



## Close to Heart

*T.J. Kline*

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*It only took an instant for her world to come crashing down...but Heart Fire Ranch is a place of new beginnings, even for those who find their way there by accident*

As the only veterinarian in town, Justin Hart doesn't have time to think about romance. So when A-list actress Alyssa Cole crashes her car outside his clinic, it's entirely unexpected when there's a spark between them he can't ignore. Still, she's a movie star, and he's just a small town cowboy.

Alyssa has learned the hard way not to believe first impressions, especially not in Hollywood. But, 400 miles from her former life with nowhere to go and no one to turn to, she places her trust in the handsome vet who comes to her rescue.

There's no denying the connection between them, but when Alyssa's past shows up at the door, will their new relationship be able to withstand the storm?

### Close to Heart Details

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Author : T.J. Kline

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## From Reader Review Close to Heart for online ebook

### Home. Love. Books. says

To read this review and others like it check out my site at [www.homelovebooks.com](http://www.homelovebooks.com)

I kind of love the premise of this book, woman is leaving her husband and finds sanctuary in a new place she's never been, the only hiccup in this is that this particular woman who is leaving her husband is pregnant, and I think we can all agree that kind of raises the stakes of the book.

So Alyssa used to be a movie star, until she married her agent and then he slowly started to pull her away from her acting and then isolated her from all of her friends. Let's face it the guy was a total jerk, and did I mention he was cheating on her with her best friend. Yeah real winner. So when her husband makes it clear that she can pretty much get used to the cheating or she can leave, she leaves. Only now she has to figure out how to live when she is about to have a baby, and her hubby has all the cash. I felt bad for Alyssa, and it took a while through the course of the book for her to really come to terms with what had happened with her husband. I will say I was really proud of her by the end, I think it's a really hard thing to learn to stand on your own again and to stand up for yourself, so it was good watching her go through that and come out on the other side.

Justin is the guy who rescues Alyssa when she crashes her car in front of his vet clinic in order to avoid hitting a dog who turns out to be very pregnant. Justin is well, I would say a bit on the jaded side. He doesn't seem to want to give anyone the benefit of the doubt, and he is always doubting Alyssa whether it be her intentions or her word. I honestly wished I had liked Justin more. This book without a doubt has a bit of that whole instant-love thing (there isn't much time that passes before they have deep feelings for each other), but Justin is always so quick to give it up. He will have a great and profound loving moment and then an hour later something shakes up his beliefs and he's out the door. It drove me bonkers to the point where I had a hard time liking him towards the end.

I will say when Alyssa and Justin are in a good place they are really nice to read. It was a bit odd with her being pregnant and then the car accident, and how quick Justin is to kiss her, but I was able to get over that initial weirdness. I actually really did enjoy the element of the ex-husband, he made for some interesting reading and more than that his participation in the book really helped with the pacing and the drama. If you like a small town romance or a romance with an evil ex lurking in the background then you may want to check out this book.

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### Nate Brightman says

Close to the Heart is Book 3 of the Healing Harts series based upon the fictional Hart family, sisters Jessie, Julia, brother Justin the subject of this book and younger cousin Bailey. Justin is the oldest of the three siblings a veterinarian, former college football player and quite honestly not the most lovable character in the previous two books. In this his book Ms. Kline manages to make Justin a much more likable character while not giving him a complete personality makeover. I've now completed reading this entire series to date. I'm quite sure there'll be at least one more book about Dr. Blake the dreamy pediatrician who is best friends with Bailey who is hiding some deep dark secret, but I have no idea when it will be released. At any rate I've thoroughly enjoyed the series and this book was no exception.

Alyssa Cole is a former Academy Award winning A-List actress who at the urgings of and due to his manipulations retired from acting four years prior to the start of the story. Alyssa eight months pregnant

discovers her husband has been having an affair with one of her best friends and when she confronts him he kicks her out. This is the second modern romance I've read about an A-List actress betrayed by a cheating husband who is left with nothing because her husband has manipulated her to control both her career and her earnings. It's a concept that's a little hard to swallow but whatever. Alyssa after fleeing her husband in his most expensive BMW is on her way to her parent's home when swerving to avoid a dog in the road she has an accident in front of Justin's veterinary clinic. The chemistry between the two is immediate with the attending electric charge running up the arm the first time their hands brush, butterflies in the stomach and blood pooling hot in the nether reaches. If you don't believe in love or at least lust at first sight you might as well not read modern romance novels. What makes this one a little tougher to swallow is the fact that Alyssa is eight months pregnant yet she's still getting sexual stirring and Justin is just as turned on by her. Don't get me wrong a very pregnant woman can be very beautiful but at that point sex is usually the last thing on her mind and her beauty doesn't normally fire sexual desire in the opposite sex. Well our hero Justin gives her a place to stay, and a pseudo job while her car is being repaired and of course they fall in love with each other. I really enjoyed this book and recommend it. My only issue was as we all know there must be a big falling out between the heroine and hero before the HEA can occur and in this story it really felt contrived. I don't want to give it away so I'll just say that it was hard for me to believe Justin considering the source could allow his love for Alyssa to be so easily shaken. Which again made Justin for all of his good qualities a hard character for me to get behind. Over all though it's a nice story and if you're one of those people like me who enjoy seeing characters from previous stories in the series reappear you'll be happy to know that Jessie, Julia, Dylan and Bailey make appearances in this story.

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## Mignon Mykel says

Received an ARC in exchange for an honest review; original tour post with excerpt can be found at:  
<http://mnonmklreviews.blogspot.com/20...>  
(7/21/2015, 7 am CST)

The J-Harts are finally rounding out with big brother, Justin.

If you had the opportunity to read Jessie and Julia's stories, you know what a loving big brother Justin can be -- but also what a meddling brother he can be. So it was nice to see the tables turn -- his sisters can get all up in his business now.

On a late night as Justin is shutting down his vet practice and getting ready to make the short trek to his home, he spots a car go out of control on a slick patch of road. The last thing he expects is for the woman to get out of her car, worried about the fact that she thinks she hit a dog. When she turns and Justin catches her profile, he sees she's severely pregnant and wants to be sure she's ok -- but she'll have none of it. She knows she hit a dog, she wants to be sure it's ok.

After getting the woman in the house, he looks for said dog to appease the woman, never truly imagining he'd find the animal. Just as he's about to give up, though, he does -- and the dog, too, is pregnant. His cousin, Bailey, left for the night and is unreachable, so Justin uses the woman (Alyssa, he gets her name) to help with the emergency C-section.

I know that it's his job, but I loved how calm Justin was with this scene. I loved that he calmly talked Alyssa through it and helped her help him. When he gets to the runt of the litter, though, he wants to save Alyssa's feelings but attempts to keep the pup alive -- a source of a major fight between him and Bailey the following day. Justin has never been one to let an animal suffer, and Bailey feels that it's wrong of him to try and keep

this pup around, especially because even the mama dog has recognized something is wrong with the littlest baby.

But Justin doesn't want to hurt Alyssa, so he tries.

Justin has a lot of pride. He's attracted to her, but between her belly and her ring, he knows better than to act on his desires. When he learns who she is, though, he feels like a heel -- what would a woman like her ever want to do with a country hick like himself (his words, not mine)..?

Alyssa was once on top of the acting ladder, but her marriage to Elijah, superagent to the stars, had her career deteriorating. Elijah is extremely manipulative and controlling, and Alyssa finds herself doing the stay-at-home thing -- of which she's ok with... until she learns a little bit more about Elijah.

I truly enjoyed Alyssa and Justin. I loved that they both had fears and insecurities, but the other helped them through them. I loved their superhero bickering; I loved their collaboration with the dogs; I loved that Jessie and Julia loved Alyssa.

I loved that Justin shortened her name, without truly noticing, to Lyssa -- when everyone else in her life shortened it to Aly.

The six weeks they share together has emotions growing quickly, but Justin gives something to Alyssa that no one else has before. She finds herself believing in herself and willing to open herself up and trust someone.

There's a bit of a side story that goes on in CLOSE TO HEART and it's super-close, connected secondary story. I personally did not need it --- I'd have rather that portion be more of a suspense aspect. However, with it there, you as a reader get a fuller understanding of the pride Justin has and how he lets it overrule his emotions.

I wasn't sure that I would enjoy Justin's story -- I did, after all, love Julie and Dylan, and their brood of dogs, too. Justin and Alyssa's story was different but cute and sweet.

I'm hopeful that this isn't the end of the HEALING HARTS stories -- we do, after all, still have little cousin, Bailey, and while he didn't make an appearance this time, I really want to see Gage get a story. Maybe with Bailey... But that's just me being greedy.

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## **Defying Tradition Allisia Wysong says**

Close to Heart is the book I knew would be great, but I wasn't prepared for the hit to my heart. We have slowly been getting to know Justin Heart through his sisters and know he is stubborn, protective, and always ready to lay anyone out that dares mess with the ones he loves. In his book we get to delve deeper into who Justin is, what makes him tick, what it takes to break down the walls he has kept up for so long. Justin has sworn off relationships, he doesn't trust easy so to let himself care about another person is not on his agenda. The women he has dated know this, not that they haven't tried to be the exception to his rules. None have ever made him second guess the way his life is going until Alyssa Cole crashes into it, literally.

Alyssa Cole on the outside has kept herself looking as though her life is perfect. You know the saying if you fake it long enough you start believing it yourself? Well this was her, she pretended to have a happy marriage, great career, friends, and to top it off she was going to have a baby. The last was the only thing that truly made her happy. She managed to survive the rest, convincing herself things would get better. Until she

finds herself kicked out of her house, penniless, and in a snowstorm. Crashing her car was just one more thing she didn't see coming, but sometimes those are the best kind of events.

Alyssa and Justin have an instant connection, one touch and they are sizzling. Justin knows this woman is married and pregnant, he wants to stay honorable. Alyssa fights the connection not wanting to give her soon to be ex-husband fire for his campaign to discredit her. Can they fight the fire until the divorce papers are officially signed? Then what? Alyssa is an actress and Justin a cowboy/small town Vet, what could they possibly have in common? Can Justin trust Alyssa even after all the lies that start flying from the press? Justin wants to but it's hard to find the truth when you don't have faith in yourself, this was one thing I saw in him. Justin doesn't think he could possibly be good enough so his brain and heart are at war. Find out which one wins by buying your copy NOW!

I would love to tell you all more about this book, but the story has so many layers, that if I say one thing you will figure out all the rest. I don't do spoilers so if you want to know what happens with Justin and Alyssa you will just have to buy the book and read it ;-)

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## Tash says

Reviewed @ Confessions From Romaholics

**Review copy kindly provided by publisher in exchange for a honest review**

There is something about small town romances and me. I'm drawn to them like flies. Maybe it because I grew up in a country that was so close-knit and small community atmosphere.

Close to Heart fit that description perfectly and whilst I'm new to the series I found this to be standalone though Justin did have the a role in other books. Justin is the head of his family and been hard watching over his sisters and cousin. He meant while but the protector/nurturer in him can't help not worry and seem perfect in his chosen careers as a veterinarian. Little does he know that his job is about to help him meet his future partner.

In something almost too good to be true. We are quickly whisked into the midst of things with this book when our heroine enters into the hero's life with a bang. When she happens to crash her car one cold winter night right outside his practice. Lucky for Alyssa, Justin is closing up for the night and sees the accident first hand and goes to help. Not expecting the scene to unfold in front of his eyes that will change his life forever.

Alyssa Cole is a former actress escaping her husband after discovering his infidelity. Not thinking straight she goes to her parents in order to re-coop and gather her thoughts. It is a miracle considering the circumstances she isn't hurt. However she isn't worried about herself. She worried about the dog she has hit.

This touching moment and the fact it comes aware that Alyssa and the dog is heavily pregnant stirs something in Justin as Alyssa more concerned for the dog than herself. What starts as a rescue mission suddenly becomes something more when it becomes obvious that the dog needs help and there is no one else to help except the two of them.

Bonding over the dog is seemed there is a connection that seems deep and infallible after such a short time. Alyssa tugs his heartstrings with her caring. However it's not easy when everything falls in to place and he realises who she is and that getting to know her is not going to be the easiest.

In those early few chapters the book is set up after it becomes obvious that connection is something and it could be just about their relationship. However the antagonist in the form of her husband adds an interesting note to this story and creates tension that simmers underneath everything especially in Justin. Justin is a

likeable guy and you want to feel sorry for him considering things . It may be a bit cliché with the movie star and ordinary person who falls in love but isn't . Alyssa doesn't come of as actress and though she speaks of her wishes to return to the industry. It doesn't seemed rushed, it seems that these two have recognised the signs and with a baby on the way what else is there to do ...

I have tossed since I finished reading this last night whether to give this 3.5 or 4 couples because to me I felt there was something missing with a certain plot line. Maybe it was because I was reading this book pretty late at night or I didn't connect with the characters like I wanted to. There was something about Alyssa 360 turn towards end that didn't sit right with me considering how fast everything else moved.

That why I can only give it 3.5 couples.

For more of my reviews, visit Confessions From Romaholics.And drop by the blog's Facebook page

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### **Catherine Crook says**

holy hell!  
it was amazing.  
full review to come!

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### **Becky says**

I have serious cover love for this book--shallow, I know, but it just gives me all the warm fuzzy feels. I mean look at it--sigh :)

Initially, the characters seemed to live up to their awesome cover.

Justin's a veterinarian, and in the very first chapters of the book he delivers a litter of puppies for a dog who's been hit by a car. Then he takes in the woman who accidentally hit the dog, offering her shelter from the inclement weather and a place to stay while her car is getting fixed. So far, so good.

Alyssa's a woman looking for a do-over--when she confronted her controlling husband about his cheating (with her best friend! while she's pregnant with his child!), the louse threw her out of the house. She retaliated (a small victory, but we'll take what we can) by taking his brand-new, mega-expensive luxury car.

Yep, the one she just crashed.

She puts aside her squeamishness, helps Justin deliver the puppies, and even takes the runt of the litter under her wing and ensures he has a fighting chance at survival. Again, all good things.

Justin and Alyssa have an instant attraction, but both know it's not a good idea right now because 1) she's married and 2) she's 8+ months pregnant with that man's child and 3) they just met under stressful circumstances.

Plus, Alyssa's got some fairly heavy-duty secrets she's hiding. The fact that she's a (retired) A-list actress, for one--when Justin finds this one out, his initial reaction is anger, because he feels that he's been played.

It's around this point where the story starts to go slightly off the rails.

The insta-attraction veers a bit to far into insta-love territory, with a side helping of I'm-going-to-kiss-you-like-our-lives-depend-on-it-even-though-we-both-know-it's-a-really-bad-idea-but-gosh-darn-it-I-just-can't-help-myself. Honestly, the losing control and kissing thing happened way too many times considering the age of the characters, making them seem like hormone-driven teenagers instead of mature adults. (And okay, Alyssa at least could have blamed pregnancy hormones--she doesn't, but it's at least an option. What's Justin's excuse?)

By far my biggest issue with the story, though, is Justin's attitude. Once he finds out about Alyssa's celebrity status, he starts to have some major misgivings re: him being "enough" for her. I get the feelings of inadequacy, I do. But he turns them into a major a\*\*hat attitude--when he's in his "I'm not worthy" mode, he inevitably decides that he's being played by Alyssa/her ex/her lawyer (because no way could she want him for him, despite what conversations they might have had to that effect minutes earlier) and lashes out against her, being mean and spiteful and not giving her a chance to defend herself (or even to speak at all, in some instances).

Seriously, at the end I was half rooting for her *not* to go back to him. He certainly didn't do anything to deserve the final chance she gave him, IMO.

But then it wouldn't be a very good romance novel, I guess...

So in the end--all kinds of potential here, but it doesn't fully live up to it. There were things I liked about the story--the secondary characters were fun, the story's premise was good--so I'd give another story in the series a chance in the hopes that the things I wasn't crazy about were just a one-off here.

Rating: 3 stars / C

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## Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

Close To Heart is a story that starts off with our heroine, Alyssa accidentally hitting a dog at night, and running into Justin Heart's building. Instantly there is sparks between these two as they fight to save the dog and her pups. Alyssa has just left her husband, and is eight months pregnant, and now with her car unable to work, Justin and Alyssa bunk as roommates together for a short period of time. The build up between these two is slow as they start to get to know each other. Justin hasn't had it easy with trust and has been used in the worst ways and doesn't know if he can trust Alyssa, even though he wants to. This is a romance that isn't for the faint hearted, it one that is full of tough emotions and difficult choices and a man that is out to destroy Alyssa any way he can and is set out to bring Justin and Alyssa apart from each other. I enjoyed this book so much because it shows how meaningful trust in a romantic relationship is needed. When you love someone you stand by them first and everything else is second in priority. Justin in the end here treats Alyssa so poorly, and even though I understood his reasons, I also couldn't understand why he was so stubborn and prideful about it. Alyssa is a character you learn to admire from the very beginning. She is a tough cookie despite what her marriage was like. We see how she changes from being shy and reserved to being bold and

fighting for what she wants. Close To Heart is a admirable romance that sweeps the readers off their feet with a sweet romance and turbulent emotion!!

*Heart's Desire (1)*

*Taking Heart (2)*

*Close To Heart (3)*

a Rafflecopter giveaway

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## **Gaele says**

A new series from new to me author Anna Stanizewski brings a nice mix of ancient mythology and magic to the life of a not-so-ordinary middle schooler. Twisting together the myths of Cupid and the Grim Reaper works to great effect in this story, adding humor, several 'oops' moments and a wonderful developing friendship between our two protagonists.

Lena is a reaper (yes – as in Grim) without the scythe or black cloak. She's well-adjusted and comfortable in her life, well, as comfortable as anyone her age ever is... but she wants to be kissed before she turns 14. She's not prone to faerie tale inspired romantic dreams: her family has given her a solid foundation of practicality that is seen in her approach to life, friends and her powers. She's thoughtful, funny, practical and most of all, completely unaware of the crush that Marcus has.

Marcus is a Cupid, or cupid-like: a supernatural matchmaker. He's shy and quiet: a believer in the 'magic' of love, partly from his parents' influence, a dynamic that is very different from Lena's home. Marcus is completely adorable: he's that awkwardly unsure boy: a touch tongue tied, and now learning to communicate with his new friend, Lena, the girl he shared a first kiss with.

Anna Stanizewski uses twists, myth and solidly built characters to tell the story with humor and a sense of being there as the characters deal with all of the changes to their own lives as a first kiss turns into a monumental obstacle. With their powers switched and their understanding of the worlds they knew now changed, Lena and Marcus have a wonderful trajectory in their story, keeping readers ready for every new development.

With an ending that just doesn't quite answer all the questions, there are opportunities for more story to come. I'm curious to see where the next installment leads, and think this is a great summer read for ages 11 and up.

I received an eARC copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

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## **JB's Book Obsession - Jennifer says**

Alyssa Cole crashes into Justin Harts life literally when she has a car accident right outside his veterinary clinic. She's an A-list actress, he's a small down vet. Can two people from opposite worlds, build a life together? Or will Alyssa's past come back to haunt them? Will Justin's small town life be enough for the beautiful Alyssa? Can he trust her with his heart?

Close To Heart is book three in the Healing Harts series by T.J. Kline. This was my first book by T.J. Kline. I did not read the previous books I plan to go back to read them though. Justin and Alyssa's book is a sweet love story that happens by accident. Alyssa catches her abusive husband cheating, he kicks her out pregnant and heartbroken. She then finds herself in a small town faced with the possibility of being able to start over. The chemistry between Justin and Alyssa sparks immediately. Justin briefly gives Alyssa a place to stay and they begin to build a slow bond. Justin does not trust easily he has been burned in the past. That trust is tested when Alyssa's husband comes for her. At this point tough decisions are made, I cried for this couple to come together. Alyssa was a strong female character it was great to read how she grew and changed as she tried to build a new life for herself and her baby. Justin was super sweet I liked him a lot, sometimes he could be a bit of a jerk, but I think that was his trust issues because of his bad relationship luck in the past.

This is a very emotional romance that will tug at your heart. It will have you holding your breath in anticipation of what will happen next for this sweet couple. There is suspense, secrets, betrayal, and heartbreak. There is also love, trust, and second chances. The characters were well written and the story kept my interest from the beginning. I would have appreciated the background characters more if I had read the previous books so I recommend reading them first. A sweet and tumultuous romance. I definitely recommend.

RECEIVED AN ARC IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW

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## **Danielle says**

I couldn't wait to read Justin's story and finally I just finished it. So I did happen to have mixed feelings about this book.

Alyssa used to be an actress who was married and pregnant but when her cheating ex kicks her out she ends up hitting a pregnant dog and meeting Justin in front of his clinic. I know right? At first I'm like wow Alyssa has just the worst luck ever!

I thought the storyline was okay but with the ex involved it was just way too much drama. Some parts could have been taken out and the story would have been just fine. Between his control issues and the way he tries to manipulate Alyssa I was just over him being a prick.

Alyssa has been staying with Justin for a week and already falling for him. Then she goes into labor. It was one thing right after another. I did like the characters and how they ended up together and happy. It was also

nice to see his sisters happy in their relationships and starting families. Justin was super sweet at times but then the other times he was being a complete ass.

You can see right away the attraction between these two but before her divorce is even filed they are putting the moves on one another. Then she misses out on 2 months because Justin doesn't trust her or want to talk to her about what was going on with her soon to be ex. It had some parts that I teared in my eyes which helped me get past some of the drama.

I am hoping Bailey's book will be next and she ends up with the sheriff. Overall it was a sweet read but I would start this series from the beginning to get to know the characters and grow to love them like I have.

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## **FicCentral says**

Justin wasn't looking for a relationship — or anything even close to one. But when a very famous, very pregnant woman crashes on the road just in front of his veterinary practice, he finds himself offering her help and trying to deny the sparks of attraction that fly between them. After all, she's married and clearly carrying another man's child. But his heart has other ideas.

**The Verdict:** I'm sort of over my penchant for romances in which the regular person falls in love with someone ridiculously famous, but I couldn't pass up the chance to read another story by T.J. Kline. And of course, I loved it!

Justin has been the meddling big brother in previous books, and while it was always clear that he was a good guy, it was hard to really get to know him. He's always been all business — except when it comes to looking out for family — and finally getting a look inside his mind was really interesting! For one, he was a little angry and put out by Alyssa's need for help, but he didn't have it in him not to lend a hand. That right there made him a lot more believable than the typical white knight who's head over heels in five minutes and ready to play protector.

Alyssa's not your typical celebrity, either. She made a big name for herself in Hollywood, but then her marriage to a power-hungry agent happened, and it's all been downhill from there. He's more or less sabotaged her career and left her nearly a has-been just a few years after the height of her fame, and now that she knows for certain that he's been cheating, she's completely lost. Not to mention alone and without a plan. On the outside, her life looks perfect, but on the inside, she's desperately trying to figure out who she is and what her next step should be. The last thing she expects is for the cowboy who comes to her rescue to rescue her heart as well.

Her car crash is serious enough to send Justin running to help but minor enough that she walks away without a scratch. However, she's now stranded at Justin's country veterinary practice, urging him to save the dog (and soon puppies!) that caused her to wreck in the first place, and struggling internally with what her next move should be. I love that Justin didn't immediately know who she was, though I could have done without his immediate judgement of her once he realized her famous identity. Fortunately, he's fairly quick to recognize that she's not as glamorous and perfect as the tabloids would have everyone think, and while he's not sure they have anything in common, he's also not about to fall for the media gossip.

Justin's pride and Alyssa's lost sense of self-worth are the biggest obstacles between them, though you'd think her pregnancy would be an issue. Surprisingly, Justin's only real issue with that is that she's just coming out of a relationship, which really raised him up in my opinion. Instead of worrying what other people might think or that he was rushing into things too quickly, he followed his feelings and allowed himself to become involved during a situation that would have most men running for the hills.

Alyssa's husband was simply reprehensible, and I could have done without Justin falling for his lies, but at the same time, I can't really blame him considering the whole crazy scenario. I mean, who among us wouldn't be insecure when it came to holding onto the heart of someone who'd been on a hundred magazine covers? Their relationship seemed at first to move too quickly, but in reality it was several weeks into things before it got deeply serious on an emotional level they were each willing to admit, which sounds just about right for new love. And of course, she's exactly what he needs to loosen up a bit and give into his feelings, and he's exactly what she needs to help her stand on her own two feet again.

*Close to Heart* is the story of finding love when you least expect it, when you aren't even looking for it, and in the most difficult of circumstance, which is a big part of what makes it such a wonderful story. T.J. Kline has once again served up complex characters with plenty of personal obstacles to overcome, and the result is an unexpected and altogether sweet romance.

\*\*\*FicCentral received this book from Harper Collins (via Edelweiss) for free in exchange for an honest review.

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## **GraceMyBookSnack says**

Review also posted at My Book Snack

### **Small town sweetness with a cowboy!**

*Close to Heart* was my first time reading anything from T.J. Kline, and I adored her take on a small town romance.

First, I'd like to mention that this story involves a very pregnant heroine and touches on the sensitive subject of verbal/emotional abuse. There is very good reason why Alyssa Cole accidentally winds up in the small town where Heart Fire Ranch is located. She ends up in a dire situation that leads her to meeting veterinarian Justin Hart.

*“Lyssa, you’re the kind of trouble I could get used to.”*

*“What was it about Justin that could make her feel like a teenage girl on her first date again?”*

I liked both Lyssa and Justin! Lyssa is a successful Hollywood actress who is seeking a new beginning. She's very down to earth and an animal-loving person, which is a good thing, because Justin is all about taking care of animals. All you cowboy-loving ladies out there need to get to know Justin Hart. He makes mistakes, but family means something to him, and that's a quality I love in a hero.

*“The fire in you is beautiful, something to be stoked and tended, not something to hide.”*

The antagonist is Lyssa's husband, and he's someone who's selfish and has no heart. As mentioned, the plot touches on sensitive issues, and Lyssa goes through realistic motions when dealing with her situation. I

found the characters perfectly imperfect, yet strong and well paired. Although this is book 3 in the series, *Close to Heart* can be read as a standalone. Justin's sisters are in this story with slight glimpses into their backgrounds. I adore the overall theme of this series in that the Hart siblings heal their hearts with the love that enters into each of their lives. The secondary characters were fun to get to know, especially Bailey. I think Bailey deserves her own book just for being a cool cousin! *Close to Heart* is engaging, heart-warming, and will make you smile.

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### **Leone (She Reads too Much Romance) says**

The Healing Harts series by Kline is a collection that continues to get better each time that a new novel is released. I will admit that I have enjoyed each book within the series, but *Close to Heart* is my absolute favorite. I loved the entire vibe this book contained from romance to hope this book just made feel good as a reader.

One of the best aspects about the story was Justin, the hero. He's the kind of guy that any girl would want to bring home to their parents as he is a rare find in both the modern world and in romance novels. I would certainly like to see more heroes like Justin because he was not only honorable but I could tell that his heart was true. Plus there is something extra sexy about a man who loves animals enough to save their lives.

With Alyssa I liked her character as well. At first I believe she was a little scared of where the attraction that she felt for Justin would lead her. I did not blame her considering what she had experienced in the past. I thought that Alyssa's character was well written to the point that she became the ideal love interest for Justin himself.

As for the romance in this book it was set at a steady pace. It started out a little slow and normally I wouldn't like this fact and yet with both Justin and Alyssa's story it worked well. The spark of chemistry was instant and that made the romance seem more realistic than what I was prepared for.

If you enjoy contemporary romances than Kline is the author for you. Her stories contain a great deal of heart and love. The equal balance warms my soul and also raises my spirit. If you need the perfect cheering up than Kline will certainly deliver.

-All reviews are submitted directly to respectful parties PRIOR to posting the reviews to GoodReads.

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### **Bette Hansen says**

Very enjoyable. Glad to see Justin find his HEA and Alyssa was a great match for him. Ever the protector, Alyssa definitely needed his help. I would definitely recommend this one.

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