



Offbeat

Nikki Lynn Barrett

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Life is full of choices...

Right before she turned sixteen, Taryn McAllister made several rebellious choices, one which led her to become the drummer for a major teen sensation country star. After a deadly accident, she made another choice- to get back on the wagon and play drums again, no matter that it took adapting because she's confined to a wheelchair.

Now another set of choices is thrust upon her. After reconnecting with her estranged best friend, Taryn is offered a chance to play drums for a local Texas band ready for the Nashville move. Her once strong confidence is shaken, and she's torn between her love of music and the reality that it might not work out.

Chris Roland made a string of bad choices, and it's left him feeling numb. Now he's playing the drums temporarily for his sister's band, but he knows this isn't the life for him. Problem is, he doesn't know what direction to go. He knows what he doesn't want, but can't decide on what he does want.

And then he meets Taryn, the feisty drummer who could be his replacement. He's relieved for a chance to break away....that is until he gets to know her. And while he's getting to know her, she's helping to open up a part of his soul that was long dead and buried.

It's high time to make the right choices. It's just a matter of deciding what choice is right.

Offbeat Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Nikki Lynn Barrett

Format :

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Offbeat for online ebook

Martha says

THE DRUM BEATS ON!!!

For Taryn the accident was deadly. Her life changed in a matter of a confusing seconds. All she remembers is that something is terribly wrong and then the blackness until she wakes in the hospital. The Doctor gives her the worse news a young girl can hear. This can't be happening to her she is the drummer for a super star artist in a band that is going places. Her emotions are all over the place and she is furious. For a very long time she won't speak to her best friend because this is all her fault, after all she was the driver. This has left Taryn destroyed, someone very dear to Taryn is gone and now Taryn is disabled.

After six years the truth comes out and Taryn has a chance to right the wrong between her use to be best friend and herself and make some new choices and turn herself around. Taryn is a very good drummer and has been offered a chance to play with a band in Texas that is ready for Nashville. Her confidence is shaken when she questions if she can do this. But her love for music and her talent are strong.

Chris is the drummer for his sister's band but only temporarily until they can find a permanent drummer. He has made some really bad choices that have left him feeling empty and doesn't know where he wants his life to go. It's not easy growing up in his situation. He has lost people he loves and one by death and one by mental disease. Chris and his sister Melody have a very close relationship but at times Chris can put a strain on things because of his moodiness. When a bright star starts to shine in his life named Taryn he begins to believe his life is going to get better. Taryn sees the emptiness in Chris's eyes. Why would some hot guy like Chris be interested in someone in her situation when he could have any woman he wanted? Can they build a relationship or will band tours and Taryn's insecurities keep them apart?

I love this emotional read! It goes to show how life always gives us choices and what we do with them is all on us. I really like Nikki Lynn Barrett's writing style it is smooth and fun to read. I'm looking forward to the next book. I would highly recommend this to anyone.

Morgan says

Let's start off by saying, that this book was amazing! There was so much emotion packed in there, I laughed, cried, and felt heartbroken for the characters. This was my first book by Nikki Lynn Barrett, and I was only through chapter one, and decided I needed to go buy the first four books in the series. She is an amazing writer, and I'm so happy I was able to read her writing, and I'm hoping she never stops!

This book starts off with Taryn who was once a carefree girl, she lived her life her own way, and was in a thriving music career, she had everything she could have ever wanted. Until tragedy struck, and another person's rage turned Taryn into a paraplegic. After that Taryn closed herself off to everyone, and is starting to turn into a recluse when her friends find out the truth about that night. They decide to help her out and bring her back. But it won't be easy, Taryn used to love drumming, it gave her such a thrill and helped her escape. Now she'll have to learn how to be on tour and deal with all the new things that come with being paraplegic. The way Lynn writes about all the highs and lows that come with Taryn's new life, really put everything into perspective. Taryn's reactions to everything were so realistic and even though she was frustrated at times, she never gave up, and constantly kept moving forward. The best part about Taryn was that she wasn't described as perfect, she was described as someone who had been dealt a crappy blow, and was learning to love her life in spite of it.

Chris is a man who has one night stands, and plays the drums for his sister's band. But he's finding his life to be unfulfilling. His childhood was terrible, his mother walked away and didn't bother to look back. He's concerned that he won't be able to love because of her, and the fact that he's carrying her depression genes. But when he finds Taryn, she becomes a bright light, something that can help keep him grounded. Their relationship starts off as just friends, and slowly but steady turns into something more. But when Chris' past decides to walk right back into his life, how will Chris handle it? Can Taryn and Chris' relationship handle anymore bumps in the road?

Nikki Lynn Barrett is truly an amazing writer! She spun a fabulous web, there were characters from previous books that were spun into this story, and helped create a wonderful story.

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (11/20/2017)! ?

Jody says

As a quadriplegic I was immediately drawn to the premise of this story and was impressed, for the most part, by Ms. Barrett's depiction of disability. The feelings displayed by the heroine were realistic with a hero who was supportive as he encouraged her to live her life to the fullest. Even as he was dealing with his own personal issues he still made many Grand Gestures to show his burgeoning love for her. From the first page to the last readers are taken on a journey of empowerment and self-acceptance that charmed me and put a smile on my face.

Taryn was once a carefree drummer with love and a flourishing career before another's rage led to tragedy which left her a paraplegic. She's closed herself off since then, become a bit of a recluse, before the truth regarding that night reunites her with her friend and gives her a chance to do what she loves best. Drumming brings her fulfillment but with it comes worries about what her body will be able to do when opportunity puts her on tour. The harsh realities of living life with a disability leave her concerned over what others take for granted. As much as she wants to be like any other woman, her body will always betray her. To get her HEA she'll have to find humor in those moments of embarrassment, accept herself as much as Chris does. Ms. Barrett realistically, and heartbreakingly, depicted the highs and lows of daily living as a paraplegic. Taryn's reactions were spot-on too as she allowed her frustrations to show but never gave up. She brushed herself off and rolled with the punches and these reactions were more empowering than if she never had her mini-breakdowns. She wasn't perfect and it's the imperfections that had me liking her all the more and rooting for her to let Chris into her life.

Chris comes from a past of pain when his mother walked away without a backward glance when he was a child. It left him doubtful of love, and carrying the genes of her depression, which has culminated in a life that's out of control and teeming with uncertainty. One-night stands and playing drums in his sister's band have left him unfulfilled and have him reaching out to the one bright spot to enter his life...Taryn. When his mother finally reaches out to him it leads him to make big changes to his life and plan a future with the one woman who truly understands him. With danger coming ever closer to them from a hidden enemy their HEA is put in doubt and had me on the edge of my seat. Chris is a truly wonderful hero who saw beyond Taryn's wheelchair and who made her see that her life has just begun. Together they made magic through many

romantic moments of dancing, swimming, and heartfelt talks. Even as he dealt with his own problems he always put her first which endeared him to me even more.

This was an emotionally intense read that brilliantly depicted the world of a paraplegic. The highs and lows were sensitively handled and fully immersed you in the everyday events. Readers could easily relate to Taryn's frustrations and cheered with her triumphs in a story that developed in a slow and steady (almost too slow at times) pace. The romance between Chris and Taryn started out as friends and slowly morphed into a deeper connection with their talks about sexuality dealt with in a mature and realistic way. The secondary characters were seen in previous books and rounded out this cast of immensely likable characters who all supported one another wholeheartedly. The only aspect of the story that marred my overall enjoyment was the psycho who went after the women in Chris's life. It felt out of place with what the overall storyline was trying to convey and became a distraction as it felt overly melodramatic. On a whole though I applaud what Ms. Barrett has done here in showing a disabled woman embracing life and love. Even though life sometimes gets her down Taryn still felt worthy of a HEA and I couldn't agree more!

Rebecca Austin says

Taryn McAllister had everything ripped away from her in an instant when a car accident left her a paralyzed from the waist down, her boyfriend dead and her best friend who was driving, country star Kyra Sanders able to walk away. When they learn the truth about the accident Kyra and Taryn reconnect and work on repairing their relationship.

When Kyra gets Taryn a chance to perform with the band Baby Stetson as their drummer, she must decide what she wants in the future and if she is ready to go out on the road, when confined to a wheelchair.

Chris Roland, the brother of Melody Roland, from the band Baby Stetson has agreed to be the backup drummer if Taryn chooses not to join but for some reason he no longer finds any passion with drumming. Yet a call from his mother, the first in 20 years, makes him question everything and must find out what is keeping him down.

Will Taryn and Chris discover the attraction they have for each other and go forward or will the ghosts that each of them have keep them at a distance and prevent them from moving on.

This book was great! I thought it really explained the ups and downs of what Taryn was going through so well and my heart was honestly just in pieces for her. I can't imagine what anyone goes through and then to discover why it happened is so just so mind blowing.

I also really enjoyed how the author tackled depression and what Chris went through and then the look into his and Melody's mother. I was not happy at all with the mom, Bridgette through out the whole book and although I understand the need to save your child I am still blown away at her choices. The author did a phenomenal job at making you so angry with her!

I enjoyed how hard Chris worked at making sure everything was right for Taryn and how all of her friends tried their best to make sure she was comfortable with all the changes in her life. The friendship between Kyra and Taryn had to be rebuilt but they were still able to share so much together and I like that they are able to get their relationship more solid after everything they have been through.

Definitely looking forward to the next book in the series!!

Mom's Guilty Pleasure says

I believe this is the first Nikki Lynn Barrett book that I have read. Just a few paragraphs in and I could tell I was going to be immersed into the story and be up all night reading. There was so much I loved about this book. The writing style, the friendship, taking real life struggles and showing how to lean on other people and friendships to get you through it, there was some mystery, humor, personal struggles and so much emotion. The only thing I was disappointed with was realizing this was book 5 in a series. I love reading series in order, but I was too engrossed in the book and couldn't put it down. Now I have to download the rest of the series!

Kyra and Taryn had a close bond as friends that felt more like sisters. Taryn had a rough childhood and had felt like she'd been alone for years since at the age of sixteen she declared emancipation.

Taryn played the drums in Kyra's band. They'd bonded instantly. They had fun while touring together until one dreadful night before Kyra's twenty-first birthday. Kyra and Taryn's life and friendship changed and would never be the same again.

Years went by with Kyra and Taryn having a misconception about what happened on that dreadful night. Once they found the truth out had too much time gone by to get past all the hurtful words and distance that had grown between them?

Taryn had an opportunity to try her hand at drumming in a band again. She had a lot uncertainty about going back to that lifestyle. It brought up a lot of difficult memories and she wasn't sure with her current condition if she could physically do it.

Chris had been drumming in his sister Melody's band. It no longer was his life passion. Chris didn't want to let Melody down and leave before she had the position filled. He was hoping Taryn took the position. He knew she was very talented and it would allow him to leave his sister's band with less guilty feelings.

Little did Chris and Taryn know how their attraction would grow. Chris was known to not want a serious relationship. He had some struggles with depression others weren't aware of. Taryn hadn't had a close relationship in years. She felt like she was a burden, would be let down and that she wasn't worthy. She still struggled with how others viewed her after the accident she had been in.

Will Chris and Taryn overcome their own insecurities? Will they be what each other needed... when they didn't realize they were looking for someone? Will Taryn and Kyra get over the past and be able to gain back their sisterhood?

Jennifer Craig says

Holy Smokes! Where do I start? After reading Offbeat, I was a puddle of goo. This is the newest installment in the Love and Music in Texas series and is a more than worthy addition to the series.

This is the story of Chris and Taryn, both of whom were introduced in previous books in the series. Taryn has recently come back into the life of her best friend, Kyra, after a six-year estrangement after an accident left Taryn a paraplegic where she believed Kyra was at fault. After the truth comes to life, Taryn moves in with Kyra temporarily while she evaluates what she wants to do with her future. While playing the drums at a benefit concert Kyra has organized, she meets Chris and the members of Baby Stetson, the band that his sister is part of. Chris has been filling in on the drums for Baby Stetson after their last drummer left, but his heart isn't really in it. When he meets Taryn, he is immediately drawn to her – not just for her passionate playing, but he also senses that they are kindred damaged souls.

Nikki Lynn Barrett did a wonderful job describing the challenges of Taryn's paralysis and the insecurities that went with it. Chris' determination to help Taryn overcome these challenges and to find new ways for her to enjoy prior activities was beautiful and turned my heart to mush. Also, Chris' bravery to confront his past and deal with his depression rather than excuse it, speaks even more to his strength of character. He is one of my favorite characters so far.

As with her other books, Offbeat took me through my full emotional spectrum. I laughed, I cried and I even got a bit pissed off – this is why I love her books. Nikki gets you invested in her characters and has you hoping for a happy ending, all while tackling the real-life issues that many of us have to face at one point or another in our own lives and opens our eyes to what others experience.

I loved the way Nikki continued to weave Kyra and Matt's story (as well as Melody and Jameson's and the others) so that the timeline rolls sweetly along. I can't wait to read the next installment. I would give this book more than 5 stars!

Cherie Melbourne says

NIKKI Lynn Barrett you create the most amazing stories with characters to take hold of your heart & steal it away.

A great read from start to finish & I definitely had trouble putting it down as I became so invested with the characters' lives.

Book 5 in the series, guess I'd better start from the beginning & I don't mind reading Offbeat again - after I've read the Winning Your Heart Series :)

Bobbi Wagner says

Offbeat by Nikki Lynn Barrett is book 5 in the Love and Music in Texas series. This story is about making choices. This story will make you laugh, cry and feel compassion. This story will show you that when you

are face with choices, good or bad, it is up to you to make and no one else.

Taryn McAllister is a young woman who is physically disabled because of a deadly accident that happened when she was sixteen at the hands of her best friend. She was a drummer in a band for a country teen singer, her best friend. When she is given the choice to return to drumming, will she take it? Will her disability stop her from following her dream? When she meets him, what choice will she make?

Chris Roland is the current drummer of his sister's band. He has made some bad choices in the past, but knows that this life is not for him. But what are his choices with life? When she pops up for his possible replacement for the band, what will he do? Will he get the break he wants? Will he open his soul up to her?

Taryn and Chris's story is one of making choices and making right choices. They will show you that finding compassion in each other is possible. What choices will they make? Are they the right choices? Can they heal each other?

This is my first read by Nikki Lynn Barrett. Nikki lives in Arizona with her husband and son. She dreams of living some where colder and stormier. She has been right since the fifth grade and her passions are for music, photography, jewelry and all things creative. This story will keep you reading until the end. I highly suggest this story as I know that you will love this story as much as I have.

Julie says

Offbeat is the five star fifth book in the series Love and Music in Texas by Nikki Lynn Barrett. Although this is book five in the series, it can also be read as a standalone. The author does a fantastic job of giving you just enough information to not leave you confused by the story but also not bogging the story down with details from the other books. I cannot wait to read the rest of the series because of how much I loved this one. Taryn was a drummer for the biggest up and coming country star Kyra Sanders. They had spent three years on tour before the terrible accident. No one involved could remember anything about the night that lead up to the accident. When Taryn comes to, she is in the street without any idea what is going on. She is told her boyfriend James was killed immediately, Kyra was just fine, and than at she needed to be taken to the hospital because she couldn't feel her legs. Once at the hospital, doctors told her she would never walk again. She blamed Kyra for all of it, until six years later. Even though Taryn and Kyra had been best friends, Taryn could not forgive her for the way her best friend had ruined the whole course of her life. Then a guy named Matt gave Taryn a call. He said he was friends with Kyra and that they should talk about it. She decided it was worth a try because her life hadn't amounted to much since the accident. Taryn tells Kyra her suspicions about what happened that night and that she didn't actually believe Kyra was behind the accident. When the truth comes out, it allows Kyra and Taryn to start their friendship anew. Kyra suggests that Taryn try the band Baby Stetson because they needed a drummer. This is when she meets Chris. He is the fill in drummer, but Taryn can tell his heart isn't in it. He is only helping out because his sister is a back up singer for the band. Even though everyone has been very kind to her and helpful with her wheelchair, she is still concerned that she will be too much trouble to go on tour with a band or to even be in a relationship.

Stephanie Mae says

The first time he saw her, Chris did a double take. Taryn was in a wheelchair. Whoa. Talk about

determination. Yeah, he hated to admit how much it shocked him. Not that he had anything against someone in a wheelchair, by any means. When asked if it would be all right for Taryn to play drums with the band for a few songs, he figured why not? Well, he didn't expect Taryn to blow him away."

This is an epic story. Maybe I should say, stories. The incredible journey is shared by several characters Chris, Taryn, her friend Kyra and the assorted members of the band and crew. This is a book where the plot thickens, more than once. The author did a credible job of weaving a multi-layered story. There is a lot of depth. The story is told from several different POVs and at no time did I feel I struggled to follow along or figure out who was speaking. I read this book as a standalone and had no trouble following the story. I found these people(yes they are no longer characters, but friends) to be so likable!!! No douchery, no characters to reluctantly like if out up with. Chris and Taryn are lovely on their own and so much better together. Taryn is carrying a chip on her shoulder the size of a mountain. Girl took some hard hits-literally and figuratively. She's a bad@ss drummer who lost her ability to walk in an accident that also took her boyfriends life and took away her best friend for a time- but she keeps rocking that beat. When I read wheelchair I was all in. As someone with a disability I look for authenticity when an author addresses this subject. I found the emotions to be so very realistic, I did find myself wishing for just a little bit more Info on how she adapted her skills to her new reality. I did also feel Chris was a little too rigid in his desire to leave the band and move on, took him a quick minute to get his head on straight when it comes to Happily FORever After. Overall, I did thoroughly enjoy their story. #TheWaltons #HEA #BonusScene ***be sure and find the bonus scene

Reviewed for HeadTripping Books by A. Bookhooker

Katie says

Offbeat is the fifth book in the Love and Music in Texas story by Nikki Lynn Barrett. This is the second book that I have read by this author but the first from this series. I absolutely loved it. I laughed, I cried and I fell head over heels in love with the characters in this book. Such a heart-warming story about trying to move on with your life after an event that changes it forever. It can be read as a standalone novel but this author writes such amazing stories I would probably recommend reading them in order, plus as the characters overlap in the stories so it may give a richer reading experience.

The story is about Taryn McAllister, who when she was 16 years old made a few rebellious life choices one of which led her to become a drummer for a major teen country star. After being badly injured in a horrific car crash Taryn made a choice to start playing the drums again. After reconnecting with her best friend Taryn is offered the chance to play drums for an up and coming band. Taryn is torn between her love of music and worrying that it won't work out.

Chris Roland is temporarily playing drums for the band his sister is in but his heart isn't in it. When Chris meets Taryn who might replace him he is relieved that this could be his chance to break away except he is completely captivated by her and her passion for drumming.

Taryn and Chris – 2 beautiful people with beautiful souls but completely and utterly broken by things that have happened in their lives. I loved reading about their time together. Chris is just so kind and caring and the things he does to help Taryn realise that just because she's in a wheelchair it doesn't define her and she can still do some of the things she loved to do – well he just melted my heart! Taryn is such a strong person, to deal with her life changing injuries the way she did and mostly on her own was amazing. I think the author did an amazing job with writing this story line, it felt so real and can easily imagine this story in parts could be quite true to life for anyone in a similar situation to Taryn.

Another beautiful and emotional read by Nikki Lynn Barrett and I give Offbeat 5 stars!

Jennifer Lavallee-Chesley says

This was a very inspirational story for me. Although I have not read the other books in this series, I have to say that this book hit home in more ways than one and made me cry. I could relate to Taryn more than I have ever related to any character in all the years that I have been reading and recently reviewing. Taryn took a very bad situation that happened to her and didn't let it stop her from doing something that she loves. The accident that is referenced at the beginning starts a very long journey for Taryn. Seeing Taryn rebuild her life, adapt to her disability, and fall in love made me so happy. It gives me hope.

I had a hard time putting this one down, I kept saying one more paragraph or let me finish this chapter. I actually neglected to eat because I was so engrossed in the book. As I read about Kyra and Taryn rebuilding their friendship and Chris and Taryn slowly falling in love, I just had to know what happened. I was scared that bad things were going to happen with the whole ex-bed-partners that Chris had had before meeting Taryn. I worried something bad would happen, but then when the truth about the accident she and Taryn were in came out I was super shocked and relieved at the same time. It seemed suspicious to me, but at the same time I haven't read any of the other books in this series and I bet if I did I would probably know more about Matt and Kyra's relationship and her kidnapping experience.

Seeing how Taryn was treated during the photoshoot by the photographer made me very angry, unfortunately that's how people act to those that are different and disabled. Taryn was treated like she was an annoyance and I can relate to that; I hate being a bother and so does she. I see parts of me in Taryn and that is scary to me but also helps me to see that I am not a bother. Taryn and Chris deserve happiness.

Chris, man was he a hard character to understand at first, but as I learned more about him, I liked him. Although he stopped doing something he loved because of what his mom did that made me sad. I am glad that he figured out his depression and decided to get help. Although once his mother made a reappearance and he was bitter I could understand why, but when looking from the outside his mom was sick and needed a lot of help and the jealousy that Chris felt towards her "new" family was understandable. Now his mom's request to save her daughter's life, Chris could have refused out of spite for what his mom did to him and Melody, but he didn't. He was the bigger person and I am so proud of him for saving his half-sister's life. He didn't give up on him and Taryn, he fought for them. He was so patient and gentle with Taryn that I felt he was her perfect partner. I hope in the future we can find out if they get married or at least how they are doing. This was a great book and I am so glad that I read it!!!!

Maura says

Offbeat by Nikki Lynn Barrett is the 5th book in the Love and Music in Texas series. This is the first book I've read by Nikki Lynn Barrett and I think the books probably need to be read in order because there are so many well developed characters who seem to have had their full stories previously told. Reading it was like listening to a conversation about a group of people when you only know one person. It's interesting but you get lost a bit until you catch up.

This is the story of Taryn & Chris.

Taryn is a paraplegic who stopped doing the thing she loves most after a life altering auto accident. She no longer plays in a band and only drums on open mic nights. Due to the accident, her friendship with her bff is

fractured and there is such anger. This is the story of Taryn's re-awakening to the friends and world she loved. She just has to do things a bit differently than before. I liked the way Taryn was written because, except for a few references of her purse on the back of her chair or ramps being needed, her paralysis and wheelchair were NOT the main character of her story.

Chris is also a drummer. We meet him while is temporarily the drummer in his sister's band. He suffers from depression and isn't exactly where he wants to be. The love for his sister is stronger than the love for himself so he always keeps her in mind when making life's choices.

The story of both Chris and Taryn coming back to life after dealing with physical and mental illness. It's the story of forgiveness and redemption and it's the story of chasing life's dreams no matter what. I thought that both characters were well written and handled in a perfect way.

Kristin Jones says

Every good romance novel has a main couple exploring their passion for each other, and in that respect, Offbeat is no different. Ms. Barrett has crafted, as part of her Love and Music in Texas series, a unique and truly romantic story that is different from anything else I've read.

Chris is a small town drummer with aspirations of being a physical therapist, but just enough depression to deter him from enjoying life. His family background isn't of the encouraging variety, and the only true family he has is his sister Melody. Until Taryn comes to town.

Taryn is a former drummer for country superstar, Kyra Sanders, with a tragic history that has left her isolated and a shell of her former self. That is, until Kyra needs her help. She and her former best friend reconnect and rekindle their long lost friendship, which ends up giving Taryn the opportunity to also reconnect with her passion for music. She's a drummer in need of a band. Chris needs a replacement for his drumming position in the band Baby Stetson, and is intrigued when Taryn shows her skills.

Taryn is reluctant, not having had a relationship since her tragic accident, but Chris refuses to give up on her. His encouragement and unique date ideas draw her out of her shell and into mainstream life, full of friends and music once again.

Offbeat is different from your average romance story because the characters are in a unique situation that keeps them from giving in to passion like characters normally would. This story is full of true romantic gestures, struggles to overcome insecurities, and two characters who ultimately find their happily ever after. Great read.
