



# **Nepenthe**

*Lindsay Paige*

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Corey Kennedy was once a star on the football team at Salem University with his two younger brothers, Jonathan and Patrick. He lived and breathed football, hoping to follow his father's dream to make it in the NFL. His chance was stolen from him when he was injured and his future in the sport ended.

As did his long-time method of coping with depression, a battle only he knows about and one he refuses to acknowledge.

A year after moving an hour away from his siblings, Corey hits rock bottom. His life is falling apart piece by piece. He's too lost in his mind to see a way out. Slowly, with the the help of Olivia, a pushy new neighbor, Corey begins to learn healthier ways of dealing with the problems in his life.

His ground is already shaky and unstable while he struggles to stand on his own two feet again. He must find the strength to withstand what life throws at him, or crumble and fall back into his bad, unhealthy habits, which could end the relationships Corey very much needs.

## **Nepenthe Details**

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Author : Lindsay Paige

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## **From Reader Review Nepenthe for online ebook**

### **Carey Fletcher says**

I pre-ordered this book before it was released in January. So by the time I started reading it I had forgotten what it was about. I read the first paragraph and realized it was a spin off of Bracing the Blue Line which I had just finished last night. I was excited because I loved that book and really liked the characters.

This is a different type of book than Bracing the Blue Line. Bracing the Blue Line was more romance. Nepenthe is more a story of coping and healing with depression with a side story of love.

I loved getting to know Corey more. He's a tough guy that has lost his ability to achieve his lifelong goals and can't find new direction for his life. His goals have always centered around football. Now that he's not able to play football, he can't stand to be around football or anything connected with it including talking football.

He meets his new neighbor Olivia when he's at one of the lowest points in his life and is not very nice to her. Olivia isn't scared away. Instead she sees through Corey's pain and reaches out to help him. Olivia is able to "see into his soul" as Corey put it and push him when he needs it or hold back when he's had enough. Over time Corey comes to rely on Olivia to help him cope and learn to be happy again.

The ending was a bit abrupt to me. While I realized I was near the because my Kindle told me so, I expected the story to keep going a bit longer. However, things were either resolved or you could see that they were on their way to being resolved. I would not let this keep you from reading this book. It was a great read and I often found it difficult to put it down.

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### **Jill Snead says**

#### **Loved it!!**

This series is awesome! Especially this book! It really let's you see the pain and struggles depression causes and how real and horrible it can be but how you can overcome it! So well written and such a love story!!!

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### **Logan Hr says**

#### **Amazing**

I've been a fan of this author since i read her first hockey book and she did it again! I enjoyed this book because it makes you feel what the characters are feeling and helps you connect with them, the situations that they go through are not easy, but they're not impossible to overcome either! I can't wait for more from this author

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## **Marissa says**

Goodreads Paperback Win

This book deals with depression and how it strikes people.

Corey Kennedy dreamed about a football career but it ended one day with an injury. Football was what kept him grounded growing up when his parents were murdered when he was young. He quickly grew up being the oldest taking care of his siblings with the help of his grandparents.

Football tied him with his deceased father who told him he would be a star. His depression was something he never told his siblings about and now that he moved away from them. He finds himself at a loss since football defined him.

He finds himself slowly falling apart as he misses classes which lead him to be suspended. He barely manages to show up to work and ends up drowning his pain in alcohol.

With the aid of a neighbor Olivia, who slowly worms her way into his world, he finally seeks professional help. Olivia has her own demons as the two of them slowly learn to lean on each other to fight their nightmares.

Corey must learn to handle his demons on his own and be strong for the both of them.

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## **mary smith says**

### **A book of true feelings**

As this being book two in the series, I was familiar with Corey and that he was having some problems. The fact that it was depression and the story of how deep he went and how he started to come back was powerful.

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## **Priscilla Garcia says**

### **Great story!**

Beautiful story, it was full of hope and love. It was well written and the characters were great. I really would love to know about the rest of the brothers and more about our handsome hockey players from the first installment.

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## **Michael Burhans says**

I can't say much yet, as it is a bet-read. I will say that it is excellent in every way. the protagonist has some problems I once had, and Ms Paige nails the feelings and consequences of them perfectly. Will update with a

much more detailed review when I have permission.

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### **Jade Rosemarie says**

I completely fell head over heels in love with this story.

I related both to Olivia and Corey.

I've been in both of their situations before. Being the one who is depressed, as well as the one who is a bystander to someone else's depression. It's horrible, and heartbreaking.

It was very surreal to read a book and completely understand the characters, and their reasons for doing or saying things.

Corey has had a difficult life.

He's the oldest of four.

So when his parents died (when he was only ten years old) he felt he was responsible for keeping his siblings happy, and away from his darkness.

What he didn't realize was that was not the best thing to do. I honestly believe this is where sadness began, until it grew over years into full blown depression.

Olivia has had some very tough times.

She's the sweet, and caring next door neighbor who REALLY sees Corey.

She knows what he's going through, because she's seen it before.

This time instead of just sitting by and hoping things get better, she is determined to help him.

Granted there were times I just wanted to shake both, Corey and Olivia, for their nonsense.

I related to this books so much and it was incredible to read such a raw, beautiful story that doesn't hold back. It showed the pain, and tears. The smiles, and laughter. Most of all it showed there was hope.

I've read a lot of books, but there has never been one book that has ever reached into my heart and made feel so close to the story before. Never have I felt so much connection to the characters, understanding and comfort from a book before.

Thank you Lindsay for this amazing, beautiful, emotionally wrecking story. This book deserves way more than just five stars.

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### **Tracy Lundy-Munn says**

Nepenthe is the second book in the Bracing For Love series by Lindsay Paige. This book was completely different from the first book in the series. A little on the depressing side, but really a beautiful love story. The storyline was solid and well thought out. The characters had depth and chemistry. Loving this author and looking forward to more books by Lindsay.

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## **Kristalyn Thornock (The Sarcastic Palmtree) says**

This book was such an amazing experience for me. Reading a book about depression, something I struggle with on a daily basis, really brings a new level of emotion while reading a book like this. Lindsay knows how to bring the best out of her characters. Each chapter adds and builds on relationships and experiences, both good and bad within the story.

I absolutely love the relationship between Corey and Olivia. They started out as neighbors and, because of Olivia's willing heart, she becomes a support to Corey in dealing with his depression. This book is so true to life in the things I have experienced with depression and the struggles that it brings. It was amazing how Lindsay made that unfold through the book, but also intermingled it with happy times as well. Living with depression is a roller coaster of emotions and varies so much from day to day how you have to adjust your life to deal with it. I loved reading about how Corey was able to come to grips with the things in his life and find a support system and humble himself to get help for his condition.

Although this book is 2nd in the Bracing for love series you do not need to read Bracing the Blue Line to enjoy Nepenthe. That being said, Bracing the Blue Line is amazing and I would recommend you read it as well.

Some of my favorite things about Nepenthe:

- Video Games
- Overcoming Obstacles
- Crazy Driving
- Family Support
- Yoga
- Living Makes Me Tired
- The Football

I would recommend this book for anyone over age 18 as there are some pretty heavy topics tackled in it and adult language.

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