



## Play of Light

*Debra Doxer*

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## **Play of Light** Debra Doxer

I lived in paradise, and I loved Spencer Pierce.

At fourteen, my life was perfect. The beach was my playground, and the boy who stole my heart lived just around the corner. But perfect never lasts. In one horrifying moment, I lost it all. My family was destroyed, and the boy I believed in turned his back on me. Paradise became a nightmare.

That was five years ago. Everything changed when we moved from our home by the sea. I've changed, and I don't like who I've become. I miss the smiling, carefree beach girl who disappeared that terrible night. I want to find her again. I want to face the people we ran from so long ago. Most of all, I have to face Spencer. So I can prove that when he broke my heart, he didn't break me.

But when I see him again, Spencer Pierce is no longer the boy from my memories. He's now a man who could devastate me if I let him. He watches me when he thinks I'm not looking. There's regret written on his face when he's near. Each time I see him, my heart aches for what might have been, and I think his does too. How can I convince myself I'm over him when I suspect he never got over me?

## **Play of Light Details**

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## From Reader Review Play of Light for online ebook

~Nichole~ Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews says

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Nichole's Sizzling Reviews

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Some books keep you smiling and leave you warm. Some make you cry and laugh and even both at the same time. Then there are stories that whisk you away and you come back changed and look around feeling a sense of melancholy because nobody around you is feeling the same way. But you are undeniably changed.

Debra Doxer is a master at not just writing a story. She writes a journey. An adventure through every heartfelt emotion. From the first crush to the first heartbreak. From lust to love and back again. I just traveled through a beautiful love story. I felt so many things for this couple. I cried tears of pain with them and healing. I am so full right now of hope and romance that I could sigh.

Spencer took my heart on a thrilling ride as I felt everything Sarah felt for him and with him. I wanted to save him and Sarah too. Spencer was 100% perfect sweet-alpha approved.

From the moments on the beach to rooftop secrets. I was overwhelmed with beauty and with a deep feeling of kinship. Like Debra took my hand and introduced me to these characters in person. Every single trial they went through I felt

Debra handled gracefully and with utmost care the situation with Nate and I respect her so much for that one area in this book. No games were played and lies told. These were purely honest characters dealing with Fate's crappy hand they were dealt. But when time for their chance to feel all the joy they deserved came due. Debra dealt them a winning hand.

Beautifully written with passion and healing. I have no more words.

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### **Celeste says**

I LOVED this. Play of Light is one of those stories that ends and I've fallen in love with the characters. Full review soon.

This book was originally reviewed on The Book Hookup.

\*\*I received a copy of this book, but that did not influence the review\*\*

**4.90 stars** Sometimes I finish a story and feel like I know the characters inside and out. And when I say know, I mean I feel them with my whole heart. I'm telling you, Play of Light is one of those stories that ended and I suddenly I realized that I'd fallen in love. This book just took over my brain, and that's the reason it's a top shelf story for me.

The scene setting in this story was divine, and I happen to live right over the bridge from Cape Cod where this story takes place. I could picture the views, the dunes, the smell of the ocean, and the beach houses. It was so vibrant for me and I loved it. But not only did the world building bring this alive for me, these characters are what made the story. They were real, they were deep, they were sad, and they were strong. The connection between Spencer and Sarah was there from the moment they first spoke, and even though nothing romantic happened for a long, long, LONG time I could feel the bond tugging on my heart. I can't say it enough, I just felt all of it.

The romance...oh my oh my oh my. It was so good. SO GOOD. Did I mention it was so good? I wanted that first touch, kiss, and then more. Spencer Pierce is swoony and delicious, broody and cocky, gorgeous and tatted. Yep, he was hot stuff. It was a very slow build up, but it was so worth the years of waiting. Then the time was finally right and oh, I loved it. That's all you need to know. \*clutches heart\*

You're dying to know why 4.90 stars, right? Well it's truly a top shelf book for me, but the nit-picker in me found beginning to be a little stilted. Just a little, trust me! But it did make me go back and reread when I got to 12% to make sure I didn't miss anything (THE kiss). No, I didn't, but it was written in a way that made me think I had missed a crucial scene. However, once I was sure I was told all I needed to know, I settled in and just devoured the book, trusting that Ms. Doxer would fill me in as I needed to know anything. I'm not totally sure I get the title either, but that stunning cover makes up for all of it.

The ending made my heart sing, and I was so happy that both Sarah and Spencer were on their way to finding peace, and so much had to do with the fact that they found each other. It was a lovely HEA.

Would I rec this? YES YES YES YES. A totally heartfelt story, that even though was terribly sad in places, showed me that becoming whole was worth the pain it took to get there. A fantastically written love story that would make your TBR very happy.

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## TeriLyn says

*\*\*Play of Light* generously provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\*

### 5 'Sara Smile' Stars

This title hails as my first from this author and it certainly won't be my last. *Play of Light* centers itself around two main characters surrounded by unfortunate circumstances yet completely destined for one another. Debra Doxer's exquisite writing envelops the reader from the very beginning of the story until the very end. I found myself consumed by Sarah and Spencer's story.

The blurb hints this story could be second chance love and while in a way it is this love story brings so much more to the pages. Woven throughout the love of Sarah and Spencer brings heart break, poignant memories, sharp focus, strength and determination, kindness, and humility. Each of these characters relied on each other, on a beautifully scarred friendship. When they come into each other's lives again the implausible attraction remains intact and is palpable to the reader thanks to the way Ms. Doxer's pens their story.

As Sarah's focuses on remembering the bright spots of her past in order to shed the darkness surrounding her memories, Spencer's honest portrayal of the guilt he carries makes him as vulnerable to the reader as he was to Sarah. Their connection lives through the pages of a delicately plot, delving into the dark side of life in order for the characters to see the light.

*Play of Light* came as an unexpected, pleasant surprise. If you enjoy New Adult romances where two people destined to be together work their way back to each other you'll enjoy this story. It's a journey to forgiveness through understanding and discovery. I'm so glad I experienced it and look forward to more from this author.

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## Pam says

### 3.5 Sarah Smile stars

**Sarah** had the perfect life; a wonderful family while living in paradise with the perfect "for her" crush, **Spencer**. When her world comes crashing down, she is left with no voice and choice but to follow, leaving everything and everyone behind. Sheltered from the truth because she's too young, she doesn't understand why no one will listen and why no one will do what's right.

*So I pretended to be fine until the fake girl became the truth and the real me stayed bottled up inside.*

Deep down she knows she is missing pieces of herself, and the only way to find it is to go back... Needing to face the demons that drove her away, in order to find the honesty, courage and closure. She thought five years was enough for her heart to forget, but one look at Spencer and it's far from over... the only question is, what's next?

*I thought I couldn't really love anyone until I saw Spencer again. Then I realized the problem wasn't that I couldn't love—it was that I couldn't love anyone but him.*

**Play of Light** was a sweet sad story about truth, justice and a second chance at love and life. This is a book you have to feel, as it takes you to the past and present. Sarah and Spencer, were two special souls that were lucky enough to have found each other, both finding solace and comfort in each others company, when the rest of the world is just too loud. I find it hard to judge the characters after all they've been through, whose to say at that point what is the wrong or right way to act. I may not have agreed with some decisions, but it's how they chose to deal and cope. I loved how all the wrongs were made right, that no matter what the truth mattered. A good enticing stand alone read.

*Copy kindly provided by Xpresso Book Tours, via NetGalley, for an honest review .*

\*\*\*Quotes above are taken from the version of the book I received and may differ from published edition.

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## Farrah says

A sweet New Adult romance about a love that finally had a chance to bloom, *Play of Light* was a nice book and I enjoyed it.

Both characters were good. Sarah was resilient and determined when she set her mind to something. Spencer was a sweetie who cared deeply for his loved ones and tried to protect them, no matter what. I liked both of them.

The romance was very sweet. Sarah and Spencer had loved each other from when they were young and they finally had a chance to be together. I thought they were a lovely couple.

The pacing was what dropped the book for me. For the first half of the book, I was only vaguely interested. I think it was because a large chunk of the beginning was devoted to portraying the past, rather than getting on to the present, which was what I was really interested in. But, for the second half, I got fully drawn in and engaged in the story. So, overall, I liked the story.

Play of Light was a good New Adult romance. It might not have been perfect, but it was a nice read that I enjoyed. Romance lovers, you might want to check this one out.

\*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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## **Talina | Sassy & Dangerous says**

Also reviewed on my blog! <http://sassyanddangerous.blogspot.mx/>

My Thoughts on the Writing:

"If I could swim across the ocean, I wonder if everything I've loved and lost would be waiting for me on the other side."

When I came across this book on NetGalley, I was amazed at the cover. It felt as if it was screaming my name to request it, and I'm glad I did. I started this book on December 10th, and finished it in the next day. I only do that when I'm in love with a book, and this book is tugging on my heart strings!

The author wrote in such a perfect way, I felt as if I were in the story itself. With every scene, I could just picture it in my head. I could feel the heartbreak, the sadness and the hope just seeping out from the book into my own heart. I've never read a book that could get me to feel emotional, and if a book does that to me, then I know this book deserves more than a five stars.

I thought this was just a simple love story, but it was so much more. I loved that the author got to take me back into the past and show me and other readers what the main character's stories were. I fell in love with the characters instantly. The author developed them so perfectly I want to cry!

Debra Doxer delivers a heartfelt novel, filled with sadness, hope, and love and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is up for all three of those.

Play of Light is the first book I've read from Debra Doxer..and it certainly won't be the last!

My Thoughts on the Characters:

"I fell in love with Spencer Pierce the day he saved me from the Pirates."

Sarah: She had my heart in just a few pages! In this book, the writing was a lot different in the character

aspect than any other books I've read. I felt connected with Sarah as if I understood her, and in some way, I did.

Her insecurity would remind me of my own, her fear of never wanting the good memories of her past to escape her, also reminded me that I felt the same way. I never got the feeling that she was an annoying character, which I'm happy about! When the author took us back into Sarah's past, I couldn't help but smile. I loved seeing how the friendship between Spencer and her formed, even through the bad times.

When Spencer would do something hurtful to Sarah, she couldn't be mad or hurt at him for long. She would always get a jolt of happiness, and so did I.

I enjoyed knowing that Sarah got what she needed in the end. It made me smile from ear to ear to know that the book ended on a beautiful note. Overall, Sarah is indeed my favorite book character of 2014!

"Would you ever love me enough to want to spend forever with me?"

Spencer: Oh my god, I want to take a blanket, wrap it around him, give him some hot coco, and keep him near me! From a very young age, we see that Spencer hasn't had the best of luck. All I saw was a wounded soul, trying to be the man he's always wanted to be. Brave, fearless, honest, and so much more.

Even though he didn't show it as much as Sarah did, I knew that he loved her, even as young kids. When he hurt her the day she came to tell him she was moving away, I understood why he said and did what he did.

I felt happy knowing that Sarah could change him into a better person. Both of them knew it would take time to heal from all of their wounds, but, they also knew they could conquer it all by each other's side. Overall, I loved Spencer and I thought he was a great character.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

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## Gabriela says

This is my first Debra Doxer book, and I had absolutely no idea what to expect , I started it with an opened mind , and I found my self getting wrap up in the plot.

The story is about a girl named Sarah and an older boy Spencer , they live near each other , but they have very different lives , while Sarah has a loving family , Spencer lost both parents and is living with his abusive uncle, Sarah tries to be his friend , and falls for him in the process, he shows that he cares for her (maybe too much)

**"I knew it would be you," he said. "I knew you were the one to stay away from." Blinking rapidly, I reared my head back at his words. He sat there, dangling his hands between his bent knees. My eyes burned with unshed tears. I hadn't imagined it. He was distancing himself from me on purpose. What**

did he mean, I was the one to stay away from? Because I saw too much?

But there's an event that changes their friendship and their lives are never the same when they get separated.

“I fell in love with Spencer Pierce the day he saved me from the Pirates.”

Years pass and they see each other after she goes back to her old town for the answers that she needs to move on , but she cant' denied the feeling that she still has for Spencer and apparently neither does he.

Would you ever love me enough to want to spend forever with me?”

>b>“Music did save me,” he agreed. “But it wasn’t the only thing.” He cleared his throat and gland away for a moment.

One could think that this a very hard genre to write about because there are so many novels about young adults and their quest to their past to find happiness after some tragedy, but this book is refreshing , it's a simple plot but very well-developed, and very enticing to read , the characters on Sarah and Spencer are lovely and complicated , full of deep feelings ans longing.

I didn't know what was going to happen next and that was one of the reason to be so in to this book , and there was kind of intrigue plot also , but the love story was beautiful as well

I don't want to explained the plot I just want to say that this book was very fun to read it was an easy read, and it stirs something in me , I kind of remember what it was like to love at such a young age.the first and true love ,and the hurt of feeling the lost of it.

I really liked it was very nicely written and very endearing

ARC kindly provided via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review

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### **Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says**

Ever since the day he saved her at the beach, Sarah has been in love with Spencer Pierce. In a nutshell, her life was pretty perfect. She had a wonderful family, great childhood, and the boy she loved lived just around the corner. Until the horrifying day that changed her life forever, causing her family to fall apart and the home she knew was gone forever.

Years later, Sarah doesn't feel like the same person anymore. She had moved away from her home by the sea to live with her aunt, but continued to pursue her love for art. Now with a scholarship to a school close to her old home town, Sarah feels it is time she faced the music once again. Venturing back to town wasn't easy, not with the memories of her father's death still feeling so fresh on her mind. She see's him again, of course, Spencer Piece and he is no longer the boy she remembers...

Wow! Did I enjoy this story, it totally grabbed me by surprise and held onto me through the entire book. I

had a difficult time putting this down. I really wanted to know what was going on, and what had happened. Sarah was a great character, given a little obsessed with Spencer at the beginning, but I enjoyed her tone of voice as she told the story from her POV. I watched her break apart and lose a lot, only to rebuild and be happy again. The storyline was great and I enjoyed most of it. I liked Spencer, I thought he was a very wounded soul that made me want to wrap him up in a blanket and keep him safe. I understood why he did what he did to Sarah before she left, his fear was genuine and came from years of abuse. A boy that was broken, broke just a little bit more everyday.

The story had some really sad tear jerking, mouth hanging moments. Especially when Sarah recollected her childhood and what was happening between Spencer and his uncle. Sarah's life falling apart and the way it happened was also really heart-breaking. I cannot even begin to imagine what she went through.

What I did have a hard time understanding in the end thought is okay...why did no one go to the FBI with this? With people unable to trust their local cops and Spencer's uncle being such a big issue in this book. I would think FBI would have had a large play in helping out in this situation...

I got a copy of this book for free in exchange of an honest review.

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## Sofia says

\*ARC kindly provided by Xpresso Book Tours\*

**Play of Light** is a story about justice, secrets, family, courage and love.

### Past

Twelve years old Sarah - a sweet and naive girl - is saved by Spencer, the new boy in town and two years older than her.

**I feel in love with Spencer Pierce the day he saved me from the pirates.**

This is the beginning of a beautiful and SECRET friendship.

Time passes and Sarah's feelings are bigger than friendship but she is afraid because Spencer is older than her, popular and handsome.

Like any 14 years old girl, she is insecure with her body.

**My chest is flat. My hips were straight without a curve in sight. Calling me sexy would be like calling a telephone pole sexy.**

So she never talks about her feelings. She choose just being his friend.

Between her relation with him and her own problems, she knows something is wrong with her father's work. He is a cop trying to be the right man...

### Present

5 years later

Something terrible happened that change Sarah's family forever.

Now, with a broken heart, she wants justice. What she didn't expected was to see again Spencer Pierce.

Two broken lifes. One single past.

This was a good story about how the real world is. Not black and white, but with a lot of gray between.

My only complaint was the ending. I was expecting a epilogue.

Genre: Young Adult.

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### **Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

In a genre that is saturated with sameness, it is so refreshing to find something different than the norm. And if there is one author I can count on to deliver such a thing, it is Doxer.

In a genre where anything goes and the same tropes are used over and over again, it is so refreshing finding something not only different, but completely entertaining as well and such is the story of Spencer and Sarah.

While her reads aren't what I would consider a mystery, they are filled with the mysterious. There is always that element of surprise and suspense that keeps you reading and keeps you guessing.

Never knowing how the story will unfold but always hoping for the best.

With the right amount of romance mixed with intrigue and a fast moving plot line, this is one that will be sure to keep you turning the pages.

And while this one is minus the paranormal element of her YA series, it certainly isn't lacking for anything else.

I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of getting to know Spencer and Sarah. Their history, their hardships, their friendship, and their story.

This was so well done and written and had my attention from page one to the very end.

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### **Bianca says**

I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

Love. As an avid reader, I've read many stories on love. The power of it. How love can destroy, consume, and overcome. Play of Light goes beyond that. It's about a beautiful kind of love. The love that exists simply because two people recognized their soul in another.

**“I fell in love with Spencer Pierce the day he saved me from the Pirates.”**

From the moment fourteen year old Sarah Walsh placed her eyes on Spencer Pierce she was never the same. Meeting him caused a complete shift in her life. Spencer is new in town and lives with his uncle after the death of his parents. As they begin their secret friendship, Sarah learns that Spencer has secrets that cause him a great deal of pain physically and emotionally. Spencer shouldn't let Sarah in, but he does. They never agree upon a secret friendship, but it happens. It's as if they do not want to share this special connection with others. Despite the darkness in Spencer's life, he found his light in Sarah.

**“He'd given me a glimpse of the darkness he felt every day, and I didn't know what to do with it or how to make it better for him.”**

A tragic event forces Sarah and her family to leave the only place she has called home. The boy she has fallen for, thinks it's best she leaves too. However, unknown to Sarah, he has his reasons. Loving her enough to know that she is better off elsewhere, even if it means she's away from him. This devastates Sarah. Five years later, Sarah returns home. The place that caused pain, loss, and heartache. The one place her mom begged her not to return to because of the secrets and lies left behind. The place that shattered their lives into pieces that will never be whole again.

**“Then I realized the problem wasn't that I couldn't love-it was that I couldn't love anyone but him.”**

Sarah tried to love again. But she could never fully give her heart to any man that it did not belong to. Spencer found nothing but emptiness in the women he encountered as there is only one woman to make him feel whole. Play Of Light goes beyond the cliché second chance romance, childhood love. It's deeper than that. Spencer and Sarah share a connection that cannot simply be put into words. But you feel it. You LIVE it. The author's words give these characters life. The emotions grip you. You are immersed into Spencer and Sarah's story the moment you start the first page.

**“I'm not going to break, Spencer. “I know”, he said. “But you can if you want to.”**

This story made my heart happy. There are secrets, lies, and pain, but despite that, love triumphed. There are broken pieces, slowly mended as two lovers are reconnected. By fate. By something stronger than them. Spencer and Sarah's love story is not an easy one. I loved that the author didn't make their love easy. It's genuine and realistic. Their love hurts. But their love also heals. Their love consumes. Even years later, their connection feels stronger than ever.

**“Would you ever love me enough to want to spend forever with me?”**

The writing was both flawless and effortless in it's delivery of a well developed, touching story of two people that love never gave up on despite their circumstances. The story weaves seamlessly through the past and present for the reader to fully understand the story and the depth of the love and friendship that exists between Spencer and Sarah. The pacing of this story was beautiful. I connected not only to the story, but to the characters. I teared up, I laughed, I simply lived through this story. Sarah and Spencer will stay with me for a long time to come. Play of Light is a beautiful, heartfelt story that gives hope to love and all it is capable of overcoming. Their love wins.

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## Chyna says

I love Debra Doxer, she is the author of the Remedy series. As soon as I found out about her next release,

Play of Light, I asked her about it. I was so excited when the cover was revealed, it was the most beautiful sight I have ever seen, don't you think so? And that's not the only thing beautiful about it, the story as well.

"I knew it would be you," he said. "I knew you were the one to stay away from." Blinking rapidly, I reared my head back at his words. He sat there, dangling his hands between his bent knees. My eyes burned with unshed tears. I hadn't imagined it. He was distancing himself from me on purpose. What did he mean, I was the one to stay away from? Because I saw too much?

Debra Doxer is so perfect for contemporary, she creates such fascinating poignant stories that'll bring you to tears and twist your stomach. Play of Light took a different turn if you compare it to her other series, this one was a bit lighter yet heavier. It's not a fluffy tale to tell, it has drama and a little bit of fury. I can't reveal why though but it was strongly evident in the story.

Swallowing, I noticed he looked bigger, more filled out. Every time my eyes landed on his exposed abs, my mouth felt dry.

What I love so much from Doxer is that she writes such heartfelt characters, they feel very surreal. If you were to ask me, who ought to be one of the strongest authors when it comes creating characters, it would be this author. Why? When Debra writes it becomes more than just words, they don't scatter, they somehow paint in my head and then my eyes follow. Her characters are what brought me to really enjoy this book.

We cried together, and I was crying for everything he's gone through. I thought of how calm and controlled he always looked on the outside, compared to how broken he was inside. It must have taken so much work to pretend the way he did all the time.

The book doesn't fervently hold onto the genre, mystery because it was more of a healing process for Spencer and Sarah, they were both so young and so troubled. Together, they made an even bigger mess. You can tell why I loved it so. To finally wrap this review up with a tight bow, Debra Doxer has my attention once again and she's not getting away. I can't wait to read her future books!

"Music did save me," he agreed. "But it wasn't the only thing." He cleared his throat and gland away for a moment.

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## Christina Torretta says

The beginning

This started out so good. I was sucked right into the story and very curious about the characters. The intro

was great and really helped me to get a sense of what the plot was going to be centered on.

"I fell in love with Spencer Pierce the day he saved me from the Pirates."

The entire first scene really showed why she started liking Spencer but it takes the rest of the book to really delve into her feelings.

Then the author switched to past tense and confused me for a bit. I don't love when plot lines jump around BUT in this case I think it worked wonderfully.

The plot and pace

First of all the plot could not be linear. Which I did not understand to begin with. The beginning is all about introducing the characters but there is so much more to this story than meets the eye. To keep things fresh and moving the plot needed to be mixed up. I still don't love traveling back and forth mentally, but it did do wonders to keep the pace of the story. After finishing I can look back and see that although I enjoyed reading about the characters, the middle portions of Sarah's life are fine and all but nothing to write home about.

By mixing things up Debra Doxer was able to spread out the normal parts of Sarah's life with the much more intriguing and scarier parts.

"Dude, you've got to hit the gym if you want your ass to be text-worthy."

The romance

At first I was not sure how this was going to play out. Sarah's crush on Spencer. I really hoped it wasn't going to be girl loves boy, boy loves skank, girl is crushed because skank is mean to her and boy is oblivious. Thankfully it was not like that AT ALL.

They each have gone their separate ways and had to deal with the drama of their youth. It was hard and they had to grow up but neither really moved on. It takes the entire book to find out if they are really going to be good for each other or if the drama was going to be too much for either of them to move past.

And what a great play list! I loved this!

Living on a Prayer  
Hungry Like the Wolf  
Sara Smile  
Volcanoes

The drama

Whoa! For a romance, this has some serious thriller plot lines. I think it was about 60% when I started really worrying about where the plot was going. It does go places other than just Sarah's little crush on Spencer and we find out so much about the town. SO MUCH!

Even with the thriller elements the story was fantastic. The thriller portion did not take away from the main relationship but actually added to it.

"You can't keep second-guessing the past. You'll never be able to move on. Believe me, I know a little something about that."

In the end

I'm really happy with how Debra Doxer ended this. It was clean but still left some questions. This says it's a stand alone so I'm now curious if there are other books surrounding this town or these people.

Thank you to Xpresso Book Tours for allowing me to read for an honest review.

4.5/5

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## **Michelle says**

*“I fell in love with Spencer Pierce the day he saved me from the Pirates.”*

When Sarah meets Spencer that day on the beach she has no idea her life is going to be forever changed with that single moment. Just a few years older than her, Spencer is new to town, moving in with his uncle after his parent’s death – Sarah is drawn to the boy that has become her friend, the boy that she’ll fall in love with and eventually the boy that will break her heart.

Spencer confides in Sarah, secrets that exposes his pain – things that she wants to tell her father about, who happens to be a cop in their coastal town. But eventually she breaks and runs to her father to save the boy she loves. That decision destroyed her world. In a single moment everything was taken from her. Now years later, Sarah is attempting to find the girl that was left devastated on that service road.

Returning home she encounters that boy again, only now he’s all man. She didn’t expect that getting closure would include healing the wounds he caused. But one thing hasn’t changed after all this time, her heart still beats for the boy she knew. When Spencer explains his reasons for pushing her away five years ago they fall back into an easy friendship that is laced with tension, their old feelings growing into so much more.

As Sarah learns more about what took place five years ago she knows that the only way to make it right is to expose the secret the town kept for all those years. It won’t change the past but she knows that it is what is right. This time Spencer isn’t going to let her down, he’ll speak up and tell the truth. What started off as a journey to heal old wounds turns into a love story; we watch as these to grow from childhood friends into so much more.

This book. This story. This is one of those books that had a blurb that intrigued me, a new author for me and no real idea as to what to expect. I thought this would be a simple second chance love story but it was so much more. The author did a brilliant job telling this story. The before parts, the innocence of childhood tarnished by the ugly things – but yet you still saw how beautiful their shared moments were. The change into adulthood. The lost boy becoming a man that is no longer just wandering, but that knows what he wants while he waits for the girl to find her place again. The reversal of roles. The broken to the healed.

*Would you ever love me enough to want to spend forever with me?”*

There was just something about this story that touched me. It’s not as simple as a single moment that occurred, but the story as a whole that just left me filled to the brim with feels. The characters were perfectly developed and it took only a few moments to fall completely in love with them. Loving the heroine just as much as the hero is rare for me. But Sarah was just one of those characters that I got. From start to finish I was her champion. I connected instantly and felt her emotions gripping me from the pages. It wasn’t a feeling of being overtaken by emotions, but a slow grip that tightened as the story continued. Almost as if I

didn't even realize how much until I was completely consumed by it.

Debra Doxer delivered a love story that was tangled in tragedy that gave you hope. Hope that two kids could dig through the ruins of their past and find a future, together. Two characters that found what they needed within each other, a love that had the power to break them but in the end healed both of them.

This story surprised me from start to finish and I am glad that I took a chance on this one. This is a story that sticks, one you'll remember. A touching tale of two kids that fell in love one day on a beach and although life got in the way, that love never faded, it just needed to be remembered.

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### Amanda says

**I thought I couldn't really love anyone until I saw Spencer again. Then I realized the problem wasn't that I couldn't love—it was that I couldn't love anyone but him.**

**New Adult, step it up, you're predictable.** This is how to sum up my experience with *Play of Light*. Although I enjoyed it more than the majority of New Adult, it's still more of the same.

We have Sarah and Spencer. Her family was forced from town after a series of unfortunate events that caused Sarah's death. A few years earlier before this all happened, Spencer moved to the town, and Sarah, a young girl almost immediately starts to crush on the new (older) guy after he helped/rescued her one day. But when Sarah leaves town, she and Spencer lose touch for several reasons. Now, years later, Sarah is ready to return to where she grew up, hoping to find closure with her past, but also with Spencer. Or so she thought.

I'll give Sarah credit: she's one of the few New Adult heroines that didn't drive me up the walls. She was a nice character who really wanted the best, both for herself but for others too. And while I didn't agree with all her choices, I could still see her point of view. It's worth mentioning that the author's writing was on par, not exaggerated or overly dramatic in comparison to other NA titles.

Apart from Sarah and the overall writing though, *Play of Light* is still a bunch of New Adult tropes thrown into a mixer. We have the abusive background, traumatic experiences, slutshaming (the girl interested in the heroine's love interest is a bitch and a skank, all groupies are skanks, hell, even the heroine's own sister is labeled a skank), the heroine's best friend is "slutty" (not in a bad way since she's the heroine's best friend), a "destined" love interest (a guy who pushes her away despite his love), misunderstandings and miscommunication. It's everything that almost all New Adult books are. The big difference is that it's not overly dramatic in its presentation of these already dramatic themes. So while it's better written than a lot of other NA titles, it's still, as said, **more of the same**, and at this point I'm looking for more than that when it comes to New Adult.