



## **Watch over Me**

*Tara Sivec*

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## **Watch over Me** Tara Sivec

Addison Snow is your typical teenager. She has a family that loves her, friends that make her laugh, and she's wrapped up in the excitement of graduating high school and going off to college to pursue her dream of becoming an author. When her mother, who also happens to be Addison's best friend, dies unexpectedly, her world comes to a crashing halt.

Death changes everyone...

To make the pain go away, Addison and her father travel down separate, dark paths. She chooses to end her grief forever, while he drowns his sorrows in the bottom of a bottle. How do you learn to live again when the most important person in your life is gone?

Addison struggles to pick up the pieces of her life. Instead of getting back to being the carefree teenager she once was, she's stuck handling all of the responsibilities that should have been her father's. She has no time to grieve, no time for emotions, and no time for happiness...until Zander Reinhardt walks in. All it takes is one little handwritten note on a napkin to kick-start her back to life and help her realize that maybe there's more to that life than pain.

But can it really be that simple? Can she really trust this man who makes her feel alive again for the first time in a year?

## **Watch over Me Details**

Date : Published June 14th 2013

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Author : Tara Sivec

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## From Reader Review Watch over Me for online ebook

### J \*deep in the heart of Texas\* says

Solid 4 Stars!

It would appear that Tara Sivec is looking to try out all of the various book genres. This is her first YA book and I thought it was really, really good. To me it had a Sea of Tranquility or Hopeless type of a feel to it. It had very sad and serious undertones. But it was very well-written and had me hooked from the beginning.

Addison's life changed the moment her mom dies. After dying suddenly while in remission from cancer, Addison is left destroyed....physically and emotionally. Her dad checks out and starts drinking leaving Addison to pick up all of the pieces and carry on. She gives up her old life and her dreams of college and becoming an author, instead taking over at the bakery in her mom (and dad's) absence.

Addison floats through the days, feeling nothing. Until she meets Zander. Zander shows up at the bakery where she works and starts inching his way in to her heart. For once she wants to start feeling again....and living life. But Addison is so scared to fully let go and just be. She's afraid to let Zander see who she really is...broken and sad.

Zander's keeping his own secrets....and when Addison realizes who Zander is it changes everything. Addison questions everything that has happened in her life since her mom died. Will Addison and Zander be able to move past the secrets? Will Addison ever be able to give herself fully to Zander?

This was a quick read, I read it in a matter of hours. It is a bit on the heavy side, with issues of death and suicide present. But it also contained messages of hope, and forgiveness and learning to pick up the pieces and love again. I would definitely recommend!

This was a standalone with a HEA.

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### Paula says

3.75 stars

*Death changes everyone. It changes the way you think, the way you feel and the way you live your life. Sometimes it makes you thankful for what you have, but more often than not, it makes you regret the things you've lost.*

Addison Snow was your typical, happy teenager with dreams of the future until she lost her mother and best friend to leukemia. Then her father to alcoholism, because he chose to drown himself in vodka rather than be the father Addison desperately needed. She was drowning in her grief and sorrow to the point that she attempts to take her own life one night. Addison is now in therapy, doing somewhat better, but she's still depressed, bitter, barely coping, and just pretending to live her life. Her mother owned a bakery that Addison now runs. And because her father continues to drink and has been in and out of rehab many times, unable to keep his promise to stay sober, she's been forced to take over all of the responsibilities. Not having her

mother or father around, Addison had to grow up fast. Every day she's just going through the motions of living, never caring, never showing emotions, and never making time to be happy. And always keeping everyone at arm's length.

Then along comes Zander Reinhardt, who sits quietly at a corner table in Addison's mother's bakery. Once a week for months he's been coming in and checking out Addison. She pretends she doesn't notice him, never showing any interest, but constantly thinks about him. Then one day he leaves her a handwritten note on a napkin that reads, *"You're beautiful when you smile. You should do it more often."* This sweet little napkin is all it took to jump start Addison's heart. Zander continues to come back week after week, always leaving her a new napkin with a note. Addison pretends not to care, but secretly looks forward to each and every one of his napkins. So the story of the "Napkin Guy" and "Bakery Girl" begins.

I love Zander and all of his flirty and sweet napkin notes. Zander is fun, witty, compassionate, determined, and understanding. Zander always seems to be in sync with what Addison needs. Zander is easy to talk to. He never pushes Addison to open up to him. Yet she finds herself opening up to him. She trusts him. He makes her feel alive. He challenges her to follow her dream to be a writer. He cares for her. Zander revives her from living an empty shell of a life and Addison starts to live again.

But Addison and Zander both have secrets they've been keeping from each other. While we know Addison's secrets, we don't find out what Zander is keeping from Addison. I had a sneaking suspicion what his secret was, but I wasn't entirely sure. Once these secrets are finally revealed, everything they've carefully built takes a dramatic turn. It's quite the twist! Have no worries though, there is a happy ending that will make your heart swoon.

This story will make you feel and will tug on your heart strings. I felt Addison's pain over losing her mother. I felt her happiness when she was with Zander. I felt her despair over her father. I felt for Addison when she would miss her mother. I felt the intense attraction between Zander and Addison. I felt it when these two would simply just be having fun together with all of their playful banter and witty remarks. And just to warn you, this story is loaded with angst. For me personally, it felt overwhelming at times.

*Watch Over Me* is an emotional journey that is both touching and heartbreaking. Addison is a broken but sweet character that I rooted for the entire time as she struggled with her pain and depression. This story is real and honest. It's well-written and it felt personal. I recommend this story to anyone who loves a **highly** emotional, love story. I have two recommendations for as you to prepare yourself before you start this story: pull out the tissues and a bottle of wine. You're going to need them.

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## Willow ~ The Romance Cover says

I really don't know how I'm going to write this review, it was so deep and emotional and seemed so personal.

The story is about Addison, told from her point of view. Addison has lost her mum, her Dad is a drunk and not there for her and she had tried to take her life. She can't get past the loss of her mum, her life is not moving forward and she is closed off to everyone. She is stuck running her mums bakery, feeling its her duty, not wanting to let go.

Zander has been coming to the bakery for a while and can't keep his eyes off her, he starts leaving napkin notes for Addison and they soon start talking, but can she let him in? Can she trust him?

I love how the book is told, it's like it's told in three ways, you have the present, through Addison, the flashbacks/memories Addison has, and then the parts where she was having therapy. I have to say during the therapy scenes I was actually feeling like I was the one having therapy, it was very deep and well written.

Whilst the relationship with Zander was great and I loved him (and I REALLY loved the whole napkin notes), the impact of this story was all about grieving and dealing with addiction and depression. I usually highlight books like mad, especially now I write reviews for the blog as I like to include lines in my reviews, but I didn't highlight a single thing in this book. That was because I was so engrossed, so drawn into the story and the emotions that everything was forgotten and I was just focused on the story itself.

I really feel that I can't say more about the story, because I really think you should read it yourself. Different, but I loved it.

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## **Aestas Book Blog says**

### **NEW TARA SIVEC BOOK!! "Watch Over Me" will be out this June!!**

*Addison Snow is your typical teenager. She has a family that loves her, friends that make her laugh, and she's wrapped up in the excitement of graduating high school and going off to college to pursue her dream of becoming an author. When her mother, who also happens to be Addison's best friend, dies unexpectedly, her world comes to a crashing halt.*

*Death changes everyone...*

*To make the pain go away, Addison and her father travel down separate, dark paths. She chooses to end her grief forever, while he drowns his sorrows in the bottom of a bottle. How do you learn to live again when the most important person in your life is gone?*

*Addison struggles to pick up the pieces of her life. Instead of getting back to being the carefree teenager she once was, she's stuck handling all of the responsibilities that should have been her father's. She has no time to grieve, no time for emotions, and no time for happiness...until Zander Reinhardt walks in. All it takes is one little handwritten note on a napkin to kick-start her back to life and help her realize that maybe there's more to that life than pain.*

*But can it really be that simple? Can she really trust this man who makes her feel alive again for the first time in a year?*

*Addison and Zander both have secrets they aren't ready to share. When the truth finally comes out, is it enough to tear them apart or has something bigger than themselves always been watching over them, pushing them together, making sure they both get their happily ever after?*

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## Arlene says

*Around every corner is a possibility: a possibility of hope, of friendship, of support.*

Love. Love. Love.

Tara Sivec has made me laugh, fall in love with fictional people, and now bring me to the verge of tears with her newest novel **Watch Over Me**. I've read every single Sivec novel, and I've come to one resounding conclusion... when I open her books I have no clue what I'm in for, but I can always count on the fact that I'm going to enjoy the journey she has in store for me. Awesome writer, story teller and comedian that has managed to land top spot on my list of favorite authors. Again I say... Love.Love.Love!!

Addison has learned at that young age of nineteen the pain and despair of losing a parent. When her mother was diagnosed with Leukemia, Addison fought alongside her mom every step of the way believing she'd overcome the disease. Unfortunately, her mom lost her battle to cancer and Addison lost her faith in life. Struggling to keep the family business going while her father constantly fails at overcoming his substance addiction, Addison begins her own battle against depression, anger, sadness and pain.

When Zander comes into her life, he begins to comfort Addison and help her heal in a way that medication or therapy would never be able to achieve. Most of all he helps her realize that she's not broken, that no matter her issues and pain, they won't break her. All of that comes to a crashing halt when his secret is revealed and Addison loses perspective once again.

First off, I have to say that I adored Zander. He's the quintessential perfect guy that can do no wrong, until he makes an honest mistake that is. :( But I rooted for him the entire time, and I enjoyed his napkin messages to Addison, as well as his way of handling her resistance to exploring a possible relationship. He made her laugh despite her reluctance to smile, he made her feel that life was worth living when all she wanted to do was give up, but most importantly he helped her realize that she couldn't or shouldn't do it alone. Great character that won me over instantly!

*"Did you just call me Napkin Guy?" [Zander] asks with a laugh. "My name's actually Zander. And Stalkers Anonymous is on the fourth floor, and they only meet on days when the person they're stalking is busy or when Creepers Consortium is cancelled."*

In addition, I have to mention what a great job Sivec did in crafting a character that had passed away prior to the onset of the novel. To get such a vivid sense of Addison's mom through perfectly plotted flashbacks, I can only imagine the hurt Addison was suffering from losing such a wonderful woman. The Facebook messages really moved me, and the Dr. Thompson moments were all executed to precision to bring clarity and emotion to the situation.

Addison's friend Meg was a perfect addition to novel. I really came to care for her and I hope one day Sivec explores this character a bit more. I would love to read more about Meg. In **Watch Over Me**, she symbolized the importance of friendship and having a shoulder to cry on. Despite struggling against her own demons, Meg was a perfect friend and beautiful character. I adored her and I hope she gets her own stage someday.

Overall, I can't say enough how much I enjoy Sivec's novels. She has so many different layers to her writing skills that she leaves me awe-struck every time I come across a new novel of hers. To be able to craft stories

that make people laugh, have them sitting edge of their seats, or simply reaching for a tissue proves that her pen is filled with limitless magic. Perfectly done!

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## **Christy says**

Tara Sivec is just one of those authors that can dabble in any genre successfully. This is different than any of her other books. A sweet, yet emotionally heartbreaking read.

### **Death changes everyone...**

Addison is not your typical 18 year old. One major event has changed her entire life. She lost her mother, her father has become an alcoholic, she feels that she has no one. Nothing to live for. It takes her a while to get back on her feet, but she is surviving. Day to day, she runs her mother's bakery while her dad is in rehab... yet again. This is her life.

You need to open yourself up to new experiences. You can't keep letting fear of the unknown stop you from living your life.

Addison is seeing a therapist, trying to cope with things, it's not easy. Day after day she goes to work, comes home, repeat. When 'napkin guy' comes into her life, things start to change.

Zander comes into Addison's bakery every day. He has gotten into the habit of leaving her 'notes' on napkins. It was the sweetest thing! Addison would never admit it to anyone, but she looks forward to these notes, keeps them. Zander likes Addison. He sees something there. He wants to make her smile, keep her happy, get to know her better. It's extremely difficult for Addison to let anyone in. After losing everything important to her, it's a scary thought. Somehow, Zander finds a way in to Addison's life and heart. He wants to be there for her, to help her heal, pick up the pieces of her life.

Zander and Addison's relationship starts off very sweet. Zander is just a doll. He is charismatic, fun loving, and treats Addison like she is the most special girl in the world. He encourages her to do what makes her happy. For the first time in a long time, Addison feels happy. She is hopeful. Addison still hasn't told Zander everything about herself, but Zander has a pretty big secret of his own. When his secret comes to play, it is difficult for Addison to move past.

Life is hard, Addison. Everyone gets knocked down once in a while. The important thing is that you pick yourself back up again. You pick up, you move on, and you do your best.

I loved seeing Addison heal and move forward from her past. This wasn't an all over happy book. It was a

little depressing at times, but the ending (was maybe a little rushed) was a happy one. A shorter read, one that focused on death, forgiveness, hope, moving past the past and learning to live again.

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**xrysa says**

***“Death changes everyone.....***

***It changes the way you think, the way you feel, and the way you live your life.***

***Sometimes it makes you thankful for what you have, but more often that not, it makes you regret the things you've lost.”***

I'm not sure who I felt about this book therefore the 3 stars.Its tone was supposed to be depressing?

I wasnt feeling it.

**At all**

Addison is still suffering from the tragedies of the past.It is obvious that she cant move on.This happens because she has also to deal with a crappy parent who doesnt let her to forget.Her dad is always there to make things worse.Instead of taking care of her , she is the one who tries to do the best about their lives.She runs the shop , she goes to school , she pays the bills while he only destroys his life with alchohol.Best parent ever , right?

**“People in your life will let you down sometimes. It’s a fact of life. What matters is how you handle it.”**

Our book friend didnt handle things easily.  
(view spoiler)



In the present she is still working at her family's shop and there she meets Zander . I liked him a lot. Zander is so sweet and cute. The things he does will make you feel jealous. Yet she doesn't fall easily for him but he tries hard. Hard enough to be with her.

The thing with Addison is that she needs to escape from her past and open herself to new experiences. She must pick up her pieces and start from the beginning because life is not easy and we should **NEVER** give up.

**“Another good thing about Legos(LIFE). If it falls apart, it doesn't mean it's destroyed. It just means you have to pick up the pieces and start again.”**

Why I wasn't feeling it??

Seriously , I have no idea . Maybe because it was **too** predictable?

I guess I was supposed to be rocked and utterly surprised when we learned the truth about (view spoiler)

The worst of all and one of the reasons I gave it 3 stars was the ending.

Not that the ending was bad but the way the author presented it was weird. I hated the fact that we didn't get to know how they (view spoiler)It left me with questions.

Overall it was an average read for me. There are plenty 5 star reviews for this book so you might enjoy it.

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**Kelle says**

Holy CRAP..Tara Sivec, you blow my mind!!

I loved Tara's Chocolate Series and have to admit was a little nervous going into this book, going from her funny to her serious but was so worth it.

I don't want to give anything away but have some tissues ready for some rough moments and some very touching moments.

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## CT says

4.5 stars

### The plot

The story jumps from Addison talking to her therapist to flashbacks of past events to present day. Addison lost her mum who was also her best friend. She finds it difficult juggling the responsibilities that should have belonged to her father. Enter Zander and his napkins (aww). Both have their own secrets that can threaten their relationship.

### My thoughts:

There was some nice light moments with Zander that I wished there was more of. The thing with the therapist still left me a little confused. I do wish it was a tad longer but I Loved the twists at the end and the epilogue, the last line was very cleverer done!!! Beautiful story x

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## Lucia says

**3.5 EMOTIONAL STARS!**I was surprised how much I loved this book. This was my first read by Tara Sivec and I definitely need to check out her other projects. Highly recommended to all who love read emotional New-Adult stories!

My Addison and Zander:

**"People in your life will let you down sometimes. It's a fact of life, Addison. What matters is how you handle it."**

*Addison used to be cheerful and happy teenager. Until she suddenly lost her mother who was also her best friend and gained alcoholic father who could not deal with it. Now, more than year later, Addison feels hopeless, unable to be happy or enjoy her life. After attempt to kill herself, she regularly visits therapist and support group but nothing seems to help her. She is not really coping until she meets Zander. Can her life get better all of a sudden just with his sweet napkin notes? Is his presence in her life just a coincidence?*

Watch Over Me is full of grief, heartache, despair and depressive thoughts. It is a very serious read. **How can you deal with losing the most beloved person? There is no advice that would work for everyone, there is no guaranteed cure. Addison knows that herself.** Seeing via Addison's memories how perfect her relationship with her mother used to be, it made me really sad to see how heartbroken and lost Addison was now without her mom...

I really liked **Zander's** playful demeanour, joyful nature and funny banters. He was cute, caring and persistent so even negative and depressive Addison did not stand a chance against his charm. But is she

ready for a serious relationship?

Watch Over Me is story about long and difficult journey of learning to enjoy your life and live it to the fullest even though things are not always ideal or going the way we wish. Watch Over Me is about fulfilling your dreams and letting go of the darkness that consumes you.

This book was about finding the right person to help you forget and overcome your problems, about finding someone to comfort you in the most difficult times of your life.

Watch Over Me was sad and emotional but beautiful story, one of the most interesting ones I have read within New-Adult genre in a long time. I am glad I found time to read it, it was definitely worth it and I am sure Addison's story will stay with me for a long time!

*\*ARC provided by author as an exchange for honest review\**

MORE REVIEWS ON MY BLOG **Reading Is My Breathing**

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## **Beth says**

I received an ARC from the author for an honest review.

### 4.5 Therapy Needed Stars

Tara Sivec has decided to tip her toes into the YA world. And by dip her toes, I mean score a 10 from the high dive. A 10 from all the Olympic judges including the Russian. Yeah...Even the Russian judge. Ms Sivec has conquered world of laugh-you-ass-off-funny and tough guy contemporary romance/suspense. Now she is taking on the YA world.

### **Death changes everyone.**

That's how Addison's story begins and ends. With death but more importantly...with change. Addison's life has changed with the death of her mother, with the rehab-rebound her father is playing, and with the strangely familiar advice from her therapist. If anyone ever needed a therapist, its Addison. (and me after reading this emotional book) Addison is numb and just trying to keep her head and bakery above water.

Zander is the cute boy that writes quirky notes on napkins and leaves them for Addison in the bakery. He is cute, charming, patient, and pesistent. As he tries to un-numb Addison you find he has his own set of secrets that he is trying to keep from her. The scenes between the two of them are as heart warming as they are heart wrenching.

**I can breathe as long as I can breathe him in. I can function because he makes me forget. I just want to forget.**

Addison needs to trust enough to have a real relationship. The problem is not that she can't trust Zander, she can't trust herself. And with good reason. The writing is beautiful, poignant, and equally hopeful and sorrowful. Addison wants so badly to live again. To really live and not just survive.

**I think you know by now that you can't live your life in fear...Don't waste the time you have being afraid. Get your ass in gear and be happy.**

You know I don't do spoilers, but let me just warn you. There are some look over your shoulder moments in here. Some angels among us, Twilight Zone, do you feel that cold spot moments. They will make you think of those who watch over you. Now you are right there with Addison needing therapy. And a tissue. And a glass of wine.

Ms Sivec will be stepping up to podium to take the gold medal for this one. Don't just dip your toe into this read. Jump in with both feet and don't forget your water wings.

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**Shambhawi P. says**

### **How to write a formula New Adult book**

#### Ingredients

1 heroine with issues.

1 hero with a secret.

Dysfunctional secondary characters to taste.

Strips of cheesy lines.

2 jugs of graphic sex.

#### Process

Put the heroine in the blame-game pot. Add the hero with the lid on the secrets closed. Add as much of dysfunctional secondary as you would prefer. Add the cheesy lines and stir clockwise for happy moments and again counterclockwise for angsty ones. Add a jug of graphic sex. Stir again with the cheese strips. Add another jug of graphic sex. Uncover the lid on the hero's secret. Let the tension boil out. Then let the mixture simmer down until everything blends in together.

Pour it down into a wordprocessing software.

Label it according to your choice.

**Warning: The labels Watch Over Me, The Coincidence of Callie and Cayden, Wait for You, Hopeless, etc have already been taken.**

Because this book is nothing if not a typical formula book. And the said formula DID NOT work for me here.

Cheesy and predictable to a fault and the ending made my brain cells die.

The writing was nice-ish, not appallingly bad but not something to sing ballads about either.

But the characters were just like xeroxed cardboard cut-outs of many other NA book characters.

But I almost had a crush on Zander at the beginning before the book turned into a typical rinse-lather-repeat retelling of maximum NA books I've read.

And SOME of his cheesy lines made me laugh. But most of them made my eyes roll.

**2 Stars** Because I did NOT hate it with a fiery passion - unlike most of my 1 Star books.

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## **Donna ~ The Romance Cover says**

Watch Over Me – Tara Sivec

5 stars!!

This was emotional! If this is not a personal experience I will eat my hat! The pages radiated grief, emotion, heartache, sadness and depression, at times I was sobbing and I felt myself thinking what would I do in this situation and I didn't like it..I couldn't imagine, I didn't want to imagine and I was scared to imagine.

The blurb had me hooked, it was so far away from Tara's usual writing style that I wanted to see how it panned out and I was not disappointed.

Addison was an only child, she was a happy teenager, all that came to an end when she lost her mother, who was also her best friend. Her father did not take his wife's death very well and turned to alcohol basically leaving Addison to bring herself up and continue to run her mother's business all on her own. She feels like her life is over, her dreams and aspirations went up in smoke the day her mum died and she feels trapped. She once tried to free herself and has been to counselling and support groups but nothing seems to be able to pull her from her depression...that is until one day.....

Zander, oh how I loved Zander...he was so sweet, his messages on napkins had me going ooooh and aaaaah, he was just adorable. He knew that it would take something/someone special to get through to Addison and he never gave up and that is what I loved about him, but as with any book, is he all that he seems and is he too good to be true as most of these men are?? You will have to read and find out!

This is a book about being at the lowest of the low and finding the strength and inner courage to pull yourself back out and not being afraid to accept help from those around you that want to help. Addison had more or less shut herself off from life and it needed a great best friend and Zander to help her see the light and get herself back on track. To never give up on your hopes and dreams and no matter what the sacrifice, to remember that you need to do things for yourself sometimes, you don't have to be the martyr for everybody else.

Zanders wise words whilst trying to explain life to Addison with Lego....

“And if something doesn't fit, if one of your pieces just isn't working, you can put it aside and find another one. There are so many pieces to work with that you don't have to try and force one in where it doesn't belong. You may not need that piece right now, and it may not be helping you right at this moment, but that doesn't mean it isn't important and won't fit somewhere else down the line when you need it more.”

“You don't have to try and pick up all the pieces at once, sometimes you only need to use a few of them at a

time. If you try and pick them all up and use them all the same time, it's overwhelming and frustrating when you start to drop them or you just can't make them work."

"Another good thing about Legos. If it falls apart, it doesn't mean it's destroyed. It just means you have to pick up the pieces and start again."

As I said, highly emotional, beautifully written and a book that will stay with me for a very long time, Tara Sivec I salute you!!

[www.theromancecover.com](http://www.theromancecover.com)

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### **Jacqueline's Reads says**

Oh Gah, I have too many on my Reading List Pile.... bumping this up :D

*Addison Snow is your typical teenager. She has a family that loves her, friends that make her laugh, and she's wrapped up in the excitement of graduating high school and going off to college to pursue her dream of becoming an author. When her mother, who also happens to be Addison's best friend, dies unexpectedly, her world comes to a crashing halt.*

*Death changes everyone...*

*To make the pain go away, Addison and her father travel down separate, dark paths. She chooses to end her grief forever, while he drowns his sorrows in the bottom of a bottle. How do you learn to live again when the most important person in your life is gone?*

*Addison struggles to pick up the pieces of her life. Instead of getting back to being the carefree teenager she once was, she's stuck handling all of the responsibilities that should have been her father's. She has no time to grieve, no time for emotions, and no time for happiness...until Zander Reinhardt walks in. All it takes is one little handwritten note on a napkin to kick-start her back to life and help her realize that maybe there's more to that life than pain.*

*But can it really be that simple? Can she really trust this man who makes her feel alive again for the first time in a year?*

*Addison and Zander both have secrets they aren't ready to share. When the truth finally comes out, is it enough to tear them apart or has something bigger than themselves always been watching over them, pushing them together, making sure they both get their happily ever after?*

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### **Sugar and Spice Book Reviews says**

10 stars. Can I give a book that many stars? Well I am, so :p. Watch Over Me was one of those books that spoke to me on a personal level. Not with losing my mom, Thank God I don't know what I would do if I did, but the dysfunction of how Addison was.

We start the book off after Addison has lost her mother and how she is not dealing with the loss well. Then it fast forwards about 10 months and we now see this young woman with too many problems and no one to help her through them. Addison's father is back in rehab and has left Addison to deal with her mother's business. A 19 year old girl was running and operating a business by herself with the exception of her assistant Meg. Her life was turned upside down and in the end she just wanted to get through the day. We spend the book going through all of Addison's emotions, and she has a lot. Disappointment, anger, shame, loneliness, betrayal, being overwhelmed. I felt every one of her emotions because at one time or another I have felt the same way. Tara has done something that not a lot of authors can do. She gave me a dysfunctional book that was actually dysfunctional. I understand that flaws are what make a character in a book. But not a lot of authors know what that is. From the time I was born I was raised with the constant of I was not normal. I've been told by every person that has ever known me that I am not normal. I love that. But I also know that it was because I was raised in a very dysfunctional home. And I have first hand experience with what it looks like. And from reading Watch Over Me I know that so does Tara Sivec. There were scenes with Addison and her Father that could have been myself and my alcoholic father. Addison's feelings for her father may seem cruel and uncaring to a lot of people. But what a lot of people don't understand is that her feelings are the only ones she can have with him. She wants her father back. She would love to believe that this time is different. She just wants to be loved!! Is that too much to ask from her father? Sorry I'm projecting. But Tara gave me a book that held some of my darkest moments in my life and she gave them a voice. She gave them a name, a format for others to know that they are not alone.

Along with a very hurt Addison, we meet Zander. From the first scene with Zander in it I was in love. He was just everything Addison needed without knowing she needed it. He helped her feel, heal, laugh, smile, and do a lot of other things she hasn't done since before her mother died. He wasn't her saving grace, but he made her realize that she was strong enough to save herself. I understand why Zander did what he did. He also understood it was a mistake. But what I loved was that this wasn't just his fault. Addison shared in the responsibility for what went down between them. And in the end she realized that she was just as guilty as him. Most books he cheats or does something bad that is either unforgivable or just unbearable. Also I loved Meg. If I could suggest a book for her I would greatly appreciate it. I want to know her story as well.

Tara set the bar high with this book. I Loved LOVED her Chocolate Lover books. LOVED!!!! Playing with Fire series proved that she is not a one pony show. She can write anything and make you love it. But this book showed that she is in fact a person that has an actual story to share and be told. She has hurts and pains and she put them on paper so we know that we aren't alone. She did something most are afraid to do, she told her own story. And for this reason I give Watch Over Me 10 stars.

\*Review by Rosa

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