



# First Kiss

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## **First Kiss** Ann Marie Frohoff

About an up and coming teenage rocker on the verge of stardom, when the girl next door becomes something more; they're forced to face the harsh realities on his road to fame and the expectations of their friends and family. Sacrifices are made as everything changes as they know it.

## **First Kiss Details**

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## **From Reader Review First Kiss for online ebook**

### **Ellen says**

First Kiss is an intense and emotional coming of age story about first love that was so much more than I expected. Actually, it was one of those books that leave you still thinking really hard about it the next morning when you wake up. The story begins the summer before Jake's senior year and Alyssa's freshman year. Jake and his band are starting to make a name for themselves, tour, and have developed quite a fan base. Alyssa is the girl next door who Jake never considered more than his friend's little sister, until one day he noticed she wasn't so little anymore. What starts out as friendship develops into so much more and takes Jake, Alyssa, and pretty much everyone who knows them by surprise. The story centers around their relationship, but encompasses the whole world of challenges of teen love, which is complicated even further by the age difference, and then there is the whole rock-and-roll star scene and the lifestyle that involves. Throw in jealous exes, and friends and family who don't seem to have your best interest at heart - or do they, and you are in for a helluva a ride.

One of the main issues in Jake and Alyssa's relationship is the age difference. Granted, a few years down the road 3 or 4 years isn't going to make a difference, but right now, it presents quite a challenge. Personally, I didn't have a problem with it. I think that is something you have to judge on a case by case basis. For the most part, I think Jake and Alyssa were okay with the age difference and handled things well. It was just everyone else involved that had the problem, but that is not to say they don't have their challenges, and when it rains it pours. I liked Aly, I really did. She had her immature moments for sure, but her innocence was part of her charm, but for the most part, she handled things far better than someone beyond her years. I loved Jake to, and I think things were harder on him than anyone, though he pissed me off royally at one point, but I can also see where this adds to the story. I have faith that he is going to fully redeem himself before it is all over, at least I really hope he does, and I can't wait to see how everything plays out. There are quite a few secondary characters in the story who play important roles in the story, some I really liked, and some I liked to hate.

The story spans over a fairly long time frame overall and is kind of long - but the novella, Skid Out, was also included in the beginning, and despite the length, I did enjoy it. The ending was something I wasn't expecting. Actually, I was kind of sad and a bit heartbroken because I didn't see what happened coming, but on the positive side, I know this is the first book in a trilogy, so there is a lot more to come to this story and I am so curious where Ann Marie Frohoff is going to take these characters in future installments. I will be cheering for these two all the way. First Kiss is not a sweet, happily ever after romance story by any means, nor are things sugar-coated in any way - sex, drugs, alcohol, partying, and family issues are all addressed, and frankly, that is one of the things I loved about this novel - that and of course the romance. Is first love true love? Maybe.....maybe not.....we'll see. I can't wait to read the next installment, Broken Notes, which is scheduled to release in December 2013.

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### **Akilah Raines says**

I need book 2 like NOW!! Review to come on [www.smibookclub.com](http://www.smibookclub.com) 8/8/13

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## **Chu says**

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

First Kiss is not exactly what I expected, there was a time where I think the characters are way too young, or the story dragged. But the ending was pretty unexpected.

Nevertheless, I love these kids! Yes! They were young, especially Alyssa. Jake and she grew up together and have been friends and neighbors since they were young. Their lives drifted apart somewhere along the way, Jake was busy with forming a band and becoming famous, while Alyssa was focused on her friends and her sports, volleyball. Their paths once again crossed when Summer began, and unexpectedly – chemistry sparked.

Since she was young, and they both knew Alyssa's parents would most likely not allow their daughter to get involved with him, they kept their relationship a secret. Most often, she would sneak up to his room and spend some time there. It was weird and I totally understand Alyssa's older sister why she was opposed to the two – her sister was very young, naïve and doesn't have any experience with boys, while Jake who's 18 has been with girls, have done drugs and booze. How can they carry on a relationship? Will Alyssa get out of it unscathed when Jake no longer wanted her?

The dual-POV was a blessing. I always loved getting into the brains of the characters, and not second-guessing them. I liked Jake – he was a gentleman, and did not force Alyssa to do anything that she wasn't ready for. You may wonder why of all people, he fell for someone way younger. There were a lot of girls, but why Alyssa? Well, she's the only remaining NORMAL in his life. She makes him feel loved and everything about the two of them just feels real. BUT of course, I would have preferred if he waited for her to grow up a little more.

I never expected the novel to be that long. It was more than what I expected. Nevertheless, it was amazing how the author was able to manage to compress almost ALL teenage issues into one book. And what I love more about this novel are the songs!!! It wasn't just the tunes or the melody, but the lyrics were pretty great as well!

Now, all we have to do is be patient, sit back and wait for the sequel.

\*ARC Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Brandi says**

He's the future superstar and the boy-next door. She's the almost freshman and the girl-next door. A romance that neither of them ever saw coming.

Jake has been the boy next door for Aly's entire life. He was friend's with her older brother until high school sent them their separate way. Aly hadn't spoken to Jake in years and then one day her friend, Nadine, wants to meet him. That one little encounter changes everything for both of them.

Jake is 17, soon to be a senior and on his way to an awesome life as a rockstar. He's lead singer in his band,

Rita's Revolt and he wants to do great things. Aly is 14, soon to be a freshman, and unsure of her newfound feelings towards Jake.

The age difference isn't much, especially if you can keep in mind that they attend the same school, but what happens in real life when kids start dating and then the older turns 18. That's what kept running through my mind. I have no idea how that'll go over in my house when my kiddos are old enough to date. Anyways, not the point of this story, but yet it is. Age. That is one of the bigger issues this book tackles.

This is where things get fun! These two are brutally honest with each other. Aly's not afraid to speak her mind and Jake likes how refreshing that is--especially given his up-and-coming status. She's experiencing things she's never felt before

Meanwhile, Jake is taking things slow. Very. Slow. Which I think is totally amazing and unheard of. Jake is like the perfect gentleman. These two are sweet and touchy--in an innocent, new beginning kind of way--and freaking adorable.

Their perfect relationship begins to fall apart when Jake starts to spiral out of control. The band is having trouble, he's having issues with his mother, he just wants to see Aly. Add a fight, an insane ex-girlfriend, and a drug habit and you have yourself a horrible combination of **things that can and will go wrong**.

To keep this spoiler free, let's just say that I really, really enjoyed this story. The love feels real. The emotions are there. The scenarios are all totally plausible. You know, if one half of the couple is in a band that is finally becoming something. The issues raised in this book are serious. This book touches on, well, basically everything.

Romance? Check  
Bad-boy? Check  
Good-girl? Check  
Gay guy(s)? Check  
Bitchy ex? Check  
Jealousy? Check  
Abortion? Check  
Date rape? Check  
Fighting? Check  
Drug addiction? Check  
Underage drinking? Check

Yep. I do believe that covers the list of "things books should include to be good or trope-y". Either way, this one worked. Maybe because it covered them all? I'm not sure. I just know that I liked it.

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**Renee says**

Well I am so sad to end this book. I will say BEST BOOK I have READ. When you write a review and think

about a character for a day to decide what to write that is when it is EPIC. The blending of love, angst, hate and heart break was perfect. When you say this was a five star book it means something left a great impression on you, the characters spoke, the author had style and communicated the message perfectly. This was the case for me. Even though I gasped and cursed it is a sign that the message was there.

What I loved was of course the main characters. You MUST read book 1 it is short and it pissed me off that it was short, but it was just a set-up for this book. I got done last night and I actually sat here thinking all day what to write. This was the best book. I hope you know I don't say that often but I was so touched by it. So Jake and Alyssa live next door to each other and were besties growing up and then things took off for Jake and his band. So they just passed each other and then BAM fate happens and they started to talk again.

Should I tell you who else I loved? Ok I loved Rachel, yeah I know right? She was with Jake in a momentary lapse in judgement at the beginning of the book. Not giving a spoiler here. Anyways she is the girl you love to hate. I did hate her and I tried so hard to think what if I was in her shoes, desperately in love with Jake, helping him and the band for 2 years, and then sex, drama and no relationship. But I loved how the authors style made me sympathize and then totally hate her to the point I wanna stab her with a pencil repeatedly.

Alyssa's sister who is older, yes I was made me dislike her too. The Allison story was great once her reveal came. I was wondering why I just "didn't like" as opposed to I hated her. Kyle was my dude. How he loved his sister and covered for her and let her see Jake, well it makes me wish I had a brother.

I loved the Nicole and Nadine- the dialogue the friendship. A girl needs best friends like that. I think of my girls in Brooklyn and we were/still like that. There were so many memories that came back when I was reading their little gossip fest topics.

Marshall and Bobby were so good. Bobby in the band as well as Mike (grrr growling like a pitbull) and Dumpster aka Dump. All of them had the best supporting roles. Now there was Sienna too. She was Dump's girl and Rachel's bff. Now she was a BFF but there is a big BUT, she was so fair and called Rachel out on things. Dump did too, he was a neanderthal but to Sienna, OMG he loved her.

Aly and Jake were so perfect. I could care less about the age difference. The sneaking around and the drama was great.

Notting (English dude with a really strange name) and Kate were very complex too. Jake's Dad passed away a long time ago. His Mom and his manager "had a thing" but they never made anything big or official. It has to be read and discussed.

The author is golden! She has so many fantastic tunes in the book and they are going to come out too. Squeals if delight! I loved the songs!

I want it to be big. We have to do something to get the word out. I am doing my part for sure. So the last reason is the story of love, health, growing up and redemption. We all fall down and some of us don't get up for a while. Some of us bounce right back. The story of love is epic and one that must be read. I know people would disagree, but sometimes you do find the one. I feel like I am babbling but I love Jake.

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## **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

First Kiss is an amazing story and a MUST READ! Love rocker bad boys and first loves then this is the book for you! Ann does a great job putting this amazing story together and I can't wait to post my real review!

Okay so it is finally time yes people it is June 01, 2013 and I can review First Kiss! Whoop Whoop I had been holding that in for a very long time because I read this book and it took me a week people to read this book because I had to put it down. Lord knows everyone no matter who you are remembers their first love and how it felt to hold that person and to see that person and sped time with them. First Kiss is about first loves, rock bands, friendships, and growing up. This book took me a week to read because it was so emotional that at times I could not stop crying. This is one roller coaster of a ride I enjoyed taking.

I am so not giving away anything in this review because this is a must read book you hear me A MUST READ BOOK and if you are like me and read to many spoilers I won't read it right away but this book is so much more and let me tell you it is so worth reading. I will try and sum this book up in a couple sentences for you then I want you to go out and pre-order this book which comes out on June 11, 2013

Jake is the lead in a band and his band is taking off for tour soon. Aly has been his neighbor and friend for forever but one day Jake looks at Aly differently and things start to change for the two of them. But happens when you have your first true love but you have an age difference and jealous people coming at you from every aspect? You fight like hell to keep going to have your first love unravel. But then one of you is going on tour where is the trust and faith in that? Can Jake and Aly survive all this craziness? Will they even get a chance to be first loves? or will their hearts be broken?

Man this is one book that is a beach MUST READ! Ann I love First Kiss and I need book two like yesterday! I need it like I need air to breathe!

~Team Jake and Aly ~

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## **Deborah says**

Jake and Ally are next door neighbours and have been their entire lives, he's 17 good looking, in a band that's going places he's used to female attention and is treated with awe at school. Ally is 14 she has her own group of friends and will be starting at Jake's school as a freshman this year. Jake sees Ally and realises she's grown up, he feels an attraction towards her he doesn't understand, Ally's had a crush on one of her friends Matt for ages but once she sees Jake he's all she can think about. This is a book about young love made more difficult by circumstances, family and friends.

I read the first part of this book before checking out the reviews simply because I was on holiday at the time and it was easier this worked out well since one of the reviews basically tells you how it ends and I don't think I would have otherwise have started this, anyway by this point I was committed so I stuck with it and I'm so glad I did although I must admit I found it difficult to get into in places but that's because I read fairly quickly but due to interruptions this book took me ages to get through, not the book's fault.

Once I'd got reading I really enjoyed this book and felt deeply for the characters involved, I looked for more work by this author, a friend had already pointed out Skid Out which is about 50 pages long but it turns out it's just the start of this book so a taster really I'd just approached them the wrong way round. The next book Broken Notes isn't predicted to be out until April 2014 so I've a bit of a wait to find out what happens next,

but this is well worth a read.

Just one thing, I do have a thing for book covers and I don't think this one works at all, he's all wrong it wasn't until I wrote this review that I saw the cover otherwise I would have pictured him as Jake and that wouldn't have worked for me.

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### **Danielle (Bookwhoreblog) Perez says**

Jake is an up and coming rock star and his dreams of making it into the big music scene are starting to come true. Aly, Jake's neighbor is young and innocent and completely hard for him to resist. Can Jake fight his urge to be near her to be the good guy? Or will Jake's heart fall victim to Aly's innocents, threatening to break both of their hearts?

When I first started reading this story my only concern was the age of the characters. I tend to prefer older characters I can relate to and at the ripe old age of 28 I hardly can relate to high school students. I wanted so badly to love First Kiss but the age thing kept holding me slightly back from full on falling in love with it. By the end of the book I was head over heels for the romance and I felt this new age Romeo and Juliet connection to the story. Aly is the younger girl who knows she is in love and Jake is the older boy who is utterly drawn to Aly's innocence. The tale becomes them against the world and I loved it.

I couldn't stop myself from devouring First Kiss in less than two days. First Kiss is an emotional journey of first love and first heartbreak. I found myself balling my eyes out while reading this book, which was a difficult task all in itself.

Now here is the thing I feel like Skid Out is a tale out slightly before it's time literally by a few months. The novella debuted just before this new craze of New Adult broke on the scene and I think if this story was New Adult it would blow stories like Thoughtless, and Beautiful Disaster out of the water. That's right I said it! This novel is currently being marketed as a mature YA, and it is, I recently learned that the series will be in the NA genre by the next book.

So watch out Jamie Mcguire Travis might have some competition from Jake.

Now with all of the above said I recommend this novel to lovers of NA, and a more mature YA. I think the mature YA storyline and the upcoming NA transition makes this the perfect book for fans of the genre. First Kiss is a powerful emotional read that is hard to put down and even harder to forget once the story has ended. I am dying for the next book to come out and the release of First Kiss has just happened. Bottom line First Kiss is the type of book I search for, an amazing read that I lose myself in; a romance that I can't forget and a tale that leaves me begging for more.

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### **Kait says**

I received this book in exchange for an honest review. This in no way influenced my feelings about the book.

First Kiss is a coming of age romance that took me by surprise. At the beginning of this book I wasn't sure that it was for me. I wasn't entirely comfortable with Alyssa and Jake's relationship, and it wasn't because of



their age difference. The difference in maturity, especially sexual maturity, is vast. Alyssa is about to be a freshman in high school, she's naïve and has never been kissed. Jake is a senior who is already running full throttle. It was hard to get into the first few chapters because I was a little worried about where this book might go, I was afraid for Alyssa.

As the chapters progressed, and the point of view changed back from Alyssa to Jake, I began to feel a little differently. Sure, Jake is a somewhat of a bad boy, but it's clear he cares about Alyssa and doesn't want to hurt her. Alyssa was a little bit annoying at times for me, but I think it was because I'm so used to older characters that have more experience in relationships.

Alyssa is a kind of typical fourteen year old girl about to enter high school. She's starting to get these feelings that are overwhelming and confusing as hell. All girls go through this. Who doesn't remember what a crush feels like at fourteen? I know I do. INTENSE. It feels like all you can think about is the boy you like and you can't stand not seeing them for one minute. This is pretty similar to what Alyssa feels. Jake consumes her, and her addiction to him causes her to make some risky decisions. I found myself looking back to when I was fourteen, and I had a lot in common with Alyssa.

Jake is pretty damn swoon worthy. Sure, he's a guy who thinks guy things a lot of the time, but he definitely has a tender, sweet side. Jake feels like he's been playing a part and no one knows him. Alyssa is different, Jake can be himself with her. He finds himself opening up to her and falling like he never has before.

I felt like there were a few too many secondary characters that had half developed stories. I think it ended up being a bit too much because I kept forgetting who was with who and exactly who each character was. I think it might have been a little better if there were one or two secondary characters with strong stories instead of five or six couples that became kind of forgettable. I was most interested in Sienna and Dump[the name cracks me up] and Notting and Kate. I would definitely read a Notting and Kate adult novel[hint, hint].

This book created a pretty true vision of teens turning into young adults. There was labeling and superficial comments, but it was realistic. Alyssa and Jake had to deal with pressure from friends and parents and the pressure of Jake being on the road. Not everything went well, and there wasn't an ending that was all pretty with a bow on top, but I definitely enjoyed the ride. I can't wait to see what happens with Jake and Alyssa next.

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## **Tash says**

Reviewed for Confessions From Romaholics

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? I'm still wrapping my mind around this book as it's not what you expect from a young adult book about a rock band about to make the big time. Yeah, I had a inkling every since I first read the novella that the author has something special here and I wasn't disappointed. The book was a tearjerker to sum it up in a nutshell.

Continuing from the novella, Jake and Aly continue to see each other—at a cost. Their group of friends soon start injecting themselves into their relationship as well as Notting, Jake's manager and father figure, as they are not all happy that they are sneaking around and messing up the status quo. As the boy-next-door rocker and the girl-next-door get to know each other, the secrets come tumbling out left, right and centre. The band is about to leave on tour and things are rapidly changing in Aly and Jake's friendship and the group as a

result of everyone meddling and growing up. Jake and Aly are starting to realize that they have something special going on. But, who's kidding whom? It is not going to be easy relationship, Aly is not allowed to date until she's 16 and her parents are well known for being strict. They need to figure out how they're going to survive but it isn't going to be easy.

If I could choose a YA that been my favourite so far this year, this would have to be the book. There is so much going on in this book but it doesn't seem over the top. It's the right balance between all the situations as they all connect back to the main story. It's the story of two teenagers experiencing their firsts as they are about to embark on the big time and start high school. Hence the title First Kiss. This one time I actually do not want to say too much about the story as this is a book you need to read yourself. However, if you are seeking a bad boy rocker with a story to tell and the girl next door starting to mature and question things, this is the story for you. It is a YA book but it written such a way that you can forget that Aly is only 14 and Jake is 18 at the start because of the maturity that flows through their words, resulting in a book that reads like one of those rocker books that adults fawn over but with its characters only still in high school.

I highly recommend that you read this book and buy the version with music as the music fits in perfectly in the right moments like the novella. I'm hearing a particular song repeat in my head at this very moment as I write this review. 5 couples once again and I'm waiting in anticipation for the second book. An excellent debut from this author.

For more of my reviews, visit [Confessions From Romaholics](#). And drop by the blog's Facebook page

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## **Melissa says**

A story about first love. An up and coming rock star falling in love with the girl next door. Sounded like a setup for a great story. It could have been a great story. ... but it wasn't. Not at all. I don't throw out one star ratings lightly. I hate to give them out. But I can't deny this one. I did not like this book one bit.

I am sure that there is some demographic out there who might appreciate this story. Somewhere. I am obviously not it. I'm not sure I would have enjoyed this story as a young adult, but as a mother of young adults I was absolutely appalled at what I read. Appalled. This is the story of a 14 year old girl who falls in love with her neighbor. Her 17 year old neighbor. It is only three years difference, but there is a HUGE difference in the age and experience of a fourteen year-old and an eighteen year-old, especially these two. Jake is living the lifestyle of a stereotypical rock star. He drinks. He uses drugs. He has slept around. Aly, on the other hand is completely naive about EVERYTHING. Kudos for Jake in this story for not pushing Aly to do anything she wasn't ready for. But Aly seemed to think she was ready for the whole show. But she wasn't. Not at all. Reading her commentary in this story was like actually reading the diary of a naive 14 year-old girl who was trying her best to seem mature and able to do whatever the holy heck she wanted to do ... to heck with any actual consequences for her actions. She yelled at everyone in this story when she didn't get her way ... her parents, her best friends, Jake ... everyone. She reeked of immaturity and selfishness. She constantly sneaks out of her house to spend the night with Jake. Nothing really happens, but SO WHAT? She is constantly doing things behind her parents's back. Why? Because she darn well feels like it, that's why! And if anyone bothers to find that to be a problem? Well, suddenly it is World War 3, and she has a major meltdown, blaming everyone else but herself for her rotten behavior. I could go on and on. And on and on. But let's move on ...

What else I hated:

The spelling and grammar in this was ATROCIOUS. Absolutely atrocious. I hope that the author can make enough money on this one to hire an editor to read through this book. I can normally overlook a mistyped word here or there, but this book just went over the top. Your indicates possession. You're is used in place of you are. It is a music "chord", not cord. When you use an apostrophe with objects it indicates ownership. If you want to indicate more than one thing, all you need is an extra 's.' I'll stop there.

The pacing of this book was awful as well. A scene would be taking place, and then suddenly we were thrown into a whole new scene without any indication that the previous scene had ended.

It didn't seem clear that the author actually sat to read this book after she finished writing because several scenes were retold as if we hadn't already heard that information several pages earlier.

The characters were awful. Just awful. They treated each other horribly half the time, and they treated people who were different in some way even worse. What was up with all the fat comments to their "friend" at the beginning of the book? Was I supposed to like these people?

There is no great lesson to learn from this story. The kids in the story make rotten mistakes. They suffer for them. But do they learn anything? No. All they learn is that they really, really hate their parents for interfering in their perfect lives. Why should I care to read a story with that sort of message?

This is supposedly a story about a first love. A first kiss. Just a side note about that ... this "first kiss" that is played up in the title is not actually the first kiss. They had been kissing quite a while before this "first kiss" happens. So why was the "first kiss" made out to be the big deal that it was in the book? So confusing. But for a story about first love, it really missed the mark. Let me share something with any of you who might be thinking that this story is an example of the kind of epic love that you want in your life. When you are truly in love with the right person, they will cause you to be the best person that you can be. You will be better simply by being with them, and they will be better as well. That is love. These two who love each other so much encourage each other to break rules, skip responsibilities, fight viciously with those they love, use drugs, fail at school ... and on and on and on. When events make it so that they cannot be together they (and mostly Jake) decide to see other people. In Jake's case he is REALLY seeing them in all their glory. And yet he is quick to say that he loves Aly. REALLY? Really? You love her so much that you grab the nearest girl to sleep with while you're waiting for things to get more convenient for a relationship with Aly? Yuck! That is not ideal love. That is infatuation and obsession. Juvenile obsession.

And finally (because I have to stop somewhere) the supposed chemistry between the two characters is not obvious at all in this story. Supposedly Jake falls for Aly because she is so real compared to the girls he normally hangs around. She is more natural. He can be himself around her and talk freely to her. Supposedly. But what I am actually reading on the page is two people infatuated with one another who spend half their time freaking out about the other person. Aly spends all her time wondering if he is getting ready to dump her, and she forms all these VERY UNHEALTHY plans to keep him interested. Their conversations don't flow nicely at all. It seems like a train wreck in process.

This book is entirely TOO LONG. So much could have been eliminated to make a cleaner, crisper book. So many scenes did nothing to push the plot, and it was never totally clear what any plot was leading toward. Scenes for the sake of scenes made this read, like I said, like a fantasy diary instead of an actual story.

That's all I can say. I will not be continuing on in this series. I cannot recommend it. I did not like it at all.

Sigh.

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### **Annie Brewer says**

Damn, this book was intense and so freakin' angsty. I enjoyed it, for the most part. But I felt so bad for Jake. Damn, life was not so kind to him. I loved the relationship between Aly and him, when they were together. Everything and everyone kept tearing them apart. So frustrating! I'm eager to see where Frohoff takes these two in Broken Notes. 4.25 stars!

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### **Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says**

At fourteen you are coming into your own, learning new things about yourself, and about to embark on a new journey of your life: high school. Life will either explode for you in different and wonderful ways or it will end up pulling you down if you let it. Aly is bound and determined to have the best summer of her young life. She wants to be with her crush, Matt, as much as possible and hang poolside with her friends. Then enters Jake, her neighbor since, well forever. In one day, Aly's eyes get opened to the wonderful world of guys and Jake is front and center. Matt becomes a thing of the past and Jake is her future. Feelings Aly has never before experienced are ripping from the inside out to be set free.

Jake is overcome with feelings for a girl he has known his whole life and he couldn't be happier. Every second not spent practicing or performing with his band is spent with Aly. And no matter how cliquish it sounds...Aly makes him want to be a better person. But while surrounded in their little bubble they don't notice the outside forces that are coming at them until it's almost too late. Relationships will be tested and families torn apart. Sacrifices will be made in order to make things right once again. But in the end one question will have to be answered...was it all worth it?

There was a lot of dialogue between characters and usually I find that a bit annoying. But I think with this book it was necessary to establish that history between the two MC's and to back up their growing relationship. Also thought the author would jump from one scene to the next without any type of warning and I would be left a little confused for a moment. But I did have an advanced reader copy, so edits were still to be had. And I am fully confident that once it's released this book will be ready for it's readers.

Other than that little bit, I adored the story. It took me back to when I was 15 and seeing a guy that my parents forbid me to see when certain things came to light. We dated secretly for a time but slowly drifted apart. Throughout high school we would be off and on and ended up just really good friends. So everything that Jake and Aly went through was spot on for me. Well, besides the fact that my boyfriend was the same age as me and not an up and coming rocker. Hey, I can pretend right? But the author had the feelings and emotions down flat and I thought she did a wonderful job telling the story. It was real and it was believable.

Jake is one of those characters no matter what happens you are going to keep on loving him. No matter who steps in the way, you are going to keep rootin' for him. No matter what substances get involved, you are going to hope for the best. The minute I read about him in SKID OUT I knew I would always love him no matter what. Does that mean I condone his behavior throughout the book? Absolutely not. There were times I wanted to hate him, due to the way he treated Aly, but I couldn't. Yes, he could be a total jerk much of the time but he was that embedded in my heart for me to just give up on him.

And lord help me, with an ending like that, there better be a book 2. Seriously Ann, you can't leave us hangin' like that. Ah!! It was sweet and it was hopeful and it was a freakin' cliffhanger!! Here FIRST KISS isn't even out and I am in need of more. Buckle up folks, this is one book you are going to want to read!

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## **Tracey (Life and Literature) says**

After reading the delicious little tease that is SKID OUT, I can't wait for this one!!

REVIEW: To say I was excited for the release of First Kiss would be somewhat of an understatement. I read Skid Out and was immediately hooked, so when the super awesome Ann Marie Frohoff contacted me and asked me to review First Kiss I was in my happy place.

Jake and Alyssa have been friends and neighbours for a long time. But somewhere along the way they both went in different directions. Jake focusing on his band and Alyssa hanging out with her friends and being part of the volleyball team. But at the start of Summer their paths cross again and there is an undeniable connection between the two of them.

Being only fourteen Alyssa's parents would not be happy with her dating the much older Jake. Those few years in age difference don't mean much when you are older but in your teenage years it's quite a difference in maturity levels. Alyssa has little to no experience in the dating cycle where as Jake at eighteen has much more experience. He's been living the up and coming rockstars lifestyle. Girls, drinking, parties, drugs. They've all played a part in Jake's life.

Most of the book is told from Alyssa and Jake's point of view which was just perfect for this book. I think had we have not gotten a look into what both of our main characters were thinking we would have missed out on really understanding them and their attraction to each other. I have to admit that there were times when the difference in their ages and level of experience made me really stop and think. I questioned not Alyssa's attraction but where Jake's attraction was coming from. But being able to get inside his head really laid that to rest for me.

Living the life that Jake has he realises that he's never really been able to be himself. Pressure from his mum and bandmates to always do what is expected. That is until Alyssa. For the first time he feels what it's like to love, and he can't get enough of it. He wants to be with Alyssa all the time, but life on the road gets in the way of that. But that only increases Jake's need for Alyssa.

This was quite a bit longer than most Young Adult reads but it really delved into the teenage life, pressures, issues that they face and growing up along the way. While there were times that Alyssa's immaturity bugged me, I think she was portrayed perfectly as the fourteen year old girl that she is. Didn't we all struggle with balancing friendships, falling in love, our first boyfriend, parents... But Alyssa also has the added stress of her boyfriend being away touring in a band. And then throw in a very jealous ex!!! But by the end of the book I thought she had really grown up a lot.

And while Jake has lived the fast life, he is different with Alyssa. He understands that she's young, but he never pressures her to go too far. He is more than happy just spending time with her and holding her and kissing her. And that right there showed me the kind of person that he was. I loved him from the moment I first met him in Skid Out and I loved him just as much in First Kiss.

Another original concept of First Kiss is the option to purchase the soundtrack which I've had the pleasure of listening too. While I'm quite particular in my musical tastes I found that I really enjoyed the catchy tunes.

And that ending!!! Not what I was expecting at all!! !! I'm anything but patient when it comes to waiting for the sequels of books that I've enjoyed. And First Kiss was definitely a book that I loved. There was no question as to how much I enjoyed Ann Marie Frohoff's writing style and the way in which she portrayed the characters. Being such a huge lover of music and having it woven so perfectly throughout the book was perfect!! Bring on book two, Broken Notes!!

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### **Amy says**

Oh yeah. I got the goods. Be jealous. So very jealous. Because this is the shizz.

"While books have music as the theme, Frohoff takes it the next level by having a soundtrack with original music tied directly to the main character. Bringing the characters to life in a unique way. The music is the soul of the book.

There's so many situations in this novel that if taken to the next level.. it would be unbelievably horrific. I am not sure readers get the severity of how dire these situations are. Actually, no. I don't think they fully realize. But the staff and Admin at TWLOHA does, because that's the kind of people they deal with and try to help every day of their lives.

I not only hope this book and soundtrack will bring pleasure to many, many people all over the world. I also hope that it raises awareness and maybe just maybe it might help save someone's life."

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