



A Veil of Glass and Rain

Petra F. Bagnardi

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Indie Book of the Day Award Winner, 2nd October 2014!

Across the ocean, over the years...

Brina and Eagan meet for the first time when she's nine and he's fourteen. They like each other from the very beginning, although their bond isn't immediate, but it grows over the years. What links them is the fact that their parents are photographers and are extremely devoted to their work and to each other; so much so that both Brina and Eagan have to learn how to take care of themselves from a very young age. Despite their differences, age, gender, nationality, Brina is Italian and Eagan is American, they find comfort in their growing friendship.

Then Brina becomes a teenager, and her feelings for her friend start changing and deepening. New desires stir within her. As soon as Brina realizes how those feelings complicate her friendship with Eagan, she runs away from him.

A few years later, Brina is twenty and Eagan is twenty-five, they find one another once again. Brina is studying cinema in Rome and she's also trying to become a musician. Eagan begins to work as an architect in the same city. Eagan wants to be a part of Brina's life anew. Brina, however, is still in love with him; she finds it difficult to act merely as a friend and she keeps pulling away.

Set in the beautiful Rome, this is a sensual and romantic story of friendship and love.

(Recommended for ages 18+, due to sexual content and language)

A Veil of Glass and Rain Details

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From Reader Review A Veil of Glass and Rain for online ebook

Heather Anne says

Where do I start?! A Veil of Glass and Rain is such a poetic and heart wrenching story about two best friends who fall in love and who have had to overcome obstacles in order to get to where they are. It is written in such a poetic and vibrant way that I was immediately drawn into the story of Brina and Eagan. I absolutely loved that it took place mostly in Rome, Italy, one of my most favorite places in the world and one of the most beautiful cities I have ever had the privilege of visiting.

This story is written in a way that is captivating and invigorating for a reader. I adore Eagan and his adoration for his best friend, Brina. And vice versa. As a reader, you take this journey with them that allows for you to see them grow from being 9 and 14 into these vibrant young adults that have nothing but pure love for one another. Granted, it isn't all perfect and joyous. You are able to see them through their struggles and their triumphs.

I truly did enjoy this book and the characters that brought it to life.

It is a quick read and one that I recommend for those who love contemporary romance and new adult novels.

5 out of 5 stars!

<http://turningpages2011.blogspot.com/...>

Fab Fun & Tantalizing Reads says

In process of writing review .. Interesting and diff story - love - loss ...

♥

My heart is full. Yes this book gives you that feeling.

Friends who fall in love, the story of how they end up & where they are today. Eagan and Brina have invaded my heart and I hope they stay awhile.

This book takes you on the story of Eagan and Brina. We are able to learn about them and see things thru their eyes.

Best friends and lives that seemed to mimic the other. Oddly though their parents for all love they had for one another bothered me. You can love one another but come on..I did not like that their parents basically allowed them to be raised by others. (This was not a dig at book just my reaction to the parents) This had an impact on them as they grew up. One flourished and one faltered.

There were times in the course of the book that I wanted to smack sense into both of them. Scream 'grow up!', then I would feel badly for one or the other. I was all over the place. Again this book tugged at my heartstrings quite a bit.

Life happens. Choices are made. Sometimes you must grow up. Sometimes you have to loose things in order to value them.

Overall in the end the story broke my heart, warmed it and made me fall in love. I enjoyed the journey of Eagan and Brina, I think you should take the time to read their story. Well done, bravo!

Trina says

I received a copy of this book from the Author in exchange for an honest review

I give this book 5 stars!!!

Brina and Eagan meet for the first time as children when their parents become friends through their love of photography, both sets of parents are obsessed with their work and with each other leaving their children to take care of themselves. Brina is from Italy and Eagan is from America, he is 5 years older, their friendship grows over the years using emails, text and webcam as their source of communication, they visit each other regularly and become best of friends finding comfort and safety in each other when they are together. When Brina becomes a teenager her feelings for Eagan start to change and she falls in love with him. She is unsure how to cope with her feelings and realising that this complicates their friendship she feels she has no other choice but to run from him putting a strain on their relationship. When Brina turns 20 Eagan gets a job in Rome as an architect, she is studying Cinema there and he wants to renew their friendship, they have both missed each other but as she is still in love with him she doesn't know how to be his best friend or how to act and continues to run from him. Brina knows she has to tell him how she feels, he is her soul mate but she has no idea if he feels the same.

This I loved this book, it was such a tantalizing beautiful love story and an easy feel good book to read. The loyal friendship Brina and Eagan share is extremely strong and believable, their characters are written in a way which makes it impossible to dislike them, I fell in love with them instantly. Their journey from friendship into love is explained and described as they grow up and it is easy to believe the events and issues they face are real as they truly could happen. As they fall in love with each other they took me as a reader with them, I could feel their happiness when they were together and sadness when they were apart, Petra's writing had me responding in the right way to each situation even down to the small gestures which had me smiling, this is an emotional story which caused happy tingly feelings and goose bumps on several occasions. I particularly liked the fact that the story was told from both Brina's and Eagan's point of view which added to the enjoyment of the story.

I started this book with the intention of reading a chapter or two before bed, however it grabbed me from the start and I read this story with in 24 hours of being given the book, I couldn't put it down and read into the early hours of the morning.

I can't thank Petra F. Bagnardi enough for allowing me to read this book for a review, she is such a fantastic emotional writer it would be very sad for anyone who loves romantic novels not to read this, it should be on everyone's to read book list. A Veil of Glass and Rain has now been added to my all time favourite books and I can't give a better or higher recommendation!

Literati Literature Lovers says

Debbie's Guest Review

“Life must be savored, not rushed. Let me savor your soft warmth.”

Sit back, relax, and let the beautifully written story of Brina and Eagan take over your mind. This is a story of friendship, self doubt, love, loss, and forgiveness. Brina and Eagan meet and share an instant connection. Their journey starts at a very young age and continues to grow throughout the years and expands to many levels.

Brina and Eagan are well written characters with the author sharing a full and complete view of their mind, bodies, and soul. With each chapter you read, layers of the characters are peeled away slowing exposing the good, the bad, and the real. As the story develops you feel the ever-changing emotions brought on by time passed.

You will find yourself entranced with the wonderful words describing the many cities this story lives within. With each description your mind creates a visual that seems real enough to touch. You will feel the growing pains of each character. The hurt that will have your eyes fill with tears, the anger that will have your body tighten in defense, the self-loathing and self-doubt will tie your heart in knots while the intense feelings of love will melt all of your senses.

The story exposes how it feels to be left alone at a young age knowing that the one person who will always be there for you is your friend. It is a story that shows the downside and upside to letting yourself believe without this person in your life you cease to exist. It is a story that shows sometimes we hurt the ones we love to protect ourselves. More so it is a story of two friends, who without knowing it, want exactly the same thing. Wanting it and knowing the right time to live though are two very different things.

The journey of Brina and Eagan leads us from friendship to love, rejection to acceptance; it gives up hope and breaks us down. With each passing year we learn a bit more of what makes these two characters so incredibly devoted to each other. Although life may provide different roads for each to travel, sometimes you end up right where you belong together as friends.

A review copy of this book was provided by the author.

Sharon Xuereb says

Full Review at Sharon's Book Nook!

Copy of book provided by Petra F. Bagnardi in return for an honest review

A beautiful story of friends becoming lovers.

This story is well written and engages the reader in a pool of emotions, from angst, longing, grief, sadness, love and contentment. There are flashbacks to the past throughout this book and which are woven into the story beautifully without it becoming confusing, and helps you to embrace the feelings that the characters are experiencing and how they ended up there.

The characters are very likeable. Brina, an Italian girl, student and musician. She feels lonely in this world. Her parents travel constantly for their jobs and her best friend Eagan, whom she is also in love with, lives overseas. Brina pines for him throughout the book and feels her life is incomplete without him. Eagan,

however is American, an Architect and moves to Rome to be with Brina. He is also in love with Brina, which she is unaware of, and has been for years. Their relationship is adorable. The bond from their first meeting was instant and it's clear that they care for each other deeply.

My only criticism of this book is that I found it a little repetitive in some areas and I did find a few spelling errors, but they do not take anything away from the overall story.

I really enjoyed this story and read it in one day as I could not put it down. It leaves you with a nice feeling and you keep thinking about it long after you've finished.

Jenn says

What I LIKED about this book:

1. The story was divided in to 2 parts giving us Brina's POV first, then Eagan's second.
2. Fast Paced
3. Friends that turn in to lovers and build a lasting relationship.
4. The story had a theme of music that flowed through out the story.
5. Brina and Eagan had a good group of friends as supporters, even if some of those friends weren't always the best for them.
6. The friendship that Eagan built with Brina as the years went on.
7. Flashbacks in to Brina and Eagan's lives growing up until the present day.
8. Epilogue

Brina and Eagan are brought in to each others lives at the ages of 9 and 14. Their parents become great friends, therefore giving Brina and Eagan a chance to build a relationship as well. They become like a type of family for each other which they both need as their parents aren't always around. Time marches on and eventually Brina develops feelings for Eagan. Eventually, these feelings lead Brina to kiss Eagan while she THINKS he's asleep however, he's not and she's still underage and he can't do a thing about it. Brina freaks out and runs out of his life for many years. During this time, Eagan loses another dear friend to him and he needs and wants Brina back. He sets off with a plan of winning her back and this time he plans to make it the forever kind.

A few things that bothered me:

1. At times, I felt the intimacy of Brina and Eagan's friendship wasn't always appropriate when she was underage.
2. Sometimes I felt the book was a bit all over the place.
3. I felt Brina played games with Eagan...although I understand why as she was freaked out over losing him and showing her feelings.
4. I felt he should have just been more honest about his feelings sooner and I didn't like his games back.
5. Sometimes I think he was too mean. Also, too harsh for me in the bedroom as I didn't think that fit his affectionate, loving personality.

Content: drinking, language, sexual situations.

Kendra says

This is an amazing story! I love when books show emotion and feeling, especially when they can make me feel that same emotion! Brina and Eagan grow up together, both having photographer parents who travel a lot, leaving the the kids to take care of themselves for the most part. They do family trips together, vacations, even working trips together, and Brina and Eagan quickly become best friends. Feelings change for Brina and she finds it hard to be around Eagan, and just be his friend. After stealing a kiss, she distances herself from him for years, until he moves to her city and re-introduces himself into her life again.

The love they feel is all consuming, and when they're apart, find themselves physically ill, weak, unable to cope. Brina is definitely a weaker spirit, but as long as she has Eagan with her, does great. Eagan is the stronger of the two, holding them together, keeping Brina together, and ultimately the one that brings them together permanently.

Fantastic story!

Review by Kendra @ www.faebooks.co.uk

Geri Reads says

3.5 to 4 stars

Review request always makes me nervous because you'll never know whether you end up liking or hating the book. This one was quite a surprise.

The Story

A Veil of Glass and Rain is simple friends to lovers story. I say simple because we've had a lot of those. And if I may be honest, the friends-to-lovers trope is probably my favorite trope of all. I'm a sucker for those. So I guess it comes as to no surprise that I enjoyed this book very much.

Brina and Eagan are childhood friends. Brina is Italian while Eagan is American. They met through their parents who were best friends with each other. The thing is their parents are very much in love with each of their spouses. They loved each other so much they couldn't stand to be apart from each other. Which is why, Brina's father who is a photographer, and her mother couldn't stand to be apart from each other. So basically, Brina was left to fend for herself while her mother accompanies Brina's father on assignments. Poor child.

I mention this because it plays a great deal into Brina's character development and her reaction to her growing feelings for Eagan.

Eagan's parents are the same. The only difference is Eagan has his grandparents and a circle of friends to keep him occupied. Brina has no one except for Eagan. So she becomes quite dependent on him. They meet every summer since they were young and as they grew older, Brina realized that her feelings for Eagan are becoming too intense. In other words, she fell in love. Not having the best example except for her parents' kind of twisted love, she withdrew from Eagan.

The Characters

Eagan

He's your typical boy-next-door hero type, although he doesn't really live anywhere next door to Brina but

you get my drift. He's the sort of boy that you'd get a crush on in high school. He's sweet, caring, protective, and just overall, a wonderful guy. I totally get why Brina fell in love with her. But he is also just man, and that means, he made mistakes.

Brina

Brina is your typical girl. Painfully insecure and so very unsure of herself, and immature. I should say she's your typical poor little rich girl and I felt I should hate her character but I don't. I don't even pity her. In fact, I was kind of rooting for her. There were times in though in book where her actions were just..ugh, plain immature. But then I realized, she's very young barely out of her teens at the beginning of the book and dealing with absentee parents and her feelings for this boy. But she did grow at the end, which was a relief.

The Writing

This is written in past tense, first person POV. Not my favorite style and I've read a lot of it to know that it can sometimes make or break the book for me. Let me just say that Ms. Bagnardi sort of writes in snapshots. Snapshots of Brina's life in Rome, snapshots of her summer with Eagan, with her parents, her life as a student or some other noteworthy event that that she remembered. It threw me off at first but after a while, it grew on me. It was almost like looking at a photo album or a scrapbook that contains Brina's whole life.

The first time I saw Eagan, it was through a veil of glass and water. I was nine, and he was fourteen. We were at my parent's place. It was raining, and I was playing outside by myself. I was wearing a yellow raincoat and yellow boots. Eagan, his parents and mine were in the kitchen, talking, laughing, probably making tea. I could see them through the kitchen window. Our garden was dotted with small and big puddles. I jumped around them, pretending they were black holes that could capture me, if only I grazed their surface with the tips of my feet.

Another thing is that the book is littered with flashbacks during their life as young kids in Italy. It was hard to keep up but this is only during the first half of the book. The second half pretty much happened in the present, so it was smooth sailing for me there.

Final thoughts

Another thing unique about this book is that the story took place mostly in Rome. And Ms. Bagnardi did a wonderful job describing the sound and smell of Rome. Never been there but this book made me want to go to Rome and visit the places mentioned in this book. I loved the part where Brina was driving through the streets of Rome explaining patiently to Eagan about why traffic rules are meant to be broken. I seriously laughed at that one.

I also loved the secondary characters including Clem and the gay twins who essentially became Brina's surrogate family.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. And I would definitely recommend it to those who are looking for a lovely, straightforward friends to lovers story.

This copy is provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

M.C. Walker says

A poetic and engaging love story that breathes life into vivid and vibrant characters. Brina and Eagan have been best friends since she was nine, and he was fourteen. But as in a lot of cases things start to change between the best friends. Brina realizes that she has stronger feelings for him, and she doesn't want him to know about it. Bagnardi is a masterful storyteller that weaves a familiar love story in a different direction. Readers will fall deeply in love with each character and find them simply unforgettable. *A Veil Of Glass And Rain* is an charming and heart felt love story that will leave the reader feeling hopeful and optimistic about the prospect of love.

Gwen ~the Book Diva says

I liked this story. It was what I call an "artsy" type of book. It had a very sophisticated feel to it. There was amazing attention to books setting and surrounding culture. I could almost feel and see everything that was happening. It was the beautiful love story of two people never able to find the right timing to be together. There was also this ominous undertone, I kept expecting something terrible to happen. I loved not being able to predict the ending. Well done! A different type of read. Very emotional but brilliant.

Iona MacNeil says

Brina and Eagan's tale of friendship and romance wasn't quite what I was expecting when I first started reading it but it certainly turned out to be an unexpected treasure. I was pleasantly surprised with the depth in which the characters were developed, you can feel your heart breaking for poor Brina as she struggles to cope with the emotions that are overwhelming her. The author does an amazing job of expressing Brina's conflicting emotions as she finds it increasingly tortuous to continue being friend's with Eagan whilst being in love with him. The pace of the story was a little slow in places, and the jumping back and forth to different points in Brina and Eagan's relationships got a bit confusing at times, but it more than made up for it in other ways. In particular, the author has demonstrated a fantastic ability in portraying the mounting sexual tension between the couple. Overall, a joy to read.

Stephanie Parent says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review.

A Veil of Glass and Rain is a beautifully written, emotionally evocative book that I definitely recommend. The author is, I believe, European, and most of the book takes place in Rome, and the novel had a very European flavor to it that I found refreshing and different from my usual read. It's hard to describe exactly what I mean, but it reminded me of other French and Italian novels I've read—there was a relaxed sensuality to the writing, not only in the love scenes (though those were definitely sensual!) but in the descriptions of scenery, food, emotions, and more. It also reminded me a bit of some of my favorite Italian films, like *Stealing Beauty*. The author definitely writes with a filmmaker's eye.

So on to the plot...*A Veil of Glass and Rain* is the refreshingly simple story of two childhood friends who've

always been meant for each other, but who've been separated by circumstance and by their own emotional baggage over the years, and now reconnect as adults. The story flashes back and forth between the present and memories of important moments in Brina and Eagan's pasts. Since most of the story is told in Brina's POV, she was the character we really got to know the most, and I thought the author was very brave to create a female lead who can be extremely emotional fragile. It can be taboo to craft a "weak" female character, but by the end of the book, Brina doesn't seem weak—she seems like a sensitive soul who is in touch with and finally taking ownership of her own emotions.

Although I already alluded to this above, I have to say that I loved the poetic nature of the writing, with vivid sensory descriptions that just washed over me. I particularly liked the way the author worked music into the book, and the way certain smells became associated with characters and used as motifs. In fact, I think this book is worth reading for the writing style alone!

Overall, *A Veil of Glass and Rain*, is an emotional, sad but also sweet and hopeful story that's well worth reading. I look forward to more from this author.

Ange says

Brina and Eagan are kindred spirits and have been best friends for most of their lives, having had very lonely up-bringings. They remain very close up until a stolen kiss that causes Brina to distance herself in shame. Eagan is determined to be in Brina's life. Brina wants this more than anything but has to fight her own demons to find happiness.

Brina is very deep, but she's also a little damaged from her sad childhood. She's quite needy and doesn't seem to be able to take care of herself very well. But she has a really great network of loving friends who keep an eye on her.

Eagan is the type of guy who draws attention when he walks in a room for just being his charismatic self. His love and dedication to Brina are wonderful to read. His need to be raw and wild sometimes just made him human to me, and a whole lot sexier.

This is a fast paced story of love, loss, hope and happiness, but it doesn't come without its fair share of trials and tribulation.

Brina and Eagan's story was admirable and chemistry filled. Not to mention it had many raunchy love scenes!

Part of the story is told by Eagan, which helped the story along and explained his motives and actions. The story is mainly set in Rome but also Berlin. I got to brush up on my Italian with many references to places and cuisine.

I also enjoyed the underlying music theme throughout; Brina's lyrics for her final song were very moving. The ending left me content which is always a bonus!

Definitely a book to read in bed on a rainy day because it will warm you from the inside, out.

Katie says

Friends to Lovers!

This is a sweet love story that will send you on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. The characters are very relatable and the exotic locations will take your breath away. I loved getting caught up in the romance between these two and feel that it was even more special because of their friendship.

Eagan is a great hero who has a lot in common with Brina. I could really tell he cared a lot for Brina even in the beginning. I really enjoyed getting to know more about him and seeing his friendship with Brina blossom into something much more.

Brina is a sweet woman and I could really relate to her, but I was also practically shouting for her to confess to Eagan. Even so the tension made it that much more exciting.

You won't want to miss the memorable love story!

✿ Crystal ✿ - says

3 Destined-To-Be-Stars

Copy provided by Author for Honest Review

This was an interesting read for me. It was sweet at times, often emotionally charged but mostly a storyboard of Brina and Eagan's relationship. The beginning was hard to follow since it's often switching from the past to the present and all points in between. Once you get about 1/3 of the way through the pace works with the storyline and somewhat reflects both Brina and Eagan's fluctuating relationship. Then again with a 5 year age gap between them, a little confusion and emotional whiplash splices things up.

I don't really have an opinion of Brina. I found myself wishing the story was mainly in her POV since she had so much to share and as readers I felt we only got snippets of her feelings and emotions. (The first half of the story mainly revolves around Brina and Eagan takes up the second half.) Her parents love for one another was something that played a role in hardening her as a child and also stunting her childhood experiences. Mostly because they cared so much for each other she sort of fell to the wayside. The way both her parents and her and Eagan care about each other is scary. It's as if they truly are each other's other halves. Without the other, they are not whole and cannot live a full or happy life. When Eagan is missing from her life, Brina, goes into a living depression. One where eating, sleeping and just living matter little to her.

Eagan's home life is practically the same as Brina's. His parents are all about each other but seem to forget how to live without the other. Unlike Eagan Brina is alone. Eagan has grandparents who he visits and showers him with all the family emotions and caring his own parents can't give. Brina misses out on all of this as the only people she has is her parents. It's very sad to see how distanced they are and it's surprising that Brina never got too out of control from anger and resentment. But then Eagan provided a grounding nature that she never stopped falling back on.

As far as Eagan goes he grew on me over time. At first I thought he was kind of a dick but sometimes it's our reaction to lash out and be mean when you feel backed into a corner. Eventually he grew on me and I found him overly adorable for turning his life into something that would be worthy of Brina.

I think more than anything I found myself jealous of these characters. Much of their time is spent distancing themselves from one another or trying to pry themselves apart. They are in many ways needy and I just wanted them to sit back and smell the roses, so to speak. Sure their parents were often absent but at the end of the day they still had each other, their friendship and travel opportunities most of us could never be so lucky to imagine. The five year age gap between them did make things trickier. Since they've been close since they were little kids Eagan had to grow up before Brina and she had to watch it happen.

Aside from my own issues with the writing style (past tense) and time-jumps I wish there was more tension from outside the characters... I know, that sounds crazy but they created so much inner turmoil themselves that it left no room for the outside world. But both Brina and Eagan had an inherent strength that time and distance could not diminish and it resonated through the page. Brina knew her feelings for Eagan, but without anyone acting on them or discussing them all they did was end up further apart. But don't worry, everyone wizens up in the end and they find their HEA.

Overall I enjoyed this story. While my kindle kept shutting off every other page, I thought I would never finish but alas a lot of power switches later and I was done in no time. This was a very quick read. I was surprised how fast things went but once the story picks up you're engaged to the end and just hoping everything works out. I loved the use of the title throughout the book, more often than not Brina is looking through a veil of some sort and it added an interesting element to the story and gave the title a much deeper meaning. Though the 2/3 of the book are fairly clean, closer to the end is where all the magic happens, if you know what I mean. Wink**wink**!! When Brina and Eagan finally give into temptation and realize they can't fight their desire anymore, clothes will fly and gasps will ensue. These two are so hot for each other it's hard to imagine them denying themselves this long. I would recommend this to older teens and definitely fans of NA, this is right up your alley.

On a side note: I loved how much Eagan feared Brina's driving. Sure there was a reason for it, but in Rome everyone drives crazy, you're crazy if you don't!!
