



In Bloom

Katie Delahanty

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A new adult novel from Entangled's Embrace imprint...

My name is Olivia Bloom and I. Am. Free.

I left for LA with everything I owned piled into my old Volkswagen and dreams of becoming a costume designer. Little did I know I'd wind up designing for a lingerie company—yeah, not sure how I landed this gig—and taken under the wing of two young Hollywood insiders. The fashion shows and parties were great, but life really got exciting when the seriously hottest lead singer of my favorite band started to fall for me.?

How does someone like me, an ordinary girl from Pittsburgh, wind up in the arms of the world's sexiest rock star—surrounded by celebrities, fashion, and music—and not be eaten alive? Berkeley is everything I've ever dreamed of in a boyfriend, but the paparazzi, the tabloids, the rumors, it's all getting a bit too crazy. My life has become every girl's dream come true, if only I don't blink and lose it all...?

In Bloom Details

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From Reader Review In Bloom for online ebook

Maggie says

3.5 stars

There were two big things I liked about this book and one big thing I didn't like about the book.

First, good thing #1: the writing. So often in "new adult" we get cliched and terrible writing but that was not the case here. Katie Delahanty really impressed me not only with her actual writing, but also her story telling ability. With a few expectations I thought the pacing was spot on; everything moved along quickly, but thoroughly.

Second, good thing #2: Liv. I thought Liv was a great new adult main character. She's just moved to LA from Pittsburgh for a costume designer job that fell through. She ends up getting a job lingerie company, something that seemed a little farfetched, the company was a little too perfect, but I thought many of the situations she describes were spot on. I have a friend who works as a designer for a pajama/lingerie company in NYC and she's always talking about their showroom things and preparing samples for buyers and so often while I was reading I thought about how what Olivia was doing matched up with the experiences my friend has shared. Liv is also strong, but kind of bumbling around celebrities and unsure of who she is and who she wants to be, things that I found completely reasonable for someone her age in her position.

Third, the bad thing: the secondary characters and Liv's relationship with them. Liv has these two friends, Blair and Parker, who live in her apartment complex. Blair (a lady) is an assistant publicist who knows all the ins and outs of Hollywood and Parker (a guy) is a writer on a Bachelor-like reality TV show. My first issue was that I couldn't keep them straight. Maybe this is just me, but I hated that they both have names that could be either for a guy or a girl, at the beginning I kept confusing them. Blair and Parker decide to take Liv under their wing and turn her from Pittsburgh nothing girl to Hollywood it girl. Watching Liv's My Fair Lady-like transformation was fun, but it was kind of over the top and I didn't necessarily buy that they could get into Elton John's Oscar party. What really drove me insane though was how at the beginning these are just two friends Liv makes in LA, but then, after her makeover, she wonders if they really like her or if she was just their project, yet, at the end, she talks about how they're two of the most important people in the world to her. What? A few weeks ago you weren't sure if they really liked you and now they're on the same level as your cousin who's been your BFF since childhood? Really?

As a warning there's also some real instalove here. Berkeley, the lead singer of Berkeley and the Brightside who Liv falls for, seems like a good guy, and they do go on a couple dates before they become inseparable, but once they become inseparable it's all over; they are seriously in love.

Bottom Line: Even though I have some complaints I really enjoyed reading this book, mainly because of the strong writing and the likable, believable main character. This is apparently the first in a series and I'm excited to see how Katie Delahanty's writing evolves and which member of the band (I'm assuming that's where this is going?) she focuses on next.

I received an electric review copy from the publisher via NetGalley (thank you!). All opinions are my own.

Erica says

Oh I really loved this one! A lot! Emotional and funny.

Melissa Carpenter says

It seems like the New Adult genre has slipped into a pattern of beginning with a character deeply affected by some horrible tragedy who finds another character deeply affected by some horrible tragedy and they cling tightly to each other and can't survive life without the hope of their love. It's annoying.

In Bloom is a breath of fresh air for the New Adult genre. Delahanty has written characters that are real, and flawed, but who do not let the circumstances of life become these huge depressing things that dictate whether or not they survive. If you're looking for depressing New Adult, this is not it. In Bloom felt to me like a slightly older version of Jen E. Smith's *This Is What Happy Looks Like*: charming, romantic, fun, and smartly-written.

I loved Olivia as a protagonist. She handles the pressures of moving to LA to pursue her dreams wonderfully, making great friends and ignoring her crazy mom along the way. She gets a fun job and breaks into the Hollywood scene, meeting the front man of her favorite band, Berkeley. She is accident prone and witty and smart, and several times throughout her story I laughed out loud at her antics.

Then there's Berkeley. I wish every leading man was so dreamy. I developed a total crush on him as I read, and I can only hope he shows up again and again in future Delahanty books.

One more thing I loved about this - Delahanty didn't feel the need to make it sound like a "grown up book" by having her characters cuss all the time. I appreciated that. Like I said, In Bloom is a breath of fresh air.

There are only two things keeping me from recommending this to literally every woman I know. One, while one of my favorite things about this is the lack of unnecessary drama, I think a little more conflict could have made the story a little more exciting. I kind of kept waiting for something significant to threaten Olivia and Berkeley, but it never really did. Anyone who was upset with Olivia for any reason let her off very easily. The other thing is the graphic nature of the love scenes. It surprised me because the language was so clean, and I was thinking I could really recommend this to teenagers and students getting out there and making life decisions, but I don't feel comfortable with that now. It almost felt forced - like it was required of her to put in there - every time a love scene came up. I think it would have flowed better with the overall tone of the rest of the book if they'd been slightly (not Puritanical or anything) more modestly written.

Those two things aside, I'm looking forward to more from Delahanty! I'm really hoping I don't have to wait too long for more Brightside books. :)

Teri Beth says

Reviewed at Lives and Breathes Book Blog.

“Hook, line and sinker, I’m in love.”

Yea, me too. I’m in love with this book.

I fell headfirst within the first few pages, completely caught, and couldn't stop reading! I can't pinpoint

exactly what it is I adore about IN BLOOM. I think I just love it all: the characters, the story, the writing, and the feelings it provoked. I'm on a book high and I don't want to come back down! Seriously, I haven't been able to pick up a book since finishing this, and I'm usually one to jump right into my next read.

IN BLOOM has a great leading lady in Olivia Bloom. She's fun, witty, lovable, and so easy to relate to. She just made a huge move to LA, and is now trying to find a job and fit in—pretty much figure out where she belongs. Olivia makes some great, quirky friends on that journey who help her along the way. She also has a physic mom that is just as lovable, even though Olivia wants no part of her mother's visions for her future.

Then there's swoon-worthy Berkley Dalton, the front man of Olivia's favorite band. He doesn't have a sordid past; he doesn't have a crazy family. He's a good, sweet guy and that's what I loved so much about him. That's not to say he doesn't have a few things in his life that cause a bit of drama, I mean he's not perfect. He is in the public eye, and drama is bound to find him.

IN BLOOM is expertly written in first person through Olivia's eyes. Delahanty did a wonderful job portraying Olivia's emotions. When she was embarrassed, I was too; when she was anxious, I was a bundle of nerves; and when she was feeling the love, so was I! I am a twitter lover so I enjoyed the chapterly tweets between the characters; it was endearing and made them seem even more real. The fact that the characters have actual twitter accounts is an even bigger plus! Delahanty has given us such a wonderful story. It's smart, romantic, and fun! I get one of those cheesy grins every time I think about it! My only complaint is about the epilogue, which is fairly short. I wanted more from it, but then again this is the first installment. Maybe I should just wait patiently to see what comes next in The Brightside series!

ARC provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Rachel says

Now I have finished this book, I'm not too sure about it. I mean, I definitely didn't hate it. But I also didn't love it. And I don't really know if I liked it.

Things I liked:

- It is free of drastically traumatised characters. This made for a nice change of pace from the current trend of boys "saving" girls and girls "saving" boys through love.
- I quite liked Katie Delahanty's writing style.
- It was quite an easy read. Nothing too heavy.
- The characters were reasonably likable.

Things I wasn't too keen on:

- How quickly they fell in love. By the end they had been together for what? A month? A bit longer? Nonetheless, it was very fast.
- Olivia's mum was obsessed with getting predictions of the future (personally I am very opposed to that kind of thing).
- Olivia's friendship with Blair and Parker. It was weird. One minute she thinks they are using her and don't like her, the next second they are the most important people in her life.
- To expand on my first point on their quickly escalating relationship, I didn't like how soon they jumped into bed together either. Then again, that's just my opinion and that won't bother everybody.
- I also thought that the lingerie company she worked for was far too lenient. I am sure she spent more time off work than she spent going to work. This just seemed a little bit unrealistic especially considering she hadn't worked there long at all and had in no way proved her dedication.

There are probably more things I could say, but I think I will leave it there. It was definitely readable, but I don't feel like I would read a sequel if one were to be made.

Wendy's Thoughts says

4 Insiders' Rules and Breaking Them All Stars

**** *Spoiler Free*

It is always special to read a book which references places you know of... Like when a book is set Austin, Texas or New York City or my home, now... Los Angeles, CA. It brings an extra layer to the read if... the author does it not to just make the location a place everyone can remember... but when it becomes an essential part of the story. Katie Delahanty did that and more...she also mixed true insiders' information to create a sweet, fun and true story of fame, entertainment industry complexity and letting go to dream.

I can testify to much of the rules... the way things were done and explained. I have seen first hand all of the manipulations. Her use of specific places and events worked so well. At one point she had the characters eating in a little place right around the corner from where I lived not long ago. She used out of the way places equally with famous ones causing the reader to feel like this was a regular occurrence... real.

Her gal was not weak... she behaved with grace of spirit even when things were slightly overwhelming. She rang true to me as I have meet many like her... starting and branching out to do what she really wanted in life. She was fortunate to meet two caring industry insiders... they took her on and showed her the ropes. It is this friendship and others which gave the gal the strength and support needed to handle all that LA LA Land handed to her.

Our fella is a dream... the rock god... but a down to Earth one. He is dreamy, the one you look at and lose your ability to speak and form sentences. These two seem to be destined to cross paths and their tale is sweet. Both are feeling things and wanting to be together... without the other knowing what is happening at first. Very nice...

I happened to plow through this read so fast... I had to re read some of the moments because they were so good. This has chemistry and love... there are hot moments but not the kind which would make it "detailed". It was the wanting and his love for her which made the heat rise off the page.

There are, of course, moments of confusion... but they made perfect sense with the storyline. I felt everything actually worked and sense we could have another book coming by this writer... Our guy was part of a very successful band... and our gal's friend... seems to be an interest with one of the band members, Mark... Hint Hint- so get to it Ms. Delahanty...I would click click for that book next.

A gifted copy was provided by author/publisher for an honest review.

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Ophelia London says

Such a fun look into the glam world for Hollywood and rock & roll. I loved these characters and had a blast tagging along on Liv's ride. And Berkeley...what a babe!

Bianca says

One of my favourite reads so far this year! This book has everything I love in a great story, amazing characters, laugh out loud moments, plenty of romance and even some tear inducing moments. Did I mention I have severe Cover Love? GORGEOUS!

Olivia Bloom has made the BIG MOVE out to L.A in pursuit of her dreams of being a costume designer. She settles into her new life, finds a great job and some fabulous friends then her whole world gets turned upside down. Enters Berkeley Dalton, the utterly gorgeous lead singer of Berkeley and the Brightside which happens to be Olivia's favourite band. Beyond Olivia's comprehension, Berkeley pursues her and they embark on a passionate and loving 'adventure' together. Unfortunately, dating the worlds biggest rock star has its disadvantages which leads Olivia to question if she's really cut out for that lifestyle.

"It must be hard for you to know if someone likes you for just you - to find Team Adventure"

"Team Adventure? What's that?" he asks after a curious pause. He sounds amused.

"It's my dream," I answer, beginning to get drowsy. It's getting late, and after all the wine at dinner my guard is weakening. "I just want to find that person I can't stand to be without. Where I don't want to be independent anymore, and regardless of where Im going or what I'm doing, I know it will be more fun if they're there with me, and vice versa," I mumble, my eyes getting heavy. "I want to be part of a team that no matter what... we're in it together... its our adventure... and we wouldn't have it any other way."

I loved how this story came about. Initially a blog, Katie started writing the story as a way to drive people to the Jonquil lingerie website. She began the story as a engaged woman (as the lingerie line was focused on Bridal) and started telling the back story. Two chapters were released every week and the readers were given opportunities to contribute by voting on outfits Olivia would wear (the winning outfit would appear in the story and the winner would win some lingerie). Each character has their own twitter account and would interact throughout the whole journey (some of their tweets actually end up in the book as chapter headings) Then Katie decided it was time to self-publish, but somehow ended up with a 3 book deal with Entangled Embrace.

So the story? Well... its awesome! It flows so beautifully, and the inclusion of the tweets really brings the characters to real life. Olivia is fun, loveable and easily relatable. On the shy side, she is easily tongue tied and seems to be a magnet for mishaps. I really did cringe and feel sorry for her quite a few times. Olivia and Berkeley's romance really is something dreams are made of. The famous Rock Star falling in love with your everyday girl, chasing and romancing her, its perfection.

I hate that people are judging me without giving me a chance to make an impression, but would I trade anonymity for Berkeley? What if I never met him? An image of bleak, lacklustre days stretching before me with no promise of how alive I feel right now presents itself and I have my answer.

Speaking of perfection, there's Berkeley. Underneath his public persona, there's a man with a lot of love to

give, looking for the perfect someone to share it with. After his first meeting with Olivia, he realises there is something special about her but he's torn. He doesn't want to let her go without giving them a proper chance however he doesn't want her to have to deal with the craziness his life ensures. He's sweet, caring and charming (all my favourite qualities in a book boyfriend) and that makes him irresistible. I found myself quickly falling in love with him, and he cements that love throughout the book (I should add it also helped that I pictured Devin Paisley as Berkeley) .

[image error]

He looks at me and softens. "I'm not captivating - far from it, actually. I'm just honest. And to be honest, I've never met anyone I liked more than you. And, for once in my life, I don't care who knows it."

The secondary characters also added the extra spark to this book. Parker and Blair seem like my kind of friends, you just know that when they're together its going to be a fun time. They push Liv outside her comfort zone, yet they're always there to pick her up if she falls. they're hilariously funny and sometimes crude, but that's what makes them even more loveable. I'd love to have a cocktail in the courtyard with them ANY DAY. Then there's Psychic Mom. She's a quirky one, but I enjoyed the energy she provided.

There's a HEA, albeit a little rushed I think. I was hoping for more, and the epilogue didn't really satisfy that need (I'm just greedy like that) Part of me hopes that the next book is about Liv and Berkeley, just as long as there isn't any unnecessary drama (I'd hate for these two to be put through the ringer again) Either way I absolutely loved this book and I'm looking forward to reading more from Katie.

Gabbie (Rampant Readers) says

Words can't describe how AMAZING this book is! Full review to come on tour date (:

Jennifer Ricketts (Donnie Darko Girl) says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review for my stop on the blog tour at Donnie Darko Girl.

Pure and utter bliss. How could you not feel that way if you started DATING your rock star crush? Well I guess you'd have a better chance of feeling that way if there were no such thing as the paparazzi and tabloids. Drawn in by the title of this book, IN BLOOM, which happens to also be the title of a song by MY favorite band Nirvana, I read what the book would be about - falling into a relationship with a rock god, how could I pass that up?? Obviously I couldn't.

Olivia Bloom has packed up from Pittsburgh and moved to LA to pursue her dream of becoming a costume designer. Happening to be in the right places at the right times, she soon not only meets Berkeley, the frontman for her favorite rock band Berkeley and the Brightside, but also begins dating him. She also happened to luck out in making friends at her apartment complex as well as getting a job and making a friend there, too. I loved her friends and how she wasn't shy about making sure they know she wants to be herself - not someone fake to fit into the scene.

IN BLOOM is the perfect title for this book and not just because "Bloom" happens to be Olivia's last name. I

adore that girl to pieces. She boldly left everything and everyone she knew behind to move to LA to go after her dream. Olivia is like a delicate peach rose, and once she's found her niche, she really begins to thrive and bloom. She's witty and instantly likable. I could read ten books in a row with her in them.

Berkeley is completely swoon worthy. There's just something about him from the very start that made me fall for him. He seems unaffected by his rockstar status by being a genuine and down-to-earth guy. He's modest and romantic...all of this adds up to every girl's dream! For me, I love that he is so into music - I could just imagine him playing his guitar and singing right to me.

One of my favorite parts of IN BLOOM is that every chapter begins with a tweet or two from the characters in the story. It was a really fun way to start each new chapter and showcased the different personalities of each character. Plus, the tweets were just funny and made me laugh.

If you've been reluctant to give the New Adult genre a try, I highly recommend you start with IN BLOOM. This book will cause you to swoon and laugh and is the perfect way to spend an afternoon.

Jessica *The Lovely Books* says

Ok it's 3 AM here and I have to be up EARLY! Totally worth it though. I can't really keep my eyes open but I'm so writing my review tomorrow. Love, adore, and love In Bloom some more. I mean hello it's a rock star and for some reason I'm a sucker for those!

I can't stop swooning *sighs*

=====

"Hooker, line, and sinker, I'm in love." <=== my thoughts exactly after reading the book!!

In Bloom is a book filled with drama, celebrities, and most of all swoon worthy romance! Olivia has up and moved from her life in Pennsylvania to pursue her dreams as a designer in none other than Los Angeles, Cal-I-For-Ni-A. She instead gets the gig of working in lingerie! I don't know what girl who wouldn't love that;)

"Yep. That's me. Olivia Bloom. Ending the world, one G-string at a time."

It all starts at a fashion show when Olivia Bloom makes a fool out of herself in front of lead singer, Berkeley Dalton, the face of Berkeley and the Brightside. One of the most famous bands around. Olivia, not being very celebrity "friendly", basically rambles to the gorgeous rock star and in turn her friends, Parker and Blair, decide its time for Liv to know the "rules". The endless list of rules of what to do and say when surrounded by the A-listers.

"So basically," I clarify, "assume everyone is someone, and if you do know who they are don't let them know you know, and if you don't know who they are, don't let them know you don't know."

It's a way for her to act like she is a somebody she isn't in a world filled with people also acting like somebody they're not. Chance makes it to where Liv and Berkeley keep meeting up. The more they meet, the more down to earth he seems. Until one day he basically invites himself over for dinner!

Then he leaves to go on tour for two weeks. Leaving Olivia elated with happiness that "The Berkeley Dalton" likes her. Or so she thought...

When Berkeley come back two weeks later, he doesn't contact Liv like he was supposed to. Instead, he's seen in the media with the gorgeous actress, Lisa Greene. And they look more than nice and cozy.

Will Olivia be able to just forget the enchanting celebrity who may or may not have shown her what it would be like to fall in love? Did she get it all wrong?

Why oh why can't she stop thinking of him?!?

I adored this book to pieces! It might help that I have a slight obsession with rock stars. But from the very first sentence until the very last, I was hooked. There was no going back because I knew, I knew, this was going to be good. I love looking into the life of celebrities; getting to experience the Grammys... Even if it was just in book form. This is exactly what I look for when it comes to reading, and it's the exact reason I became a blogger. To be taken away to a place I've never been. To spread the love of books that have touched me.

I find it hard to write reviews sometimes. It's like the words don't come out the way I want them to but that's not the case for In Bloom. The words are pouring out as if they have a life of their own. This must be why it feels like to be an author. It's a wonderful feeling.

The characters came to life before my very eyes. I feel as if I know them on a personal level. It's a high that I can't explain when I'm able to connect with in authors words. Olivia is such a down to earth, kick ass heroine. I feel like I would act just like her in the presence of a hot celebrity. Her innocence was endearing and made her very like able. Berkeley was larger than life; beautiful. His passion for music makes you fall into love with him. And yes, he has tons of passion! All the secondary characters were just as important as the main ones. I especially love Liv's mom. From the moment she was pregnant with Liv, she's been trying to predict her future.

Which brings me to what I truly found so intense about the book. Not going to give anything away but before you read ask yourselves these questions...

Do you believe in signs and fate? Or are you the type of person who believes in random coincidence? Maybe they're one in the same? Or maybe there's no such thing...? It's just life.

Ponder those questions.

There was only one thing I did not like about the book. In the beginning after B&L's first date, when B leaves to go on tour...I found Olivia was way too obsessed with Berkeley. I felt like all her thoughts were only him which is understandable but too much obsess I don't like. Luckily, her obsession didn't last too long!

Obviously I think the book is wonderful!

5/5 stars

* Review copy given to me by Entangled Pub via NetGalley for an honest review. It has in no shape or form hindered my thoughts.

Christie«SHBBlogger» says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

Katie(babs) says

I reached the half way point and had to put down this book. It has no real plot. Nothing interesting happens. The heroine is given a makeover and goes to all these celebrity events, meets a ton of celebrities (massive name dropping galore), goes to rock concerts, meets the big rock star hero she's had a crush on for years and...wash, rinse, repeat.

I felt like I was reading ramblings from a pre-teen's diary that doesn't have any cohesiveness to it. This also reads like a first draft and need some heavy content editing in order to make any sense of the story, which is on a path to nowhere.

Big pass on this one.

Shreya says

5 Stars!

The Blurb:

My name is Olivia Bloom and I. Am. Free.

I left for LA with everything I owned piled into my old Volkswagen and dreams of becoming a costume designer. Little did I know I'd wind up designing for a lingerie company—yeah, not sure how I landed this gig—and taken under the wing of two young Hollywood insiders. The fashion shows and parties were great, but life really got exciting when the seriously hottest lead singer of my favorite band started to fall for me.?

How does someone like me, an ordinary girl from Pittsburgh, wind up in the arms of the world's sexiest rock star—surrounded by celebrities, fashion, and music—and not be eaten alive? Berkeley is everything I've ever dreamed of in a boyfriend, but the paparazzi, the tabloids, the rumors, it's all getting a bit too crazy. My life has become every girl's dream come true, if only I don't blink and lose it all...?

When I decided to read this book!

" All this longing to be free has got the best of me. Now I'm tied so tightly to this love. Baby, you've got to give me a break, I've got my own smile to fake, Got enough on my plate, Without the lines you want to feed me..."

- When you need me by Brekeley & the Brightside

This book wasn't your normal ROCKSTAR Book!

Berkeley was not your typical rockstar. He's so not a Manwhore or a Playboy! He was so different from the average stereotype associated with rockstars!**Damn me! If it wasn't refreshing.**

We meet Olivia bloom. A girl with Dreams. She's just like any shy girl in a new city. I loved her character. She had the same doubts and refreshing dreams any girl would hold.

And I was like **OH YEAH! I'm so going to love it!**

I was like *Dude, it's not a insta-love story.*

OFCOURSE! I LOVED IT!

This book was truly..

Did I love the book?

Hook, line, and sinker, I'm in love

Yes! Yes! Yes! I'm in love with **Berkeley Dalton**

Ashley says

This review can also be found at <http://chiquitablogger.wordpress.com>

So, wow. Just... wow. This book was so amazing, so good, so beyond anything I had expected, and I'm DYING for more.

Berkeley Dalton is my official soulmate, and I literally cannot get enough. I loved everything about him, and Liv was a pretty kickass heroine herself. I loved the secondary characters, and, having grown up 30 minutes from Pittsburgh, loved the Pittsburgh-ese (and shout out to Primanti Bros!) Literally, this book had absolutely everything for me!

I'm dying to know who the second book is about, and when I can read it! Fingers crossed for another ARC! Even though this book had a HEA, I'm selfish and I want more! I cannot gush any more about this story, book, or author! *stands and applauds*

Received an ARC for honest review.
