



## **Above the Noise**

*Michelle Kemper Brownlow*

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Becki Mowry's journalism expertise keeps her busy as she spends her waking hours filling a calendar with gigs and public appearances for her boyfriend's up and coming band, Alternate Tragedy. Radio interviews and TV spots result in sold out concerts and rowdy groupies hot for her guy; lead singer, Calon Ridge. But, as fame would have it, their time in the limelight also brings sabotage, rumors and false accusations. Becki and Calon try to stay steadfast on a personal journey that takes them to the depths of fear and uncertainty. And finally, the rug is pulled out from under the band when they must make a transition they never dreamed they'd be faced with. In this third book of the In Too Deep series, Becki and Calon struggle to find balance as they navigate their new relationship while living amid the rock world's nocturnal chaos. But when life's unexpected obstacles come out of nowhere, they focus on finding their own private solace Above the Noise.

## **Above the Noise Details**

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Author : Michelle Kemper Brownlow

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# From Reader Review Above the Noise for online ebook

## Deanna Watson says

Wow! This is an amazing story of Becki and Colan. You meet them in the first two books, but will get to really know them. You don't need to read the first two to read this one, but they will help you understand them both more and their individual journeys before they find each other. This book will make you laugh and cry. Colan will swoon you and leave you for more. Their strength is unbelievable and will leave you in aww. A definite must read.

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## Jessica says

### 3.5/5 stars

Upon finishing On Solid Ground and seeing that the next book would be Becki and Calon's, I was ecstatic! Becki has been such a great side character in the first two novels- one of the best friends anyone could possibly have- and I fell for Calon the minute I met him (well after I realized he wasn't going after Gracie!).

**Pacing:** I felt the pacing was pretty good overall, but I did feel this book took a bit to pick up speed. Brownlow has written a very character driven novel and one that really focuses on the every day life of these characters. I did feel Calon and Becki's relationship seemed a bit like insta-love, even with the flashbacks Brownlow has provided in the beginning of them becoming more. Even though I would have liked to see a bit more build up in their relationship, I do still feel it is genuine and after a while it really wasn't even an issue for me.

**Storyline:** Calon Ridge and his band Alternate Tragedy are ready to work at making a name for themselves. They have performed numerous gigs in their hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee and are now ready to take the next step. This novel follows the band as they make that transition from small town favorite to a band generating more and more buzz. Calon is not one of those attention seeking, cocky, arrogant musicians out to own the world. Instead, he's a really great guy who wants to make music, but still remain grounded and true to himself. He has known loss and pain in his life and really thinks things through before acting on them.

Becki Mowry is joining Alternate Tragedy on tour as their manager, as well as Calon's girlfriend. The two are starting their relationship off slow, as both of them know it has the potential to be so much more and don't want to rush things.

We get to see the two form and solidify their relationship while navigating the demands of being an up and coming band, girls that would do anything for a chance with a rockstar, as well as some unexpected surprises that they must face.

**Characters:** I liked both Becki and Calon. They are really great characters individually and together. Becki is more outspoken than her best friend Gracie and isn't afraid to say what's on her mind or how she feels. I like her tough as nails attitude and the fact that she isn't one of those jealous, insecure girlfriends. Becki has a lot thrown at her in this book, but she really is so much stronger and better because of those instances. Calon was wonderful to Becki and I loved how faithful and devoted he was to her. We don't get much in the way of Calon's past, but what we do get is very poignant and really showed us just how much he himself has had to

overcome throughout his life.

We do get to see Gracie and Jake again for those who have read the previous two books in the series and they are great friends to both Calon and Becki. I love seeing friendships play such an important role in books! Calon's band members are also in the background and they provide some great comedic relief, as they are guys and don't always have filters. Danny is also a character that I ended up liking- she steps in to help Becki in her managerial duties, but you can tell she has a past of her own and I would love to find out more about her.

**Final Thoughts:** I did enjoy this novel, despite a few issues: I would have liked to see Calon and Becki's relationship develop a little slower and there were times I felt some of their language was a bit overkill. I like that they are vocal in their feelings for one another, but at times I just felt some of it was a bit much.

Brownlow has done an amazing job at tackling some really sensitive topics in this book. Becki and Calon handle their obstacles with grace and acceptance and I think that really made the book that much more special. She also addressed their fears, offering a more realistic feel to the story.

I would love to see another book in the series devoted to Danny, as I think she still has a story to tell...

\*Received a copy of this book via Book Plug Promotions in exchange for a fair and honest review.\*

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### **Kirsty Bicknell says**

Michelle Kemper Brownlow is the mistress of writing emotional scenes and this fact is evident in *Above the Noise*. I admit that at the beginning of the book the words 'formulaic' and 'average' sprung to mind, but from the half way point until the end I was immersed in the world of Calon and Becki, knowing at some point my mascara was going to run!

I liked the fact that the narrative is composed of both protagonists point of view and flashbacks of the summer before they became official. In writing like this Michelle Kemper Brownlow allows us to share the depth of their feelings for one another, their fears and hopes.

Calon and Becki are intense characters whom I cared about more as the story progressed. The fact that they are both damaged by events in their past was no surprise, as this is normal for a New Adult Contemporary Romance, but Michelle Kemper Brownlow allows their individuality to develop. Becki is independent and courageous and her sexual confidence adds to her strength. Calon is loving, romantic and honest and the late night conversations they share convince us of their future together.

As a parent of a child with special needs I was surprised but impressed with the plot and Michelle Kemper Brownlow's obvious knowledge. Although I felt that the epilogue was the weakest part of the novel, *Above the Noise* captures the reader's heart and its impression stays with us long after its end.

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### **Trish at Between My Lines says**

3.5 stars

First Line of *Above The Noise*:

“Change our image?”

My Thoughts on Above The Noise:

This is book 3 in the In Too Deep series and it works perfectly fine as a standalone. But why would you do a crazy thing like that! If you are in to NA books that pluck at your heartstrings, then you should line them all up to read.

But back to Above The Noise, if I have to pick one word to describe this I'd use rollercoaster. It is a hold-on-tight, white-knuckle, emotional ride. At times I felt dizzy with the romance, then sick to my stomach with nerves and anxious tension as the drama unfolded and then back to eagerly anticipating the next high. At the end of it all; I put it down with a smile thinking that was one wild ride.

I have to admit that initially I was slow to get into the book. It took me until some of the plot revealed itself for me to fully get behind the story but when that happened I was hooked.

Calon and Becki are a fun couple. They are cute together, often made me laugh and their chemistry is off the scales. It's hard not to swoon over rock star Calon so I didn't even try not to; I just let myself fall head over heels with this smooth talking, gentle souled, hard bodied, swoonfest of a man. And I love that Becki has oodles of confidence and a snarky side that she isn't afraid to unleash when necessary.

The story is told through dual point of view and flashbacks to the summer when they first met. I did find the dual point a bit confusing. The voices felt similar and I had to double check the heading at times to see who was talking.

It felt refreshing that Calon and Becki built their friendship first and deliberately held back on the physical side as it just felt so much more intense and meaningful that way. I hate insta-love and I really got behind this romance as it was developed slowly and solidly. Plus the build up of sexual tension between them added to the spice factor of the book.

The plot was also distinctly different. It deals with issues that I haven't come across in a new adult book before. Sorry, I know that's vague but I don't want to give spoilers as it would take from the storyline. But the issues dealt with add a depth to story that I really appreciated. A hot romance is great but I love when a plot deals with profound issues that really pull you through the emotional wringer.

I seriously think Michelle Kemper Brownlow is trying to kill me with her plots! And she is succeeding, each of her books have left me drained but happy. And chomping at the bit for more.

Who should read Above The Noise?

If you love New Adult books that are emotional as well as spicy, then I'd recommend this one to you. I'm also recommending Above The Noise to those who enjoy the use of lyrics in books and a strong musical influence in the plot. Or if you like authors such as Jasinda Wilder, Caisey Quinn or J A Redmerski; then I think you'd also enjoy this one.

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**Tara Marie says**

Must Read!!!! GO BUY NOW!!!!

This is Becki and Calon's story, where we follow Calon and his band Alternate Tragedy on the road while they open for another band. Becki takes the job as the band manager and things begin to flourish from there. Not only in business but in pleasure as well for Becki and Calon. After the loss of someone close 4 years ago Calon built a wall around his heart and became closed off until someone that is worthy of giving his heart to again. Becki seems to knock down the walls he's built up and climbed right on into his heart.

Becki knows that as the bands manager she needs to do what's best for Calon and Alternate Tragedy but that may mean she puts her and Calon's relationship on the side. When faced with the decision what will Calon choose? He knows he wants more with Becki but it will come at the price of his band.

Twists come in all forms in this book, when Calon's past is all of a sudden in the present and right in front of them will Becki and Calon stand together or will the past tear them apart? Will their relationship weather the storm that comes with fame? Can they hold on and stay grounded as fame takes Calon farther?

Another awesome part is we got to see what was going on with Gracie and Jake as well, that is always a plus for me when you fall in love with other characters in the series and they carry over into the next books.

Bravo Michelle you did awesome!!

♥ Tara

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## Charity Foster says

Wow, where do I even start? This is the third book in the Too Deep Series and it is every bit as emotional as the previous two. We met Becki and Calon in the previous books, so it is great to get to read their story. This book has a little bit of everything: love, angst, sabotage, wonderful miracles, heartbreak and so much more. The book starts with the band Calon sings in, Alternate Tragedy, on the road and ready to start touring. Becki is the band manager and will do whatever it takes to help the boys succeed. Not only does the band's popularity grow, but the feelings between Becki and Calon grow as well. Before they left for the tour, they knew there was something special happening between them; but now the feelings are beginning to intensify. Both are hesitant to give all of their hearts to the other person, but soon find out that they are unable to control their hearts. They are made for each other in every way imaginable. I think the thing that made their relationship so strong was their desire to wait and have a physical relationship. They wanted to get to know each other on a deeper level and that only made their relationship more solid. However, once they did give in and succumb to the heat between them, it was out of this world!

Becki and Calon's relationship is so wonderful and he is the perfect man to break down the walls around her heart. Just when you think things are going great, something happens to put all of the hard work of the band in jeopardy. It seems that not everyone is happy with the bands success and tries on several occasions to end their dreams.

The bands dreams are not the only things threatened though. When Becki gets shocking news from her doctor, she doesn't know how to tell Calon. This news is going to change their lives forever. When Calon does find out, his reaction just makes me love him a little more. He is such a wonderful man and the perfect other half to Becki.

This books has so many ups and downs, that you will find it hard to put down. It seems as though there are constantly curve balls being thrown their way, but the way these two band together to overcome their

obstacles is extraordinary. I loved the ending of the book, even if it did have me on the edge of my seat. I believe anyone who reads this book will not be disappointed. It was a wonderful book with a great ending that I will definitely go back and read again.

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### **Kathryn says**

I have thoroughly enjoyed this series. When I first read In To Deep and loved Gracie's story, I knew I had to continue. Now, as I dove in to Above the Noise, we veer off from Gracie and Jake and now follow Calon and Becki. We have already met these two and got a glimpse in to their personalities but Above the Noise brings so much more about these two.

I had a love hate relationship with Calon up to this point. My feelings revolve around Gracie and Jake but with that aside now and we are seeing Calon in a new light and very much in love with Becki.

Their relationship is so beautiful and fun. They are perfect for each other and totally complement each other in every way that is needed.

Their romance blossoms fast and as each major event happens in their life they grow stronger and stronger. But, things aren't always going to go smoothly. Many moments happen that test their strength, their resolve, and push them to come face to face with their demons.

I loved every moment and am so glad I got to know these amazing characters.

My only qualm with this book is that the last 10% of the book felt like it was rushed and there were things I felt just didn't work...

But, it did not distract from my love of this beautifully wonderful tale of two characters that are so strong yet vulnerable to their past demons...

Definitely a series you need to pick up and read...

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### **Desiree Gorman - A Love Affair With Books says**

This series has been one that has stuck with me from the very first book. Michelle tackles some pretty harsh realities with her stories that leave you a little breathless. Her writing is flawless and incorporates all the aspects of a story that I need.

Her characters are relatable and beautifully written. With "Above The Noise," Michelle continues the tradition of two people falling madly in love and at the same time facing the haunting memories of their past, the scariness of their future and the confusion of the here and now.

Read the rest of my review on the blog at [A Love Affair With Books](#).

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### **Sarah says**

Calon Ridge. That's it. That's all you need to know to read this book.

Above the Noise is the third book in Michelle Kemper Brownlow's In Too Deep series. It deals with different main characters than the first two books, but the characters are so intertwined that you really need to read In Too Deep and On Solid Ground first.

"I'm positive what I'm feeling right now wouldn't be nearly as intense if I hadn't waited for the perfect soul to crash into.

I knew there was someone out there, someone who would one day cross my path that deserved as much as I could give her. Becki, that someone is you."

I loved Calon. While I wasn't 100% sure about him in *On Solid Ground*, that had more to do with his relationship with Gracie than him as a person. He is amazing, and the farther into the book I got the more amazing he became. I honestly am hardpressed to find anything about him that isn't completely appealing to me. He was absolute perfection, especially in the way he cherished Becki and did everything with her best interests in mind. And the way that boy feels everything SO deeply. \*SWOON\*

Becki I had a harder time with. But that was probably jealousy more than anything. She was mostly great. There were a few moments when she let the doubt and misgivings she had developed in past relationships into her relationship with Calon, but with a little help from Gracie she was able to see that Calon wasn't the people who had hurt her in the past. I admired her tenacity when dealing with the BS that she and Calon were faced with.

"I am so in love with your daughter, Mrs. Mowry. I feel as though that sense of peace I felt was a sign of completion. Not my life is complete. I have the woman I love. Not everyone is that lucky in life."

*Above The Noise* follows neither the formulaic Rock Star story line, nor a typical romance format. It was quite refreshing. Michelle writes with such passion that it bleeds through the pages. There is never any question as to exactly what her characters are feeling, needing, or wanting. *Above The Noise* was no different. There were times, as I was reading that I felt so connected to the characters it was hard to believe that they weren't real people who were going to show up at my front door any minute.

The story itself was beautiful and tragic. Instead of being all sunshine and roses there was hardship. The book was based in reality. The one we live in. It was beautiful. There were moments I laughed and moments I cried. Both happy tears and sad tears.

"I love you, absolute."

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## **Hooked On Books says**

I was given *Above the Noise* in return for a honest review.

*Above the Noise* was my first book in the *Into The Deep* series. It wasn't confusing and can be read as a stand alone novel.

Calon Ridge is in a band called *Alternate Tragedy*. He isn't like the usual rock band types, he is grounded, doesn't do drugs, sleep around or party's, even though he'd had a rough child hood and troubled past. His sole purpose is to move on and finally let go and accept what life had thrown at him. Becki starts work as the bands manager arranging gigs and interviews to help them succeed as a band. Calon sees something different in Becki, she's not like the usual groupies. They soon start up a relationship, but, will it withstand the typical drama that gets thrown at a hot rock-star ! And the tragedies they must face together as a couple.

*Above the noise* was a sweet read for me. The sex scenes were hot. I loved the other band members, they made me giggle, quiet a lot. The plot was great, the twists were interesting, although I wanted more of a shocker twist ! My only downside was I found it dragged in places, I found myself skipping pages every so



often which was a real shame. Would I recommend this ? Yes I would.

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## **Amie Morgado- We Stole Your Book Boyfriend says**

First I will admit I have not read books 1 & 2 of this series , having said that I did not feel confused at all and I enjoyed the book as I would any stand alone. I will be reading the other books though because I loved the writing style and want to see what I missed !!

You had me at rock star !! Calon Ridge is one fine man , he is the whole package. Hot , sexy , rock star , genuine , caring , I can go on and on. His emotion towards Becki and his respect for a true relationship had me swooning throughout the whole book. He is the lead singer of the band and we assume he is a playboy but you soon find out he is the opposite !! He has had a rough life starting in childhood and ending with his childhood sweetheart dying 4 years prior. He has faced so much loss and physical and emotional hurt that it is a miracle he even believes in happiness. But for him that is what Becki is ABSOLUTE !! Becki is the bands groupie turned manager !! They are on the road to stardom and she is paving the way for them. Becki has put her college career on hold to travel with the band on this small tour. She has a wonderful mom and great friends but did at one point struggle with sickness. I love Becki she is a no nonsense chick and she handles herself well and I honestly never felt annoyed by her , that is a first !! In a matter of months her and Calon have built a wonderful relationship taking things utterly slow , too slow for Becki and of course for us as readers !! The ways they express their emotions to one another is beautiful I could not get enough of them !! Calon opens up to Becki and the stories of his childhood are heartbreaking , the loss of his sister , his mothers lack of care and abuse. Their bond seems unbreakable although the industry tries to test their love it never works.

There were a few major twists that I did not see coming until they happened , but now looking back there are many subtle hints. Some of these twists are sad and some are beautiful. All in all you have this wonderful story of true love , family and friends. The sex is phenomenal of course and the ending is ABSOLUTE !!

This is a must read

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## **Ruthie Taylor says**

"I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads."

This is a feel good read, which managed to make me laugh and she'd a few tears along the the way. Sometimes I felt that too much was explicitly spoken, especially in the beginning, but the writing got better as the story unfolded. Some very nice little touches which elevated it from the ordinary, along with a few elements which were possibly too much.

Overall, if you like a rock star romance, with an angsty background and plenty of dramas thrown in, this is ideal reading.

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## **Heather says**

This is a series that will stay with you for quite some time. We were introduced to Calon Ridge when he stumbled into Gracie's life in the 2nd book in the series, *On Solid Ground*. We got to see a glimpse into what made Calon Ridge the man he is today, but we didn't even scratch the surface. There was so much more to this beautiful musician Calon Ridge than I would have ever imagined.

In *Above the Noise*, Calon Ridge and his band, *Alternate Tragedy* set out on the road to be the opening act for a well known band on tour. When Becki accepts the position as the band's manager, things not only begin to take off for the band, but a relationship between Calon and Becki begins to blossom as well. Becki and Calon have gotten to know each other over the past several weeks, when he would walk her home from the bar at night after performing with the band. Things begin to fall into place for Calon and Becki, as Calon is opening up to her. Calon lost someone very close to him four (4) years ago, and he closed off that part of his heart until he was certain he found someone worthy of giving it to. Becki has somehow knocked those walls down and burrowed herself so deep into Calon's heart.

Calon is learning to open up again and when things begin to change for Becki and him, things are also changing for *Alternate Tragedy*. When faced with a decision, will Calon choose the band or will he choose Becki. Becki would never ask him choose, cause she only wants the best for Calon, but he feels as though he needs to make a decision that will be best for he and Becki.

Becki and Calon's lives are about to change when they receive some unexpected news. Will the two of them be able to handle what life throws at them? Is their love strong enough to get them through this? When Calon's past is now standing in front of him, how will he react? Will Becki be able to handle what her future holds? Can Becki and Calon stay above the noise of all the fame that comes with being an up and coming musician and still be able to stay grounded?

There are a few twists in this storyline that I never saw coming. I loved how we got to see what was going on with Gracie and Jake as well. I love how this group of characters lives all intertwine.

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Kerri Mirabella says**

### **4.5 Calon Loving Stars**

*Above the Noise* is book 3 in the *In Too Deep* series by Michelle Kemper Brownlow. It is the story of Calon and Becki and can be read as a standalone. This is definitely a book you don't want to miss out on!

Calon and Becki first meet in book 2 through Becki's best friend Gracie. Shortly after meeting they developed a bond, a close friendship, when Calon began walking Becki home from Mitchell's at night after his band, *Alternate Tragedy* performed. When Calon's band is offered the opportunity to go on tour with a popular band, Becki takes on the role as the band manager. It is the beginning of the tour when things start changing between Becki and Calon.

4 years ago Calon had his heart broken when he lost Chloe. He is content taking things slow with Becki, but he can't deny the pull he has to her. When he is with her things just seem so right. He is able to open up to her and slowly the walls around his heart start crumbling down.

Just as quickly as things seem to be falling into place for Calon and Becki, some unexpected news takes them both by surprise leaving them shocked and unsure. Calon has always dreamed of his band making it big but now with everything else going on in his life, making it big is starting to seem less and less important. With all of these changes coming at Calon so rapidly, will he be able to remain grounded, stay Above The Noise?

Michelle's writing is emotional, her characters deep. Everything about this book is well planned out and developed. The characters are genuine and you really feel as if you are right there with them. If I'm being honest here, Calon is at the top of my book boyfriend list. I loved that he is so sweet, caring, and compassionate. He didn't let the fame of his band go to his head and he always had his priorities in order. Did I mention how sexy he is? Because man does he pull off some of the hottest non sex scenes I have ever read!

Buy the book....you won't be disappointed!

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### **Anny hernandez says**

I was provided a copy of the book by the Author for an honest review.

I just finish reading this book, and I love it, love the book and how it turn out to be, love the characters, I know this is part of a series but I have to be honest, I end up reading this book first, when I was half way through the book, that's when I notice that this was the third one, but its all good its just giving me a chance to read it from the begging again, I am gone keep this short since I don't want to give anything away.

The story begging with Becki, she is the manager of the band Alternate Tragedy, she is the one that field out the calendar with gigs, and public appearances for the band, also for Radio interviews and TV spots result in sold out concerts, on her first day as a manager for the band, they are all at the office with the man that's gone made them more famous, but he wants them to change their image, that's when they get mad specially Calon, now Calon Is the lead singer of the band, and also Becki boyfriend, when she argue with the business man, she nail it with the speech that she gave him, the band is happy and exited, Calon and Becki are happy, but their world is bout to become more complicated, will they stay true to each other, will they fight the love that they have for each other, to survive in this rock world.

I really love and enjoy reading this book, I love how Calon and Becki with each other, and love their attitude, Author Michelle Kemper Brownlow THANK YOU for this amazing book and this awesome characters love them.

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