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When Bailey meets scarily attractive Aiden, she's struck by the oddest feeling he's in pain. He soon proves how bogus first impressions can be. He's not in pain. He causes pain, belittling with his intelligence and humiliating with his wit.

Aiden's life is wildly out of balance. But no-one needs to know that, least of all the sparkling Bailey, even if it means ruining a perfectly good professional relationship with the only woman who ever made him forget Shannon.

Then together they save a man's life, Aiden's two realities collide and Bailey discovers she's stolen his soul.

White Balance Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Ainslie Paton

Format :

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review White Balance for online ebook

Lily Malone says

I loved this book. White Balance had me from page 1. I've read Ainslie Paton's work before, particularly Desk Jockey Jam, which was also a 5 star read for me - but Jam is so very different from White Balance. Talk about versatile.

White Balance has the most incredibly plaintive, sad, poignant tone I can remember encountering in a book in eons. I was completely invested in all the main characters, particularly Bailey, Aiden, Blake and Olivia, but also the two children in the book, and the people who were so 'strong' off the page - Shannon - who dies before the book ever began.

If you're ready for a character-driven romance, rather than a sex-driven story... please give this one a try.

Kathryn says

White Balance by Ainslie Paton is a story about a big doofus, a warrior princess, a reformed narrator and a cute fairy who worms her way into the story and tends to go off script. It begins with 'Once Upon a Time' and ends with 'And They Lived Happily Ever After.'

Any book that I have read so far by Ainslie Paton I have enjoyed, and this one does not stray from that line. Set in Australia in the business world it is a fascinating look at characters and their lives, both in relation to themselves and to others. It explores loss and pain, friendship and love, light and dark, finding the balance and following your heart in all things.

White Balance is a gritty story, a story of recovery and choosing to live. A story of reaching out and seeing and being with. The characters wormed their way into my heart and I followed their ups and downs, never sure where they might move next. While it is a romance, I hesitated to even name it that, because it goes beyond into another realm.

This book did need some more proof reading, there were a larger number of typos than I like to come across, however it didn't stop me reading.

If you'd like a full review for White Balance then read this review by Jane at Dear Author as I think her review is very fair indeed and she puts it far better than I could. In the meantime I'll be organising my next read by Ainslie Paton. For as long as she is writing, I'll be reading her books.

Sarah says

3-1/2 to 4 stars. While there were some truly incredible scenes and emotions, there was also a fair amount of "filler." I don't mind prose, but at times it seemed like the author was trying just a bit too hard. Profound just happens; it isn't forced. Trying to force a deep, meaningful scene comes across as trite.

Both main characters have suffered and are still suffering. They have to get past the barriers they've created in order to move on. The fact that this is clearly not set in the states didn't bother me at all. I didn't feel lost or confused and was able to figure out any phrases or expressions that I was unfamiliar with.

To me, this read like a first novel. The writer is talented and I will certainly read more in the future.

Atunah says

There were lots of errors in this book like odd sentences and repeated words and comma instead of apostrophe, etc. Those kind of things. Threw me out a bit. Story was pretty good though.

Just disappointed in the lack of editing.

Mary Fyock says

First, let me say I loved the storyline and the use of photography's "white balance" analogy. You could actually feel the depth of Aiden's pain.

My rating would have been 5 stars except that there was a tendency by the author to overuse metaphors. If the author was from USA, there would have been some mixing of some her metaphors, which leads to the other issue. Being a reader from the USA, I stumbled over more Aussie slang than some of the other books. I love to read foreign authors and will look up most words if I'm unaware of their meaning, but contemporary phraseology can't be looked up. It makes for a lot of stumbling.

Again, I love this author's gift of storytelling. I just wished this one was metaphor-edited a little more. I do plan to read more of Ainslie Paton.

Jane says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

Profanity: Plenty of swearing, especially the word "fuck", but I'm ok with that ;o)

Sex: Sexual tension high but sex minimal and not overly graphic

Pages: 353

Paton has Become a Favorite

I am so loving Ainslie Paton's books right now. Her characters are likable, smart, nice, have common sense (mostly), and I believe in their HEAs.

I would have probably given a solid 4 or 5-stars to this book but there were two things that kept me from doing that: the overuse of metaphors/similes/hyperbole which can be charming and creative in its way but actually tends to pull me out at awkward moments during the story and the habit of shortening everyone's names to one syllable. These may not be huge deals for other people and they're not necessarily deal breakers for me but they lead me to rate lower than I might otherwise.

Bailey (Bails) and Aiden (Aid) have a near miss encounter two years before they actually meet. She spots him one morning as she is taking photos and senses that he is in a great deal of pain and turmoil and as it happens, he has recently lost his wife in a tragic accident. Bailey is not doing so hot herself as she is just entering the hospital for major back surgery.

Two years later they are both brought on board to a mutual friend's ad agency: Aiden as partner and Bailey as admin assistant/HR staff though she actually owns her own business planning launch events. She is in a bad spot because her last job ended in disaster and she has lost business because of this.

Aiden is brought in to not only be partner but to clean house as Blake (mutual friend and owner of the agency) realizes that he's lost control of some of his people who are stealing ideas, bullying, and even in one case, assaulting other employees. Though Bailey and Aiden have known *of* each other they have never met until now. There is of course, an instant attraction but Aiden believes he is too damaged and that he will never be able to love anyone as much as he loved his wife and so resists and in fact goes to great lengths to make Bailey dislike him. It takes a near tragedy to wake him up to the fact that he could potentially fall in love with Bailey. He continues to resist though, because he still carries tons of guilt for not being with his wife during her accident.

The sexual tension is through the roof anytime these two are in a room together and they finally give in, thinking this will pretty much be a one night stand, but both determined to get it out of their systems. Bailey, believing that Aiden will never come around to her way of thinking, and love her, leaves. Aiden realizes upon waking, that he cannot live without her and stages a grand gesture apology that though a trifle corny, ends up being cute mostly because of the involvement of the kids, Codey (Codes) and Jasmine (Jas) that Aiden is mentoring.

One other drawback (to me) was Blake's weird reluctance to keep Bailey in the dark about his extended plans for his company. (view spoiler) This continues throughout most of the book and he ends up hurting Bailey on multiple occasions when he refuses to share certain things in regard to what is going on in the company. This is just plain weird to me because she is the appointed HR person for the short-term (her work period is supposed to end after six months as her normal job will be resuming). One other rather strange event (view spoiler) takes place which I personally didn't think added to but did detract somewhat from the story and could have been left out completely.

Allison says

I really enjoyed this story. I found it so captivating that I absolutely could not put it down. The characters were real and believable, and I wanted to keep learning their stories. Very well written and thought out. I would highly recommend.

Alison says

I don't know what's wrong with me - a bit of bitterness in my personal life and suddenly I'm overflowing with the high ratings!

So I started this a few days/weeks ago and dropped it after only reading a chapter. I thought it was yet another YA/NA book about a girl who has a terrible tragedy in life which she hides behind a veneer of conformity until she meets the bad-boy rocker with tattoos and bad language who shows her how to feel, and they both have stupid names and it's written in the first person POV.

But anyway, I started reading this again, from the beginning, and it is NOTHING like I imagined, indeed it isn't even NA/YA.

So, Bailey posts a daily photo to her blog. On her way to having a major operation on her back she takes a picture of a man sitting by the beach early one morning – a picture of devastation and loss. Feeling that she has intruded on something private she never uses the picture but files it away with all her other rejects.

Aidan is a hot-shot in advertising. His young wife has died tragically and he is struggling to do anything other than work. His home is a pit and he is unable to enter certain rooms.

Aidan's best friend Blake (OK, they have stupid NA/YA names but I forgive them because they are Australian) is also in advertising. He is married to Aidan's wife's best friend. Blake has a whole lot of ambition but lacks the talent to deliver. He is also an old colleague and friend of Bailey's.

Blake's plans draw Aidan and Bailey together. So, it's a fairly typical contemporary romance. What makes it different is the way that Ms Paton weaves her story, the details of trying to win business, the Big Brother scheme that Aidan has been roped into by his dead wife and a delightfully obtuse social worker. There are no larger than life villains here, the only person who is too good to be true is Blake's wife Olivia. Everyone else comes in delightful shades of grey – most of the time I loathed Blake and couldn't see why either Aidan or Bailey could be his friends, but he had redeeming qualities – and he was still an arrogant, self-obsessed twit at times. Light and shade all the way.

There were a few great lines – and more than a few typos – I have checked and I paid £2.66 for this so I am surprised to see so many silly typos (she'd for she's etc) but it didn't detract from the sheer joy of reading this novel. It was different, adult and yet, despite the circumstances, light-hearted.

I will look out for more of Ms Paton's books.

GTR33GURL says

This book was fantastic filled with so much angst I nearly through my kindle a thousand times lol but in a good way if that's possible what Aidan went through was so sad I cried for his pain his sadness and then there was Bailey she was amazing going through her own pain but still a vibrant beautiful person who knew who she wanted from the start the whole Blake thing blew my mind I was like WTF just happened lol but it was so fun to read about loved the HEA only one thing from it being 5 star for me No Epilogue I love them so was a wee bit sad there was none but loved the book def a fan Ainslie

Book Junkie says

I love reading Ainslie books, they are a "can't put down book" that have me laughing as well as taking me on an emotional rollercoaster ride. The characters in this book are so real life, from their torments and fears to their hopes and dreams. For the Hero in this book, I would not wish the anguish he goes through on anyone but the process from anguish, anger, fear, guilt to love (being the light at the end of his tunnel) is very insightful and realistic. Our Heroine is also someone that has to battle with parents who do not have any faith in her abilities and are always critical. Her perseverance against the battle of insecurity, realising her self worth and that she is deserving of love (being the light at the end of her tunnel) is very true to life. Really worth reading.

Jacqueline's Reads says

FREEBIE!!!

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Lisa ~ Books Are My Drugs ~ says

Aiden is in the advertising business & at the start of the book he's deeply depressed after his wife & unborn child die in an accident. He's merely going through the motions at work & not even trying outside of work.

Bailey has her own business event planning & she does a daily photo blog. She loses her job due to circumstances outside her control, but for which she's blamed anyway.

They have a mutual friend, Blake who is also owns his own advertising business & he manipulates each of them to come work with him. Blake is quite the asshat. He manipulates every bit of the situation that he can & refuses to acknowledge how talented Bailey is.

Bailey extremely dislikes Aiden after they meet, but mostly that's because Blake has tied Aiden's hands with how much he can clue Bailey in on what's going down in the office. Then while he & Bailey are returning from a "getting to know" lunch, they come across a man who's in the process of having a heart attack & together they help save him. This creates a bond between them. As Bailey gets to know Aiden better, her feelings for him grow, but Aiden has a very difficult time moving on with his life after his wife's death.

There's not very much sex in this book, but the sexual tension is off-the-charts.

Brandi says

I loved this book. It has been on my TBR list forever. I didn't read it because the reviews weren't great and no one has really read it. My first mistake was reading the reviews. My second was actually caring what those said reviews had said. This was such an amazing book. It was real! I loved both Bailey and Aiden. I loved the secondary characters, the story line, how the story played out, the development of the plot, I loved it all! Here's to great stories may they not be ruined by overshared opinions of others!

PageTurner says

Generally, I like my romance with a dash of paranormal but this book was just wonderful! I can't believe it doesn't have more reviews. GO READ IT! The only reason it didn't get 5 stars from me is for the editing. It's like the editing stopped one third of the way through and then it was typos all over. A lot of "though" instead of "through" kind of thing that spellcheck doesn't catch. Aiden is an emotionally broken man but a brilliant marketing/ad agency whiz. Bailey is a physically broken woman who is struggling to make it in the marketing world. They have a few more things in common though - their best friend and sometimes huge jacka\$\$, Blake, and a photo blog called White Balance. This was a very well written book that takes you through each character's struggles. The story wouldn't have been as believable if the author hadn't taken the time to set the stage at the beginning with Aiden. The POV changes were so smooth that it felt more like a natural progression rather than an intermission or interruption of the story. I fell in love with each one of the characters. It was heartbreaking and beautiful and poetic and so much fun to read.

Kate Sherwood says

[I didn't really buy Blake being that much of an idiot for so long just because of a few throw-away words - I think adults deal with unexpected attraction all the time, and letting himself totally waste someone's talents because of them didn't make sense, given that his prime characterization is as someone who uses peop
