIVE fully. LIVE in each and every single MOMENT.

HIGHLY EXPECTED READ by one of my FAVORITE authors!!! And I got MORE than I hoped for.

BR with my guuurl DENISE

Pick a Book says

"A vida é muito curta para ser sutil."

5 " nada sutis" estrelas

Cabeça doendo. Olhos doendo. Coração doendo. Depois dessa, se você ainda não leu fica de olho no kit pra começar a ler esse livro:

- Ninguém por perto.
- Lencinhos.
- Mais lencinhos.
- Papel higiênico pra assoar o nariz.
- Um quarto a prova de som pra ninguém te escutar soluçando.
- E quando acabar, muita maquiagem pra conseguir sair na rua sem estar com o nariz vermelho.

Acho que a missão da autora com esse livro foi acabar com todas as lágrimas do mundo. Porque quando a torneira do seu olho abre ela não para mais.

Essa autora é foda. Ela sabe arrancar as lágrimas da gente. E mesmo sabendo disso a gente cai igual patinho.

E mesmo sendo fraca pra esse tipo de história eu não resisto a um livro emocionante. Sofri muito, mas não me arrependo nem um pouco.

Pela sinopse sabemos que tem alguém morrendo. Mas não é qualquer pessoa. É uma criança. Neena. De 12 anos. Linda, fofa, com personalidade forte, animada, esperta... Até o dia que ela não é mais assim. Aiiiii meu coração. Me apeguei tanto que parece que a conheço. Sofri junto, ri junto e tive que me conformar junto.

"Eu poderia ser atropelado nesse exato momento por um caminhão em alta velocidade cem vezes e ainda assim não sentir uma dor desse nível."

Pqp.

É muito foda.

Ai ai....

Odiei o Paul - o pai - pelo que falaram dele no começo. Mas quando de fato o conheci, adorei que ele não era quem eu pensava.

Quando Paul e Neena se conheceram foi amor a primeira vista. A autora não precisou escrever isso, mas o jeito que ela conduziu a cena foi gritante que aquilo ali foi amor instantâneo. Ali eu comecei a me apaixonar pelo Paul. E esse sentimento foi só crescendo durante o livro.

Clara. A mãe. A autora nos fez sofrer junto com ela. Com suas inseguranças. Seus medos. Sua inconformidade com o fato daquilo tá fora do seu alcance. A autora retratou muito bem uma personagem que está de mãos atadas e que a única coisa que pode fazer é tentar tornar os últimos dias de sua filha perfeitos.

Mas a história não foca só na Neena. A gente tem uma pausa no chororo quando ficamos sabendo como Paul e Clara se conheceram, como ficaram juntos e como se afastaram. Além da descoberta de que ele é pai ainda tem a situação mal resolvida com a mãe de sua filha. A autora misturou bem essas histórias, transformando esse livro não em um romance, mas sim uma história de amor. De todos os tipos de amor.

Também amei o amigo deles, o Marcus. Não me recordo de já ter lido um livro em que um anão tenha ganhado tanto destaque. Marcus era pequeno sim e carrancudo, mas na hora que ele abre seu coração.. Putz... Maior coração do mundo.

Não sei mais o que falar. Não achei que um livro pudesse mexer tanto assim comigo. Até agora que acabei literalmente de ler, escrevendo isso aqui, sinto uma vontade enorme de chorar. Se isso aqui fosse uma resenha num papel vocês iam perceber as marquinhos de lágrimas nele. Não dá. Não dá pra não se emocionar.

Minha cabeça tá doendo demais. Mas valeu cada lágrima que escorreu da minha cara porque também teve momentos que o sorriso apareceu. Eu me apeguei demais a Neena.

Se você leu Where One Goes, que também é da B. N. Toler, e achou que aquele livro acabou com você... Você não viu nada.

Já li um número bom de livros esse ano. E alguns gostei e outros amei. Mas nada perto de DESPERATELY

SEEKING EPIC. História emocionante. Linda e, com certeza, minha favorita do ano.

"Você é minha mais épica aventura, princesa"

*** Pick a Book**

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pb.responde@gmail.com

Paige says

4 "Epic" Stars

There are some stories in which the blurb demands that it be read. This was that book and when it landed on my Kindle I dove straight in and didn't come up for air until I was done. B.N. Toler put such a unique twist on the way she told this story. I teared up, laughed, got frustrated, and felt my heart grow. Everything an epic story demands.

Neena is dying. She's only 12 and since she's never met her dad, she put out a Craigslist ad hoping to find him. Paul James is a wonderer. He always has been. When one of his trips has to be put on hold because his account manager is demanding a meeting before any more money will be deposited, he's upset and is determined to make that known when he returns. Yet he gets a lot more than he bargained for when he gets home. Clara Bateman is used to loss but the new reality that she may very well lose her daughter is beyond the realm of what she's ever suffered. When she finds out that her daughter wrote a Craigslist ad hoping to find her father and then finding out that it's gone viral, she's worried. Paul and Clara have a rocky past and when they're face to face again after 13 years, long held anger, frustration and soul deep love come rushing to the surface.

This story was a delicate balance of past versus the present and it was perfectly balanced. I was pulled into their story and the ingenious way that it unfolded. I fell in love with not only Neena, Clara and Paul, but a whole cast of side characters that really helped tie the story together. This is in parts a very heavy and emotional story but with such an all encompassing story light and laughter surrounded these characters making them come to life. While the story is about Clara and Paul, it's really the story of Neena. At times I wanted a bit more from Clara and Paul and their romantic journey, but Neena's story was so important and it was well told. B.N. Toler is one of my favorite authors and Desperately Seeking Epic is an example of why

ARC provided to A is for Alpha B is for Books for honest review.

[~Ami~]♥Sexy Dexy♥ says

4 stars

Alright there may be hope for me... I almost cried reading this! It was so sad!!! I felt so much for these characters and it's one of those books that will stay with me for a long time.

Becca - ★Wicked Quests of a BookNinja★ says

I don't really like the term "all the feels" but I think it's the only way to describe this story. This book....just emotionally drained me. Put me on the edge. Took my heart and ripped it up. And I loved it with my every breath.

I adore Toler's stories very, very much. But I think this is the best. It has all the emotions I want in a really epic story. This book's taught me so much. It made me cry, made me think, made me smile. I can't even articulate my feelings.

I loved the way it was built up. The past and the present were perfectly twisted together. I've never read a story like that.

I won't tell anything about the plot. You have to read it to feel the power in it.

Neena, Clara and Paul have my heart forever. Marcus, you too.
Oh, and I really loved Ashley's spot in the storyline. Another good point.

I don't really know what should I say.

So, here's a note: this book can't be read in public. Because the tears are coming very easily. The unstoppable ones.

And then, welcome to the ugly cry express! I'm on it, just take a seat.

I have a serious book-hangover right now. Thank you so much Ms. Toler for writing this amazing, heartwarming, really epic story for us!

Jenny••Steamy Reads Blog•• says

First and foremost, I absolutely loved the writing in this book. The way it was written, oh my god, the writing is so fricken captivating. The format and how it flowed was so smooth. Now, these last two books I have read have gutted me. This author, kudos to you. My heart was shattered, broken, healed, and as a mother myself, I just couldn't handle this story, yet dear author, you make me look at life differently. Yes I knew going into this book what it entailed, but lord, you can never be prepared. I hugged my kids harder today!!

Neena, sweet sweet Neena. Words don't describe such a strong, loving individual she was. All she wants is to

see her mother happy, her dying wish is for her to always BE happy. She wants her happy with her father that's been absent her whole life until months before she passes on. But Paul, you were the strength in this book. You were strong when no one else could be. He showed up and found out he had a daughter and was losing a daughter all in the same day. Tragic, this story was absolutely tragic. I hate cancer, I hate it. I loved Clara, I loved her hard. Her whole story destroyed me. To endure what she has in her lifetime, amazing she is smiling at the end. Strongest woman ever!!!!!!! She was everything for her daughter, their bond unbreakable.

I loved watching Paul and Clara's relationship grow again during this. Reliving their story yet living their current story could not have been easy at all. Their strength, their passion, and their love grew mountains to me. This was definitely an epic adventure for me.

I would definitely change the epilogue in this book. Of course it would have ended differently for me. I of course got my HEA but not the way I wanted. But thank you again Ms. Toler for taking me on such an adventure these last few days. I have fell in love with your writing♥♥

Lea ★ says

Oh for christ's sake, I'm a complete wreck right now.

SPOILER ALERT: Guys, get your tissues ready. This book is a major epitome of ugly crying!

It is beautifully written, as all B.N. Toler books are, heartbreaking and sad, but also heartwarming.

I was so not ready for this. I need some time to recover after reading this.

I already know I will probably think about it for days to come.

This book just got me thinking how this life is short and we really take things for granted.

After reading it, just go and hug your mum, dad, brother, sister, children, partner, anyone you love...

I know I need a hug right now.

Hanne says

BN Toler delivers again an unique, emotional, beautiful, romantic and heartbreaking novel. I loved this second chance story. I wondered what happened that made Paul and Clara break up, because it was obvious that the attraction was still there. Paul and Clara have never forgotten each other and never stopped loving each other. Clara is smart, caring, friendly, ambitious and hardworking. She has made their business very successful and she gets along great with her employees. Paul loves the adventure, the adrenaline rush and to be free. He didn't do commitment nor falling in love, but Clara and Neena make him want different things. He wants to be better. I loved Neena, Paul and Clara's daughter. She's sweet, funny, strong, loving and optimistic.

Jen says

Holy cow! What a beautiful book. When I read the blurb for this book and I started to tear up I knew that I

had to read this book. I had never heard of this author before, but that didn't matter. I love the books that make you feel, even the sad ones. So I thought okay, bring on the tears!

“You only ever get a taste, and it’s never enough.”

Clara has been trying to contact Paul desperately to get him to come back home for one reason, their daughter, Neena, has leukemia and all of the treatments they've tried are not working. It's possible he could be a bone marrow match which could save her life. This is extremely difficult for Clara because when Paul left thirteen years ago without even saying goodbye, it broke her heart.

“I don’t do babies and white picket fences.”

At the same time and unbeknownst to her mother, Neena puts an ad on Craigslist searching for her father, hoping she gets the chance to meet him before she dies. When he shows up it's not because he saw the add, so finding out he has a twelve year old daughter threw him. He immediately steps up though and wants to get to know her.

“He was handsome and charming and his smile captivated everyone, and all of those things coupled together were lethal.”

After spending some time with her dad, Neena wants to know the story of her mom and dad, how they met and how she came to be. She convinces them to tell the story. I loved that this story was told from both Clara and Paul's POVs. We get to experience their story through each of them, in their own words.

"But hearts don’t work like light switches; they don’t just flick on and off. They swell rapidly with love and bleed out slowly with pain."

With only a few months left to live, Paul and Clara are determined to spend as much time as they can with their daughter and to make sure that she is happy. Through this heartbreaking experience, Paul and Clara learn to lean on one another. The never stopped loving one another and seeing them get a second chance was beautiful considering the situation that brought them back together.

“Look at me. I fucked up,” he rasps. “I know it. I’ve always known it. But I did love you, and I’ve never stopped. Hate me for leaving. Hate me for being a dick. But don’t hate me because I didn’t love you.”

After reading the blurb I was really expecting to cry throughout this entire book. Surprisingly though, I didn't. Reading the story of Paul and Clara, both past and present, was riveting and had me laughing at some parts. Yes, I did cry though, so do have the tissues near by. It's a beautiful story of a dying girl not only getting her wish to meet her father, but also getting her parents back together. She gets to spend time with her parents as a whole family and that was *epic*.

Kate's Corner says

How I want to hate this book. Solely based on the feelings that this book invoked in me I'd give it 1 star but I just can't so I give it

4 "You are my most epic adventure" stars.

Up until now I have only read one other book by this author and it was a beautiful book but unlike with this book this doesn't have a happy ending. Well in the traditionally sense anyway.

I'm absolutely emotionally drained after reading this book. There were times during the book I was wondering why I kept on reading it. But I just couldn't stop reading and believe me I wanted to.

B.N. Toler is one of the few that pulls on the heartstrings that I have left. Her talent is to suck you into the story. It is a heart-breaking, raw, emotional, touching, sweet and painful book to read.

This is all I can write as my review as it is a book that you need to read. You might enjoy it but you might not enjoy it. I enjoyed it. I'm glad I read it at the weekend otherwise I'd be a blubbing mess at work and on the tram.

JewelsyGoolsey says

4.25 -desperately seeking tissues- Stars

Really, I usually stay away from the "secret baby" tropes as a personal preference, but since I'm a big fan of this author; I just HAD to give this one a go. AND I LOVED IT!! Not because it was epically romantic. But because of the emotional, snot-nosed, red-eyed mess that it made me throughout the whole book!

All the grovelling and chase that I normally seek in 2nd chance romances, played a near non-existent role because the deeper, heart-wrenching guts of this story, really was the main star. In short, the swoony romance that I was hoping for was still there, but took more of a backseat. And for the first time in AGES... I didn't mind it one bit. *shock horror for small-minded Jewelsy*

This story really made me focus on the importance of the now. How life is really too short to waste on bitterness or anger. And although I couldn't give this book the 5 star rating it deserves (due to my own personal tastes in 2nd chance heroes who should have had a better reason for the 12 year disappearance, or at least grovelled much more); I simply couldn't fault the way it drew the emotions out of me, or the important message of forgiveness and healing (which was how I came to forgive all the MC's for their past mistakes - kudos for that Ms Author, kudos). Thus, I had to rate this above a 4, yet below 4.5. Hence: we have 4.25 Stars (GR really needs to work on creating decimal options, dammit).

Told in dual POV that alternates between past & present and standalone story. I recommend it to anyone that is looking for a more emotional journey instead of OTT, cheesy drama. Yes, there is descriptive nookie (for those who need to know) and yes, there is a HEA/epilogue. Please have tissues on hand before going in.

Karla says

"Desperately seeking epic" was a heart wrenching, emotional, frustrating, yet beautiful story about second chance love, forgiveness, friendship, the bond between a child and parent and learning to let go.

What I like about the story was Neena actually I loved her. She was a strong, and funny sweet little girl. She was so brave to embarked on this campaign to find her father aka "epic" especially under the sad circumstances. I loved those moments when she was such a teenager, listening to her favorite band crushing on a boy. She definitely was the heart of this book.

What I didn't like what was the reasons for the separation between the MC Clara and Paul. Even though I'm not a fan of going back and forth between the past and present, with this one it work out well. But instead of making me understand the reason for the MC separation it just made it more frustrating for all those wasted years. I think my resentment was more towards Clara because I felt she didn't try harder to find Paul. Regardless of the reasons she thought why he left, her reason for finding him was bigger than any hurt that he had cost her.

I gotta say the epilogue was really good it surprised me who appeared at the end. Also to get an update on zane and mills and know they got their HEA.

They're are a lot of quotes that I loved int his book but this two were my absolute favorite.

"I've been to a lot of places, seen a lot faces, and none in this world are as beautiful as you"

"You are my most epic adventure, princess"
