



Freefall

Kristen Heitzmann

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When a young woman stumbles out of the Hanalei Mountains on the island of Kauai with no memory of who she is or how she got there, Cameron Pierce reluctantly agrees to investigate the mysterious circumstances surrounding her arrival. Now known as Jade, the woman begins to recall fragments of what led her to this place, and she realizes the danger isn't over.

Freefall Details

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Kate says

I really enjoyed this book. I liked the suspense of it: the manifold mystery. I had pegged someone as the culprit, but then decided they were harmless, only to find out later that perhaps they weren't so innocent after all . . .

I really liked the characters of "Jade" and Cameron, and how their relationship grew from mutual distrust to friendship. However, my favourite characters were Nica and Okelani.

Reading about Hawaii in this book made me long to go there: not to the commercialised Hawaii, but to the Hawaii that Nica knew . . . the one of friendship and faith, and the true spirit of Aloha! :)

Liz says

I thought I was going to enjoy this book because the story was pretty interesting from the beginning, and I liked the setting of Hawaii. I was very disappointed with the content, though, and couldn't finish reading it.

I am uncomfortable with Christian fiction using characters that keep mentioning their sexual desire and attraction. When I got to page 100-something and decided I wouldn't read any further, I wanted to get an idea of how the story ended. So I turned to the last couple of pages, and was caught quite off guard by a scene in which two characters were described as "hungering" for each other and one asking the other to "make love". Really?!?

I won't be reading any more of this author's books.

Dana says

I liked this book I loved the setting of it and want to go visit Kauai now. I loved that you got a peak at the natives and got to hear how they speak it made me want to learn Pidgin. I really loved the storyline but for some reason I wish the book moved a little bit faster. I felt like it took me forever to get through. But yet I don't know how that could have happened! I loved how it all wrapped up nicely and felt content with the ending. A nice read.

Sarita says

I have read a few Kristen Heitzmann books, and this one was my favourite.

There was a great balance between character build-up (of which there were quite a few - Gentry, Cameron, Nica, TJ, and other secondary characters), characters dealing with heavy issues and the suspense.

The mystery was continuous throughout the book with an action pack ending. There was a lot going on in the first 50% of the book which made for a slower start but I felt the last 50% flew by.

The interaction between the characters were also more flowing for me than her previous books and the culprit a bit more twisted. I did struggle some with the Kuaian lingo but later in the book understood that better.

What I enjoyed about this book was apart from the mystery/suspense, the characters had to heal from past hurts, some even coming from childhood. This process happened over weeks/months and not instant. As a reader you also felt the characters pains, insecurities, struggles and trust issues.

Recommended to mystery/contemporary fans.

Tiffany says

*sigh. One of those books that ive re-read a few times because of how good it is. Freefall captures the story of a young women who wakes up and finds that she remembers nothing. Not even her name. Cameron, a young man that she mets soon after, thinks that there is more to her story and decides to investigate. Through vivid description and a breath taking plot we slowly learn the story of what happens to our girl and what exactly has brought her to the island of Kauai. Not only does this book have action and suspense but you will soon find that a tad bit of a love story is included in the plot. I enjoyed the way the author uses some of the lanuage that the people speak on the island in the book, this allowed the reader to learn some really kool words and phrases. I didnt particularly like that some chapters told the story of different people (dont worry it still connects to the story!) but I did like that because of these added chapters I couldnt wait to get back to cameron and "the girl". I feel in love with cameron who i think is rugged and rough on the outside but sweet and gently and so caring once you get to know him. Give it a try. When I first read it I didnt realize how good it was and it took a second read for it to sink in.

Kav says

Published in 2006 this book is, in a word, mesmerizing. A layered tale of truth and deceit and how they affect relationship. The suspense is enthralling...from the moment Jade staggers out of the jungle until the final resolution, Heitzmann expertly weaves an intriguing mix of clues around a heart-stirring romance. And, oh my, is it ever complicated! She breathes life into her characters. They are realistically flawed, plagued by unique insecurities that motivate their actions for good...or evil. I especially love the depth of connection to God seen in different characters. They don't always get it right but they keep trying. An uplifting and captivating read that I inhaled in one day.

And just because I can totally relate to this line from the book I feel the need to share: "...while he didn't look for God's hand in everything, he paid attention when it slapped him in the face." (p.141)

Lynn Spencer says

I know this book is beloved by many an inspy reader, so I don't know why I took so long to give it a whirl. While not perfect, I will say this is one of the very few amnesia stories that's really worked for me.

Set in Hawaii, a local healer finds a disoriented hiker who has stumbled out of the woods. The woman does

not remember her name or how she came to be in a fairly isolated part of Kauai, so the healer, Monica Pierce, takes her home. For the time being, she and her foster mother call the woman Jade.

It's obvious Jade has been through some kind of trauma, and the mystery surrounding her appearance unsettles Monica just enough that she gets her brother Cameron, a private investigator, involved. What follows has some farfetched moments (which I'll leave out here so we don't have spoilers), but just enough believable plot twists to keep the reader engaged.

One thing I appreciated in the beginning of the book were all the different reactions to Jade. Some folks are immediately accepting of her while others, such as Cameron, are suspicious of her amnesia story. There are some more mystical aspects of the story that didn't quite work for me (I tend not to be into the "woo-woo" stuff whether I'm reading inspy or secular), but otherwise I enjoyed the characters and the rapidly developing plot.

As the story progresses, Jade does begin to recall parts of her memory. She also finds herself confronted with people who knew her before her amnesia, and that brings its own set of adjustments. And then there is the fact that someone still seems to be targeting Jade, which lends a sense of urgency to the entire story.

If you enjoy romantic suspense, **Freefall** is a winner. The romance takes a back seat to the rest of the plot action for much of the book, but that works well given the nature of the story.

Dani (Pen to Paper) says

I wanted to approach this book with an open mind (having never read any Christian Fiction before), but I will admit that although I had my intentions, I was still sceptical. However, before I knew it I'd passed page 100 and found myself fully involved with the story. I found the characters mostly amiable, and I found them convincing enough to want things to work out at the end. Although too idealistic in some ways, I enjoyed Gentry and Cameron's relationship and found it to be convincing most of the time; it even managed to give me goosebumps near the end of the novel.

Although the Christian theme is something that I am unfamiliar with, and although I do not share the religious views of the author, I didn't find the religious theme to be too overwhelming and was still able to enjoy the story.

I'm not sure I would read anything else by this author, but I did enjoy Freefall and would recommend it to a friend.

Jan says

I really enjoyed the "Diamond of the Rockies" series by this author but I did NOT like this book. There were multiple things that I didn't like: the special "senses" of the elderly friend and the sister sounded more mystic than from The Holy Spirit, attitudes of lust, the glamorization of an industry that is usually hostile to the Gospel (Hollywood), lack of high standards made the hero hard to respect - his abstinence did not seem to be based on the firm resolve to obey God's Word, and the divorced hero is the victim but finds true love now. I also found the writing itself was not as good - certain words & phrases were repeated throughout the book ("hooked his thumbs on his waist", "malice", etc).

I will read more from this author so I can decide what I think - a series I loved and then a book I didn't doesn't seem right! :)

Amanda G. Stevens says

My first Heitzmann read ever, I picked this book up because of the cover (and no shame in that: the cover did its job). I read the back blurb and thought, *Hm, okay, maybe*. I read the first two pages and bought the book.

In reality, Christians know life is gritty at times. Even those ready to "give an answer for the hope that is within" us sometimes struggle with those answers. Our fellows in fiction ought to struggle, too. Kristen Heitzmann understands this and writes this. Brilliantly.

Jade's moral dilemmas relating to her career are refreshingly real, and no quickie solution is offered. Her determination and vulnerability as she regains her memories are well-portrayed. Cameron is an even deeper character--hiding a broken heart behind gruff suspicion, terrified of the world's propensity to steal what he loves, and continuing to believe in God despite it all, just no longer willing to trust Him.

When summed up that way, neither of these characters sounds original, but they are. Jade's version of strength is willingness to trek into the Hawaiian wild by herself before asking a man who doesn't believe her for help. Cameron's version of heavenward fist-shaking is to pit his surfboard against the sea and beat it one wave at a time. What makes these characters work? A familiar core demonstrated by original quirks--quirks that at times actually drive the plot, rather than being submerged in it.

In addition, Heitzmann's prose is a step above, treating us to interesting similes and specific verbs. A pitiless editor could have slimmed the book down a bit, but on the whole, I loved the writing here. I also loved the vivid Hawaiian setting, and there was nothing more fun than Cameron breaking into pidgin.

Of course, expect the main characters to end up together. But Heitzmann's approach is far from syrupy, honest instead. The attraction between Jade and Cameron is rooted in their souls, not their bodies, yet this author acknowledges the physical desires of men and women. There are realistic reasons for them to be together but also realistic obstacles to keep them apart.

This book made me a Kristen Heitzmann fan and pushed me to find more Christian fiction written as well as hers. So glad that cover caught my eye.

Barbara says

"Another reviewer summed up my feelings about this book pretty well. The dialogue is good, particularly between Jade and Cameron (Kai), the protagonists of Heitzmann's novel. The book could have benefited from some judicious editing, but overall the story flows along nicely, like a stream exiting a mountain.

The one nagging problem I had was with Jade (aka, Gentry Fox, an actress). Why on earth would any Christian assume that he or she could immerse themselves in the world of acting, film and television and

spend countless hours with nonbelievers and come out unscathed, faith intact, given what Paul wrote at 1 Corinthians 15:33 ("Bad associations spoil useful habits.")? Given that this culture in particular idolizes actors, why would any Christian put themselves on a pedestal this way? How is Christ honored by people screaming your name?

Anyone who believes, as Jade/Gentry does, that their faith will remain intact in spite of their chosen occupation and the risks it entails is delusional.

I finished the book in one sitting. It's really not that bad, considering some of the truly idiotic Christian fiction out there, but it's not the greatest novel I've ever read. I'm hoping some of Heitzmann's other books are better."

Tara C says

Though I feel like Heitzmann is repetitive in her description of things from book to book, I liked the uniqueness of her setting. Hawaii is a beautiful place that not a lot of people are able to visit. She really put you there, in the culture and in the traditions. I enjoyed the plot and story line. Instead of one climax, she structured it to contain several. I did feel some parts were predictable, but I really enjoyed the love story and the transformations you see in some of the characters. I do appreciate that it's a "Christian" love story and shows the struggles you really have; not a candy-coated Christian version that so many authors use. (Same thing I appreciate from Francine Rivers).

Sarah says

Okay, I have mixed feelings about this book.

Kristen Heitzmann has incredible talent. A forth of the way through I wondered how she was going to make the story last four hundred and sixty some odd pages. However, she made the pages fly by; it wasn't a stretch.

The first third of the book was amazing. The interaction between Jade and Cameron was realistic as was as gripping. The faith displayed by some of the main characters wasn't preachy, fake, or overdone, but very strong. The amnesia and remembering were well written and believable.

After the first third of the book, I didn't enjoy as much. The story itself was still captivating, but I was disappointed in the characters. The main guy and girl, although they never go beyond kissing, place themselves in compromising situations by CHOICE. I can take it when authors put their characters in bad situations that test their character, but they when they chose those situations, it disappointed me. It wasn't horrible, but I had higher hopes from the start of the book.

I recommend it for older readers who like adventure/romance books will probably enjoy this book.

Loraine says

SUMMARY: When a young woman stumbles out of the Hanalei Mountains on the island of Kauai with no

memory of who she is or how she got there, Cameron Pierce reluctantly agrees to investigate the mysterious circumstances surrounding her arrival. As pieces begin to fall into place, he suspects her injuries were no accident, but he's far from convinced she's an innocent victim. And there's that nagging feeling he's seen her somewhere before....

Now known as Jade, the woman begins to recall fragments of what led her to this place, and she realizes the danger isn't over. Jade and the cynical Hawaiian investigator attempt to reconstruct the threads of her identity, but the stakes are far higher than either expected.

REVIEW: Freefall is another excellent romantic suspense thriller from Kristen Heitzmann. The plot is jam packed with action and keeps the readers attention from start to finish. The characters are very realistic. I particularly liked the quandry Gentry found herself in as an actress in a city filled with immorality. She faced the issue of whether or not she could be a representation of morality or would she cave in to the demands of the movie industry in order to further her career. Cameron faced many issues from his past as well and had to determine how he was going to live beyond them as well as the fact that his faith had been shaken due to these issues. The secondary characters, Allegra, Rob, TJ and Nica, Okelani, all added unique perspectives to the storyline.

I loved Heitzmann's descriptions of Hawaii which made me feel like I was right there in the midst of the story and gave justice to the beautiful island of Kauai. I thought that Okelani's use of the hula to speak in prayer to God was a unique and lovely form of worship using her own cultural heritage.

My rating is a 4.5 overall because of one thing that bothered me. I sometimes felt uncomfortable with the dreams/sensations/auras that were sensed by Okelani, Nica and Cameron. But this is just my personal opinion. Still a book I would definitely recommend.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "...while he didn't look for God's hand in everything, he paid attention when it slapped him in the face."

"God had allowed the anger and defiance and carried him safely again and again until he could recognize the authority that gave life grace."

"God showed me once and for all that I'm not uncovering his scam. He's no fraud. He's the only real thing there is."

Stefanie says

Freefall by Kristen Heitsmann was an overall good read.

The setting was Hawaii, which I thoroughly enjoyed. There's just something about diving into a book and immersing yourself in a place that is unlike your present home. I loved the touch of Hawaiian dialogue throughout the novel and learning a few Hawaiian words. I enjoy authors who take the time to research those things. It makes the book genuine.

Gentry was a very relatable character and I enjoyed getting to know her and her heart. Cameron, or Kai, his Hawaiian name, was also a character I really enjoyed getting to know, especially after his walls were broken down.

There were parts of this novel that were long and drawn out to me, which gave it a sleepy effect, but other sections seemed to move so fast that it felt rushed and unnatural. Overall though it was a wonderful story to read.

