



## The Simple Wild

*K.A. Tucker*

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## **The Simple Wild** K.A. Tucker

Calla Fletcher wasn't even two when her mother took her and fled the Alaskan wild, unable to handle the isolation of the extreme, rural lifestyle, leaving behind Calla's father, Wren Fletcher, in the process. Calla never looked back, and at twenty-six, a busy life in Toronto is all she knows. But when Calla learns that Wren's days may be numbered, she knows that it's time to make the long trip back to the remote frontier town where she was born.

She braves the roaming wildlife, the odd daylight hours, the exorbitant prices, and even the occasional—dear God—outhouse, all for the chance to connect with her father: a man who, despite his many faults, she can't help but care for. While she struggles to adjust to this rugged environment, Jonah—the unkempt, obnoxious, and proud Alaskan pilot who helps keep her father's charter plane company operational—can't imagine calling anywhere else home. And he's clearly waiting with one hand on the throttle to fly this city girl back to where she belongs, convinced that she's too pampered to handle the wild.

Jonah is probably right, but Calla is determined to prove him wrong. Soon, she finds herself forming an unexpected bond with the burly pilot. As his undercurrent of disapproval dwindles, it's replaced by friendship—or perhaps something deeper? But Calla is not in Alaska to stay and Jonah will never leave. It would be foolish of her to kindle a romance, to take the same path her parents tried—and failed at—years ago. It's a simple truth that turns out to be not so simple after all.

## **The Simple Wild Details**

Date : Published August 7th 2018 by Atria Books

ISBN : 9781501133435

Author : K.A. Tucker

Format : Paperback 388 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, New Adult, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review The Simple Wild for online ebook

### Melanie says

*ARC provided by Atria Books in exchange for an honest review.*

Is it bad etiquette to start a review with a quote by another author? Because while reading this book, I couldn't stop thinking about Tarryn Fisher's quote in one of my favorite books of all-time, *Mud Vein*, "What's the difference?" I asked him. "Between the love of your life, and your soulmate?" "One is a choice, and one is not." And I know I haven't been on this Earth for that long, but that quote is the one of the truest things I've ever read in literature. And it really encompasses the theme of *The Simple Wild*. And sometimes, when you're lucky enough, and are able to do everything in your power, you are able to have them both.

Let me also start this review off by saying that I feel like this book was very catered to my personal tastes, and I'll go into that more in the review, but *The Simple Wild* is currently my favorite romance of 2018. The writing, the setting, the messages, the romance? It was all perfect in my eyes. This was also my first KA Tucker book, but I promise that it won't be my last.

***"What hold does Alaska have on them? What makes this place worth giving everything else up?"***

*The Simple Wild* centers around a twenty-six-year-old named Calla, who has lived twenty-four years in Toronto with her mother. And both Calla and her mother, Susan, have spent most of those years wishing that the man they left in a very remote part of Alaska would come back for them. Calla's father took over his father's aviation business, that delivers supplies, food, and medical treatment all over the native towns around this rural part of Alaska. But they've both moved on; Susan married an amazing new man, Simon, and Calla just gave up the hope that her father would ever be more than distant heartache. That is, until a woman calls Calla and urges her to finally meet her father, after all these years, before it's too late and she is never given the chance again. Calla, with the help and support of a few amazing people, decides to fly out and stay for a while in the remote village in Alaska that her father has always chosen over her and her mother.

***"I'd always ask him to fly out to visit me. I mean, he had all these planes to choose from, so why couldn't he just hop in one of them and come?"***

KA Tucker says that Bangor is a made-up place in Alaska, but oh my gosh did I fall in love with this fictional community. And Calla gets to meet the people who have been her father's family for his entire life. And I'll never make excuses for a parent not wanting to be a bigger part of their child's life, but I actually felt so much empathy for Calla's dad, Wren, too. After twenty-four year, he has never given up the love he has for Susan. And even though Calla's romance is the focus of this book, Wren's really got to me. Like, this book is easily the book that made me cry the most in 2018. Without question. Happy tears, sad tears, I never want this book to end tears.

And you all know this is a romance book, so obviously Wren had to take a hot, thirty-one-year-old, pilot under his wing. And Calla and him start out with such an enemies to lovers plotline as soon as he picks her up to fly her to her father. And he obviously lives next-door to her father. And their paths are forced to cross

constantly throughout Calla's visit while she gets to finally know her father. And you all, I was weak for it. Also, this has the "trapped in the cabin in the woods" trope and I was screaming with heart eyes.

***"Just don't make the same mistake I did and fall in love with one of those pilots."***

Good Lord, I can't believe I'm going to say this, but Jonah is honestly the type of guy that I personally like and am attracted to. And I feel kind of gross saying it, because he's very much a "manly man" but not in a toxic masculine way, but in a "let me chop wood and put it on the fire we have going so I can cook for you" type way. I don't know. I'm such a hot mess over this book. But I'm just saying that I've read 110 books this year, and Jonah is the only fictional dude character that I would personally let get it. Goodbye.

But there is so much to love about Calla, too! Not only does she have empathy, and the courage to let a man who she has felt abandoned by her entire life in, but she's also sure of herself and her worth. Also, she and her best friend run a lifestyle blog, and I loved every mention of it. From adding hyperlinks last minute, to finding deals every holiday season, to trying your hardest to take the perfect picture for Instagram. Like, it was all so relatable and it truly was the cherry on this already amazing sundae. And I feel like in general, I personally just had a lot of similarities to Calla. Also, just because I'm apparently an open book in this review, my dad is the same age as Wren. So, all the extra feels.

And the overall message of this book is so important and so beautiful. We have to let people live the life that they want to live. We don't have to agree, but we can always be supportive and try to be empathetic. I try not to talk about my personal life too much, but a lot of you know that cancer is something that I've chosen to center my life around, and it's so important to let the person that is diagnosed choose what is best for them. And, this book is just so heartbreakingly beautiful. Because that's really all life is; choice after choice after choice. And each and every single one completely alters our life's path. But controlling our feelings is something entirely different. And the connections we choose to make, too early or too late, is everything.

***"You should have called him. He should have called you. Your mom should never have left. Wren should have left Alaska for you. Who the hell knows what's right, and what it would have led to, but it doesn't matter because you can't change any of that."***

This book also shines a spotlight on found families and platonic love, too. This book really is just all about the different kinds of love in the world, really. The love between family, between friends, and between communities. I feel so sappy, but this book just really blew me and my expectations away.

And even though this book was close to perfect in my eyes, it did have two elements that I didn't enjoy. The first being just the general talk about beauty and what it means to be society's standard of beauty. Calla gets a lot of shit from Jonah about the way she looks, and that's something that has happened to me my entire life. And I get it from both sides of the spectrum: From dudes quizzing me with basic biology 101 questions because they can't believe the degree I have, to my ex giving me shit because I can't just roll out of bed and feel comfortable going places around town with them. We want girls to look a certain way, but we also want to make them feel bad for putting the time into looking that way. I don't know. I'm getting so off topic but basically, I'm saying people have treated me the way Jonah treated Calla's beauty in this book, and I don't like it. And good Lord, did I hate the nickname "Barbie" so much. But I was living for Jonah constantly being proven wrong on his assumptions and prejudices. Girls are beautiful with no makeup or with a full face of makeup, one doesn't erase the other. The only thing that matters is what the girl feels comfortable with, and what makes them happy. Also, make up can be really expensive, so show some damn respect.

My only other complaint is Calla's mother, Susan, and her treatment of Simon. Susan does a lot of hurtful things in this book. And Simon is like the best character in all of literature, so it feels extra bad. Like, who paints someone's bookshelves when they aren't home? Like, I don't know. I really liked Wren, but I honestly disliked Susan, which I feel like will be an unpopular opinion, but it's honestly how I felt. Also, Simon deserves the entire galaxy and all the stars within it!

Overall, I just loved this. The setting was absolutely perfect and so very atmospheric. I loved the romance more than any word combination I could come up with. I loved the message of living your life to the fullest, and the theme of found families always being better than family of origin. I just loved *The Simple Wild* and I believe with my whole heart that it will make my best of 2018 list come this December. And again, this book felt very personal to me, but I recommend it to everyone with my entire soul. And, friends, don't waste your life on wishes; if you want something – go for it, always. Life is short, but it's never too late to go after your dreams and fight for something you love. Love can be so messy and so complicated, but it's always worth it.

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**Trigger and content warnings** for abandonment, terminal disease, talk of cancer, some weird comments about body and weight that made me a little uncomfortable, and loss of a loved one.

*The quotes above were taken from an ARC and are subject to change upon publication.*

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## KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

**THE SIMPLE WILD:** Is a full length, stand alone romance novel by K.A. Tucker.

Calla Fletcher was born in the Alaskan wild, but her mother couldn't settle down in such a remote life style and they moved to Canada when Calla was a two year old toddler. Calla's not set foot on Alaskan soil since.

Now we see her as a twenty six year old living in Toronto with her mother and step father, life is good, until things spiralled out of control all within a day as she's being laid off from her job as a risk analyst for a bank, then that same night she breaks up with her boyfriend then a phone call she got from an acquaintance of her fathers set her on a path she never thought she'd be going down, her father Wren is sick and it may be her last chance of getting to know the man who she hasn't seen for many years. So she knows it's in her best interest to see him, so off to Alaska she goes with a warning ringing in her ears from her mother '*Just don't make the same mistake I did and fall in love with one of those pilots.*'

Wren Calla's father owns a fleet of airplanes which they use to transport goods to outposts in the surrounding Alaskan area and has a few workers that helps around the small airport, one in particular Jonah, an Alaskan bush pilot and bachelor, and is one of Wren's most trusted pilots is there that day to pick up Calla. These two butt heads as soon as they meet, he thinks he knows her kind, and she's the kind that will turn her nose up at their way of living and high tail it back to the big smoke.

This was one of my most highly anticipated books of August and I am so glad I could fit it in. This reminded me so much of a doco series my partner loves called 'Yukon Men' which was so similar to this. I've not read anything quite like this before, and because of that rare uniqueness I also didn't want it to end. I

craved more, I wanted more, I needed more. I wanted to stay with these characters longer, never wanting their journey to end.

This had me giggling, swooning, an emotional sad journey, all the feels in the world!! So easy to get into, so hard to put down, there is absolutely nothing I would change about this book. This captivated me from the get go, sunk it's claws in so deep I fell in love with this as soon as I started reading..

Crazy loved this book. Highly recommend!! ??

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## **Berit??? says**

5 Simply Perfect Stars ?????

K A Tucker is one of my absolute favorite authors, and this is now my absolute favorite book by her! Sorry “Ten Tiny Breaths “you still are fabulous... but this book has edged you out of that top spot! When you pick up a k a Tucker book you know you are going to go on an emotional journey, filled with fabulously complex characters, and a plot filled with twists and secrets that will keep you on your toes.... this book did all that and so much more... truly a beautiful story all about love set in the cold beauty of Alaska..

Calla is 26 and has not seen her dad since she was two years old when her mother and she left rugged Alaska for Toronto...Calla has been hurt by her father’s absence in her life, but fortunate for her she has the world’s greatest stepfather Simon... can I just take a minute to praise Simon’s character... this man was everything a parent should be, I was beyond impressed with him... and can I just say he truly deserved much more than Susan (Calla’s mom) gave him.... after receiving a phone call from a stranger in Alaska urging her to come see her father before it is too late and some wonderful advice from Saint Simon; Calla packs her many bags and heads to Alaska....

Met at the airport by Jonah a.k.a. “the yeti “ Calla’s alaskan journey begins.... for Jonah and Calla it is dislike at first sight... my favorite trope is enemies to lovers and I loved watching the relationship between these two develop... The banter between them was absolutely priceless and some of the things they did to one another were downright wrong... but so hilarious.....

I absolutely loved how Calla embraced small town Alaska... it took her a little while longer to fully embrace her father Wren.... and that is completely understandable after all where has he been for all these years? Not a phone call since she was 12, and he missed her eighth-grade graduation.... but Calla doesn’t know the entire story and as things are revealed to her and she gets to know her father better her heart starts to open up to him....

There is so much love in this book and it is beautiful and it is heartbreaking... The love these people have for the state of Alaska... the Love this community has for one another... The love of family, and not necessarily a biological family but a found family... and romantic love, both wonderful and new, and heartbreaking and lasting....

“The Simple Wild” is simple perfection... I absolutely recommend this book to everybody... it will make you smile, it will make you laugh, it will make you cry tears of joy and heartbreak... and it will make you want to

go to Alaska!

\*\*\* many thanks to Atria for my copy of this beautiful book \*\*\*

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## **Jennifer Kyle says**

**4.5 - 5 Stars**

***"What makes this place worth giving everything else up?"***

K.A. Tucker delivers a story of forgiveness and love with the vividly written Alaskan wild as its back drop. It's about a daughter whose parents love story is a very sad one. Calla hasn't had any relationship with her father since their split twenty some odd years ago. When she's called by an employee of his to visit with her ill father she decides to head to Alaska and see what her mother left behind and perhaps get some answers.

Here in Alaska she meets Jonah, a pilot who works for her father. Calla slowly finds herself in a very similar situation as her mother was in all those years ago.

K.A. Tucker does an outstanding job with the slow burn romance aspect as well as Calla and her father's relationship. This is a bit slow going at times yet as a whole a wonderful experience!

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## **Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

**\*\*\*\*\*FIVE STARS\*\*\*\*\***

{ARC Generously Provided by Publisher}

**He's not like any other guy I've dated or crushed on. And while he's capable of making my blood boil like no one else, I feel a magnetic pull toward him that I can't explain.**

**THE SIMPLE WILD** is a story filled with so much heart and emotion. It's one of those books that will leave a lasting impression on you long after you've finished it. K.A Tucker's writing is brilliant. You feel as if you are in Alaska with how the author brings it to life within the pages of this book. This is going down as one of my top favorites written by Ms. Tucker. I feel as if nothing I can say will truly express how much I connected to this story. I empathized greatly with the Heroine.

Calla Fletcher has just been laid off from her job and also finds out that her boyfriend of the past six months, has been cheating on her. But that's nothing compared to the shock she gets when she receives a phone call from a close friend of her father's—a man she hasn't seen since she was two, nearly twenty-four years ago. The friend asks Calla to come to visit her father in Alaska because he's terminally ill and his days are numbered. Calla struggles at first, with the idea of going to see the man who never once came to visit her since her mother left him back in Alaska and who stopped calling when she was fourteen. She ends up going because she needs the closure and knows that it would be her biggest regret if she didn't go to see her father for one last time.

Calla's dad owns a small airline in Alaska and it's one of the major reasons he didn't move to Toronto with her and her mother. One of his pilots, Jonah, flies Calla from Anchorage to the small town her father lives in. From the moment Jonah and Calla meet they are like oil and vinegar. Jonah sees Calla as a snobby city girl who is self-absorbed and won't last a day without all of her creature comforts. She does have a bit of a hard time getting adjusted to the way of life there. The bickering between them was, at times, hilarious. There was no denying the chemistry between Jonah and Calla.

While we have this intense romance developing via a slow burn, there was also the relationship between Calla and her father, Wren, which was also very much the focal point of the story. It's the part that brought forth so much emotion. I understood Calla's hurt and anger. What I took from this story was that it's wasted energy to dwell on past mistakes that you can never change

Jonah and Calla are at constant odds throughout most of the story, but things eventually heat up for them. Is history doomed to repeat itself? Her parents loved each other fiercely and yet they couldn't make it work between them because her father's life was in Alaska and her mother was miserable there. Calla's life is in Toronto, and Jonah loves flying planes for her dad's company in Alaska. Will their story end in heart break as well?

Here are my overall ratings

**Hero: 5**

**Heroine: 5**

**Plot: 5**

**Angst: 4.5**

**Steam: 4**

**Chemistry Between Hero & Heroine: 5**

**THE SIMPLE WILD** is currently available! I highly recommend it!

Amazon Paperback: <https://amzn.to/2Kkaeqc>

Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2veonRb>

B&N: <https://bit.ly/2vdWWqq>

Books-a-million: <https://bit.ly/2AxZh18>

Indiebound: <https://bit.ly/2OESvx6>

iBooks: <https://apple.co/2n49dJI>

Blio: <https://bit.ly/2n8ZzFK>

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## **Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

Top Favorite

5 stars

This is one of these books that you'll stay with you forever. It was such a beautiful, captivating and unique story. I felt so connected to Calla it was like I was her!

The Simple Wild isn't a simple romance it's so much more. Prepare yourself and go blind into this one, you will have so many feelings. It's one of these stories that will touch you and it will bring you many emotions.

The romance was perfect, it was so entertained watching them battle most of the time. I love their journey. Like I said I'm in love with Calla I want to be her best friend, I was so connected with her. Jonah intrigued me a lot and I really like him.

I wish I could read it again from the beginning, it means so much to me! It goes to my top favorites for this year and it's an unforgettable story!

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## **Jen says**

\*\*\*\* 4.5 Stars!!!! \*\*\*\*

I loved this book! It would have been a five stars for me but the beginning was a bit slow... Once it got started though it was a book that was full of emotion and heart! I'm not a reader that cries very often, but this story challenged my tear ducts more than a few times!

I've always had a soft spot for stories that take place in Alaska, and this one was no exception! Calla has grown up in the city of Toronto but she's always felt an emptiness regarding her father whom her Mother has left when Calla was a toddler. Wren's heart has always been in Alaska and the skies, as he is a bush pilot. Her mom couldn't stand the isolation that Alaska brought and so she left, hoping that Wren would follow... but he never did. When Calla gets a call saying she needs to come to Alaska as her dad has been diagnosed with cancer she is torn. She has a lot of resentments and feelings of abandonment when it comes to her Dad; but she decides she needs closure.

This is an emotional journey of a young woman getting to know her father and also learning a lot about herself. She ends up meeting one of her Dads head bush pilot, Jonah... and this is a slow burn romance between the two of them! Also, they don't like each other at first, but let me tell you... their banter is hilarious as well as the pranks they play on each other!

This is a must read book! It is not only a heartwarming journey of self discovery; but also features all kinds of love between family and friends! I loved this read and hope this author chooses to revisit the Wild's of Alaska again!

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## **KAS says**

### **A Substantive, Scrumptious Slow Burn!!**

This was my first read by Ms. Tucker, and glory days can the woman write!

Calla's father is dying and wants to see her, although he has been mostly absent in her life. Her mother left him when she was only two years old. He lives thousands of miles away in the western wilds of Alaska and owns a small airline company.

As a warning before she leaves to visit her father, her mother tells her not to fall for one of the pilots, or in her words "sky cowboys." Of course, she doesn't take her advice.

And the delectable sky cowboy is ... Jonah! And, my oh my, did I ever fall for this guy. He is beyond fine, his sarcasm is priceless and devotion unmatched. Calla is in for one sweet, yet frustrating ride.

Let's just say their relationship gets off to a rocky start. You see, whatever is on Jonah's mind, he speaks it!

*? "Hell. Six other pilots available and I had to be the one to get you," Jonah mutters to himself.*

*?... " 'Don't worry, Calla.' 'It's no big deal, Calla.' That's what a decent person would say," I mumble.*

*? "I'm here to get your high-maintenance little a\*\* to Bangor, not soothe your ego."*

Oh! My! Gosh! What a laugh out loud time I had witnessing these two try to be civil with each other. She has Jonah pegged as a rude, cantankerous, bushy faced mountain man, and as far as he is concerned, Calla is a fake, spoiled, uppity Barbie doll. Talk about night and day!

But it is also an emotional read about forgiveness and second chances. Admittedly, I had to swipe away a few tears.

The whole opposites attract angle really works in this extremely well written, slow burn romance, which has a lot of *depth* to it. A very nice change of pace for me! No such thing as “fluff” in this one.

I will definitely be reading more by Ms. Tucker.

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## Christy says

### 5 stars!!!

*The Simple Wild* is KA Tucker at her best. I've read a lot of this authors work, most of her books, actually. And this book one is tied as my favorite of hers (Ten Tiny Breaths is hard to top). It had romance, adventure, and was a story about finding yourself. A perfect combination. I loved everything about it!

Calla Fletcher was born in the Alaskan wild, but was moved to Canada with her mother when she was only 2. She hasn't been back since. She's 26 now, living in Toronto and life is good. Until things start to fall apart. On top of that, she finds out that her father is unwell. Even though she hasn't seen or spoken to him in a while, she knows the right thing to do is to see him, so to Alaska she goes.

Calla can't begin to imagine what life is like in rural Alaska. She's heard stories from her mother, but it's nothing like living it. Calla's father, Wren, owns a line of airplanes that transports goods, people, etc around Alaska and has quite a few pilots that work for him. The one that picks Calla up is Jonah. Jonah and Calla seem like the most unlikely pair. And in a lot of ways, they are.

I love the way these two bicker and banter. Enemies to lovers story-lines really work for me. Jonah and Calla's relationship made me laugh, smile, and swoon. They are the epitome of opposites attract, because under all that bickering, there is some serious chemistry between them. But how could things work out when they're from opposite ends?

It can't lead anywhere, so what's the point? I'm going back to Toronto, where I belong, and he's staying here in Alaska, where he belongs.

Jonah is a fantastic hero. He's rugged, alpha (but not in a jerky or over the top way) and an all around good guy. And I really loved Calla's character as well. The romance in this story was fantastic. I loved watching in build and watching things change and grow between the two of them, but this book isn't just a romance. It's SO MUCH MORE than a romance. This is a story about family ties. It's a story about growth, about learning who you are, and about discovering what life is really all about.

I am in love with this book. The writing is stunning, the story is character driven in the best way, and the plot was original and kept me captivated from the start. I loved so many of the characters, aside from Calla and Jonah. Simon and Wren were both especially fantastic. *The Simple Wild* goes beyond the surface. It's a profound story and one I will carry with me. It will definitely make my top favorites list of 2018 and it's a book I highly recommend!

## Colleen Hoover says

Do you ever read a book and absolutely love it and then reach out to the author and she's a total dick to you and then your hatred for the author seeps into how you feel about the book and then you realize you can never, ever read that book or recommend it again because the author pretended to be your friend, slept with your husband, stole your favorite shirt and had the audacity to wear the same wedding dress to her wedding where she married your husband two years after you read her book and she ruined your life and now you can't read at all?

Cuz that would suck.

Luckily, that didn't happen with me and KA Tucker's book, *The Simple Wild*. I read it and no drama followed. She didn't steal my husband or my shirt. Just my biblioheart.

She's consistent and dependable as an author. This book was my favorite of hers and I've read them all. As a friend...hmmm. That will be in the review for the next book she writes.

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## Chelsea Humphrey says

*"For the hundredth time, I wonder if I'm being the selfish one. If I should grit my teeth and bare the misery, the isolation of Alaska. After all, I made the bed I'm running from now."*

My initial reaction to opening *The Simple Wild* when it arrived in the mail was pure excitement, yet this book turned out to be so much more than my expectations were initially prepared for. Of course it's Kathleen's latest book and it's set mostly in Alaska and it's packaged with a breathtaking cover, all things that I love, but those reasons are secondary to the real draw in why you should pick this one up. This is technically a contemporary romance, but it featured a very different vibe than my past KA Tucker reading experiences. Part heart warming romance, part domestic reconciliation, I found *The Simple Wild* to be 100% what I've been searching for in NA fiction.

*"But I don't feel like a twenty-six year old woman right now. Right now, I feel like an angry and hurt fourteen year old girl, brimming with insecurity and doubt, acknowledging that this man-the one not moving a muscle to close this last bit of distance-made a conscious decision to not be in my life."*

This story was so easily devoured, and it's compulsive readability was conveniently balanced with a complex plot and an atmospheric setting. Even though this novel is technically a slow burn, I was never bored and battled between not being able to turn the pages fast enough and forcing myself to slow down and relish each delicious description. The townsfolk of Bangor, a fictional town that felt so real, were beautifully portrayed, and I loved the tidbits of history that the author included about the native Alaskan people and all of the hardships they go through just to acquire the everyday basics that you and I take for granted. Bangor was truly a village; when one person is hurting all the rest band together and do what needs to be done to get them through the rough patch, and it was a well needed reminder on how important relationships are in comparison to material things.

I'm torn between wanting to write a novel length exposition on this book and not saying anything else, because it was SO meaningful and I happened to pick it up and JUST the right time, but I also don't want to do other readers a disservice in spoiling a single moment of this beautiful narrative. I'll just end with this- *The Simple Wild* is a bittersweet love story that expands beyond the barriers of time and circumstance. I feel like this book will really touch the soul of those readers who enjoy their romance to contain an intimacy that is more than just sex-focused. Highly, HIGHLY recommended for those who enjoy reading books set in

Alaska!

*\*I received a review copy via the publisher.*

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**Dri ☆ says**

**★ 4 stars! ★**

**“I might take risks, but they’re always worth it.”**

????????????????????????????????

A princípio não consegui gostar da Calla, a achei fútil, superficial demais. Não é o tipo de personagem que me agrada. Porém, ao longo da história ela teve um crescimento e amadurecimento considerável e com isso passei a vê-la com outros olhos.

Jonah, ao contrário, despertou meu interesse logo de cara. Adorei esse mocinho e a sua personalidade. Só tenho elogios para ele! <3

Adorei ver a interação dos dois, as implicâncias e discussões, isso me rendeu boas risadas. Me agradou também como o relacionamento entre eles foi evoluindo gradualmente.

Essa história despertou em mim muitos sentimentos. Me senti bem emotiva e em determinadas cenas foi impossível suportar o nó na garganta e conter as lágrimas. Assim como também me fez sorrir inúmeras vezes.

Embora tenha gostado de grande parte desse livro, considerando o desenvolvimento e ritmo da história, o final foi corrido.

Em alguns momentos tive a impressão de estar recebendo apenas um resumo dos acontecimentos. E na minha opinião o desfecho deixou a desejar e foi abrupto demais.

**The Simple Wild** foi uma ótima e emocionante leitura. Mas acima de tudo, uma aventura maravilhosa, pois fiquei encantada com a ambientação, as descrições de cenários e povo nativo. E mesmo que os pontos citados tenham me causado um pouco de insatisfação, ainda assim, esse livro conseguiu deixar sua marca.

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**Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says**

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We are living in a time in which everything in our life is rushed. We focus on things we deem essential to our lives, smart phones, computers, the newest cars, the most beautiful houses. You know what THE SIMPLE WILD did to me? It gave me perspective. After reading this powerful story I feel the urge to decelerate. To strip MYSELF down to the essential and just be.

Twenty-four years ago Calla's mom left Alaska and the love of her life behind. She tried. She really tried to make a go of it but the stark beauty of it depressed her rather than exhilarated. She packed herself and her two year old daughter and went home. Calla, now twenty-six, receives a phone call from the past she can hardly remember. Going back to Alaska, to the man who fathered her, who she hasn't talked to in more than a decade - it's not an easy decision to make. Too much hurts the disappointment, being let down by her dad, still, after all this time. Yet, there is no better time than now, so she goes on a journey to reclaim her past.

Calla is young woman whose most important struggles are what to wear, which make-up to apply, which picture to post on her and her bestie's blog. Being confronted with the bleakness of her dad's hometown is a new struggle at first. Through her eyes we see the landscape turn from barren to stunning and gorgeous. This is where the magic happens: when the setting of a story becomes a character in it. I adored KA Tucker's descriptions of the untamed, rough Alaskan beauty so much. I've always wanted to go there but now I feel an even stronger pull.

While Calla gets to know her dad again you see a distinct growth. You know she won't leave as the same person she arrived as, the spoiled young woman who has been living in abundance. Alaska strips her off the plenty and gives her the kind of softness that comes when you fall in love with a country and its people. She finds out that she's more her father's daughter than she thought she was.

Talk about Wren, he was a wonderful, beautiful, flawed character who so wanted to do right be his loved ones but just couldn't leave his skin he was born in. He had a gentleness, quiet and wisdom about him that drew people to him instead of repelling them. When all the truths came to light, his sacrifices, heart flew to him.

**It turns out he is the man on the other side of the phone, listening to me prattle in childish wonder. He's exactly who I wanted him to be, despite all his flaws, and all the pain he caused.**

Jonah is the guy who pulls a girl's piggy tails if he likes her. It's exactly what the rugged bush pilot does with Calla. I laughed at his antics, the way she got her revenge, his teasing personality. He was a jerk in the beginning but he soon realized that the lost daughter was made of sturdier stuff and that he didn't know all of the history between father and daughter. I loved the contrast between his teases and his tender and loving side.

**My limbs curl around his body as I watch his broad chest heave with each thrust, and his hooded eyes alight with fire, our gazes locked, and I wonder how on earth I could ever possibly have not wanted this man.**

The Simple Wild is powerful, emotional and a little sad at times (yeah, I cried) but also full of love and laughter. I take lessons away from it, the loudest message of it being to live more in the moment and not to get stuck in the past you can't change, to appreciate the commodities we have but also to grab my

smartphone that one time a day less and enjoy my surroundings more. I have K.A. Tucker to thank for that.

**“You should have called him. He should have called you. Your mom should never have left. Wren should have left Alaska for you. Who the hell knows what’s right, and what it would have led to, but it doesn’t matter because you can’t change any of that.”**

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## Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

3.5 stars, and I'm still not sure I should round it up, but ˘(?)˘.

**The last time I saw my dad, we argued.** I shouldn't remember, because it wasn't the first time, but I *do* remember, because that's the last time I saw him. I remember sitting in the car besides him while he was being a jerk to my mother, and I remember thinking - not for the first time - and screaming - for the first time - *THAT'S ENOUGH*. I remember him, sitting on a chair in my mum's garden a few hours later, asking me, no, *begging me* to talk to him. I wouldn't.

It was July 2012, and he would die of cancer a few months later, in January. We spoke on the phone this Winter, but I never looked into his eyes again.

**My dad, very much like Calla's dad, did not talk about his illness.** Not in the end anyway. We had a complicated relationship, but his phone number is still one of the few I know by heart. I'll be the first to recognize his faults, but I don't like people assuming things about him all the same. I'm at peace with who he was, and I know that most of his mess doesn't mean he didn't care, even though it's hard for people to acknowledge that. People... People are so full of shit, you know? In my life I've met two kinds of person : those who think I shouldn't talk about his mistakes now that he's dead, and those who don't understand why I even cared in the end.

I agree with neither.

I was 28 when he died, and I wasn't close to understanding him nor the weave of threads tangled that bounded his life. **Perhaps that's why I could relate to Calla so much.** When she learns that her father is dying, she decides to visit him for the first time after 24 years. She wants to get to know him, but that does not mean that she forgives him for having abandoned her. **I can see why readers could despise her : she shows up in Alaska in high heels, still resentful, and sure, we all want to think that we would be a better person in her place : I'm just not sure I would, and I understand that about her.** It's... It's just *so easy* to imagine how we'd react when we've never been in this situation, but as for me, I'm not about to judge her. So, what? She's a little vain, ignorant, and immature? She lives with her parents and posts pictures of herself on Instagram? Who cares? **She's despairingly trying to cling to some semblance of normalcy and I, for one, isn't in the business of mocking what is very much a survival tactic. Plus she grows a lot in the course of the story, and isn't it what we seek, dynamic characters who *evolve*?**

**Jonah, the love interest, is a prejudiced asshole, but to be fair, Calla *does* act in a very ignorant way when she arrives in Alaska.** He has plenty to learn too, and I very much enjoyed the **hate-to-love dynamics**

those two had going on during 70% of the story. If I'm being honest, the only thing that didn't sit well with me was the whole "you don't have to put on make-up" thing : I thought we were done with telling women that they shouldn't "paint their faces"? In what way is it his business? That bullshit is so stereotyped and ridiculous, it's *exhausting*. In the end, I still don't know if I like him or if he annoys me but ALRIGHT, the little shit grew on me. Moreover, I could feel their chemistry and honestly? **I rooted for them so badly**. Not to mention that it has the cabin-in-the-woods trope and (sorry but) I'm a sucker for it?

So, yeah. **Both main characters are somewhat unlikeable**, but if that doesn't bother you, you should give it a chance. Especially because :

- 1) the secondary characters are truly gold ;
- 2) can we acknowledge the fact that most people ARE unlikeable for one reason or another and that **unlikeable ≠ unlovable???**

All in all, **The Simple Wild was more a story about what family means - and that's not necessarily the same as blood ties - than anything else**, and that's why I'm more lenient with its flaws. It resonated with me in a very personal way, but I don't expect other readers to feel the same. Perhaps you'll hate it, I sure can understand why you would. Yet even though it wasn't perfect and made me rage sometimes, I won't forget it anytime soon, and because of this, it deserves a positive rating.

**TW - cancer, death of a parent**

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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**may ❁ says**

im gonna move to alaska and find me a viking sky cowboy and live my best life even tho im terrified of heights on a good day and my sanity is highly dependent on my wifi speed but, we'll make it work

K. A. Tucker how effing dare you make me feel like a book is part of my soul to just end it and not continue it forever????!!!!

anyways, you should pick up this book bc its so fricken atmospheric and well developed in writing and characters and INTERESTING AND INCREDIBLE AND FUN

AND YOU PRACTICALLY FEEL LIKE YOU'RE LIVING THROUGH THE CHARACTERS AND SEEING ALASKA FOR THE FIRST TIME AND SEEING LIFE THERE ARE I JUST WOW

i am devastated that its over tbh

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