



Next to Never

Penelope Douglas

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New York Times bestseller Penelope Douglas introduces Quinn, younger sister to Jared, Madoc, and Jaxon, in the latest novella in the series that began with Jared and Tate in Bully....

Quinn Caruthers has several problems.

Her father, Jason, and her three older brothers, Jared, Madoc, and Jaxon.

Under the close watch of the men in her family, Quinn has found it nearly impossible to spread her wings—or even date—without them jumping in to hover. And when a family friend—several years older—from her childhood captures her heart, she knows they’re going to be a problem. Lucas Morrow is a man—experienced, sophisticated, and important. And knowing her brothers, he may as well be forbidden.

But Lucas left town years ago and shows no signs of returning. Quinn knows she shouldn’t wait for him anymore.

But then a package turns up on her doorstep with no return address and its contents reveal family secrets that threaten to turn Quinn’s world upside down. She’s never asked about the tumultuous path of her parents’ romantic history, but she soon learns their happy marriage had a very rocky and passionate start.

As she begins to see things around her with new eyes, Quinn will have to make tough choices about whether she’ll keep waiting...or finally go after what she really wants.

Next to Never Details

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Author : Penelope Douglas

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From Reader Review Next to Never for online ebook

Christy says

4.25 Stars!!

Next to Never is nothing like I expected it to be. The story is from Quinn Caruther's POV, but it's not completely Quinn's story (from what I understand, her full length story is yet to come). Quinn is the little sister of Jared, Madoc and Jaxon. With three older brothers like them, she's never had much freedom in her life. She also doesn't have much dating experience. This is partly due to her older brothers, and partly because she's had a long time crush on Lucas. Lucas is quite a bit older than her and left town years ago. Quinn knows she should move on, that waiting for him isn't the smartest idea, but she can't escape those feelings she has.

As I said earlier, this is Quinn's novella, but it isn't really her story. I'm glad we'll get that in the future more thoroughly, though. Quinn gets an old book delivered to her anonymously and that is the true story told throughout this. I loved the unique way Douglas decided to tell this couple's tale. Jase and Kat's story was tumultuous and stressful at times, but there was always so much love there. I loved the way their damaged hearts were finally healed once they came together.

"It comes back so easily, doesn't it?" I mused. He stared down at me. "It never left."

I love this series and all the characters. It was great to see the guys from the earlier books married with children of their own. And holy hell... Dylan, Hunter, and Kade! I'm SOOOOOO freaking intrigued! I really hope Penelope decides to write a few more books in this *Fall Away* series because, really!!! I need to know more about those three! I enjoyed the romantic element and steam of Jase and Kat's story, and also the present with Quinn. Her character is one that I want to know more about! I recommend this to all fans of this series. It's one you don't want to miss out on!

"A strong person realizes that the only love you truly need in this life is the love you have for yourself. If you have that, it's like armor. No one can stop you. No one else matters."

Lacey (Booklovers For Life) says

Originally posted at Booklovers For Life

"A strong person realizes that the only love you truly need in this life is the love you have for yourself. If you have that, it's like armor. No one can stop you. No one else matters."

Ugh, I've missed the Fall Away characters SO MUCH!!! This novella was the perfect way to introduce the second generation of characters while still rewarding fans of the series with cameos of the original characters. Plus, we finally get Katherine and Jason's full story! Next to Never was the perfect tease from Penelope Douglas – it left me desperate for more, but I loved it all the same.

Quinn – Jared, Jax, and Madoc's little sister – is now a teenager, but her life is being overshadowed by everyone in her family. There's Jared's Dylan, Jax's Hawke, and Madoc's twins Hunter and Kade, who all have their own personalities and problems that seem to be bigger than they are. They have a presence that Quinn doesn't believe she has, and she's afraid to go after what she wants and to mess up the status quo. She's stuck in her life, with no direction out – but when a book lands on her doorstep, its contents changes everything for her.

It turns out the book is actually a diary... the story of her parents' relationship. I don't want to say much about Jason and Katherine's story because I feel like it's best to go in blind, but the road to their now-HEA has not been an easy one. They had an addicting, intense, and ultimately toxic relationship that broke them both... but you'll have to read this novella to find out how they healed themselves and each other.

Honestly, there's so much to love about this novella. Seeing the original cast of characters was such a delight – you have no idea how giddy I got every time they appeared on the page. Reading about them here made me fall in love with the series all over again, honestly. But now that I've finished Next to Never, I'm dying for more, especially Quinn and Lucas's actual book! The wait for them is killer, but I know Penelope Douglas won't disappoint. If you love the Fall Away series, I don't know why you wouldn't read this novella (that didn't feel as short as a novella at all, thankfully), because it's everything you expect and more from PD and the series!

Thanks to the publisher for generously providing me an ARC to review.

Quotes are taken from the ARC and are subject to change in the final version.

Amazon Ebook: <http://amzn.to/2dyCqXT>

Audible: <http://amzn.to/2j19Ek3>

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Andie says

4.5 stars

"Happiness is a direction, not a place."

Mysza says

Geri Reads says

4.5 stars!

When Penelope Douglas announced that she was going to be writing the second generation of the Fall Away series, I torn between excitement and trepidation. Excitement because, "Yay! More Fall Away Lane! We get to see Jared, Tate and the rest of the gang again!!" And terrified because second generation stories are always tricky to write. For one, there's the timeline. Especially for contemporary books like this, it's going to be hard convincing readers that 16 years has already passed even though it's only been like a year in reality.

But Penelope Douglas totally nailed it. She create new characters that are so easily relatable and easy to root for.

Next to Never is a bridge book. A bridge between the previous generation and the new one. And Quinn Caruthers is perfect for the role.

Spoilers for the Fall Way Lane series up ahead!

Quinn is the daughter of Madoc's dad, Jason and Jared's mom, Katherine. We learned in Aflame that Jason and Katherine have a history together. That history is something that's explored more in this book.

So yes, this is Quinn's book but not...if you know what I mean. We see things through her perspective. We get to know her nieces and nephews through her interaction with them. We get to find out how cool Juliet still is and funny Madoc still is (and really this holds true for the rest of the gang) through her conversations with them.

On the other hand, this book was ultimately Katherine and Jason's story. And yes, we get to experience it at the same time Quinn does via a semi memoir/autobiographical account written by a mystery author who gave the book to Quinn. And their story was just everything I could ever hope for.

It has the emotions, the angst, the sexiness, the angst, the heart, the angst! Oh yeah, I was quite happy with the amount of angst in this book. And for those who are wondering....(view spoiler)

Penelope Douglas didn't shy away from showing how toxic and destructive Katherine and Jase are to each other. And that (view spoiler) has consequences. It also gave me more insight into Jared. Still doesn't excuse his bullying Tate but I truly get why he's like that. Despite the general feeling of doom concerning Katherine and Jason's relationship, there were also moments of tenderness and genuine love and affection not just between Jason and Katherine but Jason and Madoc. Although I would love to have more of them being content and finally happy, it didn't change the fact that I enjoyed the hell out of this book.

Next to Never has all the elements that a Penelope Douglas fan would love. It definitely sets the tone for the what the new series is going to be about. I'm not going to spoil it for you but OMG, I am dying for more.

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

⇒ *Penelope has a way to attract her readers by providing a story that captivates you with an emotional and a powerful physical level...*

⇒ From the synopsis, we come to an understanding that Quinn-sister of Jared, Jax, and Madoc, and daughter of Jason and Katherine; Madoc's father and Jared's mother- and Lucas, a friend of the Caruthers boys, have established feelings for each other and have separated themselves due to the act of adapting a future. Lucas is 29 years old, and Quinn 17 turning 18 has a conflicting matter of being with Lucas, even though they are both far away. They have attracted each other, both physically and emotionally, adapting a friendship plus a relationship that leads to much more than just a friendly relationship. The story itself though is not ABOUT Quinn and Lucas and how they adapt to a relationship or deal with their confronting problems of having a huge age gap. However, this story is all on how Katherine and Jason met. From the previous books of the series, we have come to a conclusion that Jason and Katherine had a conflicting past. The transition of this story from Quinn and Luca's to Kat's and Jase's story is kind of conflicting to read because as the reader, I was not expecting to read their story but be indulge in Quinn's and Lucas's.

⇒ It was lovely reading Kat's story, while at the same time connecting the backstory of Jared's and Tate's, while also connecting the story of all the other characters. This was a short novella that Penelope made really clear about. The real story of Quinn's and Lucas' is coming, when you ask? Penelope has not dropped release date. I am more excited to read THEIR story. Overall, my time reading this book was hard because my love for Penelope's writing is off the charts, but I can officially say that this my least favorite of all the books Queen P has written.

⇒ Hero rating: 4.0

⇒ Heroine rating: 4.0

⇒ Sexual tension rating: 4.5

⇒ Sex scenes rating: 4.0

⇒ Sex scenes frequency: 3.5

⇒ Plot rating: 4.5

⇒ Dialogue rating: 4.0

⇒ Storytelling rating: 4.5

⇒ Story ending rating: 4.0

⇒ **Order Links:**

Amazon Kindle

Nook

iTunes

Kobo

⇒ If you want to read the prologue of **Next To Never** clicking the link here.

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

5 STARS <3333

I was so excited to read Next to Never, since I love this series. Each book gives you something and the characters were all loveable. Penelope did an amazing job with this one as well!! She is so talented and her books are addictive!!

The way the story developed with actually two stories was brilliant. And you can see all the characters from the series who are now adult. This book was the perfect piece of puzzle that will connect the previous characters with the upcoming one!

I'm so eager to see Quinn's story. If you love the Fall Away series, you are going to love this book for sure!!!

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

*****Full review now posted*****

4 Super Cute Stars

So the blurb on this was kind of vague...add to that my vague reading of said ambiguity...and this was my face until about 20% into this bad boy:

Not to say that the plot was super complicated...not to say that I am just retarded (although that might be argued).

Just meaning that I wasn't quite sure where this was going.

However, I love me some Penelope Douglas.

I *trust* me some Penelope Douglas.

And believe me, I have learned whom and what I can and canNOT trust these days.

Lies!

Once again, Douglas has proven herself to be quite the trustworthy and talented lady scribe.

This story was very different than the other books in this series in that there was no true central romance...the romance that *was* present was told in a very *How to Make an American Quilt* style in that it was, in essence, told in a veritable flashback format.

A first, I was not on board with this, not gonna lie, but I quickly became very absorbed and enjoyed it immensely.

I feel like this book displayed some of Douglas' versatility in addition to acting as a springboard for what I am sure is going to another series focused on the second generation of the *Until* gang.

Looking forward to it!

Find me at:

♥Rachel♥ says

Next to Never is told from Quinn's POV, Katherine (Jared and Jax's mom) and Jason's (Madoc's dad) seventeen year old daughter. This isn't really Quinn's story, it's the romance and history of Katherine and Jason, but there is definitely a set up for her story to come next. Katherine and Jason's story was passionate, at times toxic and heartbreaking, but this is a romance so you know ultimately there's a HEA! That's no spoiler since we already know Katherine and Jason are together in the present, but I had no idea what they went through to get there! I have to say, I felt more pain for Katherine than Jason; she lived her life around Jason's because she was so in love with him; basically let him call the shots for so many years. I wanted to shake some sense into her, and then let her cry on my shoulder after sharing some ice cream! I wanted to kick Jason in the goods, but I could understand why he held back, too.

I didn't expect to like **Next to Never** as much as I did, because let's face it, Jared's mom was kind of a train wreck, and selfishly didn't put her son first in her life. This highly contributed to Jared being a monumental ass for a lot of his teenage years! But Penelope Douglas has a way of putting you in a person's shoes, even the unlikable characters, and I had a very different opinion of Katherine by the end. Not that I condoned some of her decisions, but I could understand and sympathize. Ms. Douglas really captured the mixed feelings one can feel toward a parent who has screwed up or the pain of regret over our own errors. Most of us have made mistakes and wish we could go back and hit the redo button, so I get it. Katherine felt genuine regret and tried to right her wrongs. She has a lot of wisdom and love to share with her family. I was moved to tears a few times, swept up by all the emotion while reading!

I had no idea Ms. Douglas was going to fast forward so many years! Interspersed between chapters of Katherine and Jason's romance are present day snippets from the teenage children of Jared, Jax, and Madoc. Quinn is one of the teenager's of the bunch, just a couple years older than her nieces and nephews. With all the happenings I'm very interested in what happens next with Dylan (Jared & Tate's teenage daughter) and Kade and Hunter (Madoc and Fallon's teenage twin boys)! There is some definite drama between those

three! Keep in mind that they're not related.

Seventeen year old Quinn has had a mad crush on her older brother's friend, Lucas, who's been abroad for the last three years. At present she is seventeen and he's close to thirty, but I think the story will happen when she's in college. Still, that's a big age difference and I think there's going to be a lot of flak from the family if/when he returns Quinn's feelings!

If you're a fan of this series, this is a must read novella! The story was captivating and made me feel a whole range of emotions!

A copy was kindly provided by Intermix in exchange for an honest review.

NiCoLeTa E. says

*****5 "It will never be over!!!" stars*****

... HAPPINESS IS A DIRECTION, NOT A PLACE ...

By now, you will all know that I adore Mrs. Douglas's stories and i have a small addiction with the Fall away series...

This novel wasn't an exception, even though the blurb was deceitful!!!!

Yep, Quinn was the heroine in this story but it wasn't her story that was said... But, we could call this book as an introduction to the youngest members of this awesome bunch and especially in Quinn's story!!!

But after this book, I'm dying here, Penelope!!!

I suppose that next will follow Quinn's book and then the twins with Dylan??? Say yes, because i need both of them ASAP!!!!

Please hurry and please, don't you dare saying that you won't write a book about them....

"Why was I so weak?"

"Because we all eat lies when our hearts are hungry..."

Well, Quinn is Jared and Madoc's younger sister.... If you haven't read the previous books, don't ask!!! It's a long story....

As we can understand Quinn is in love with Lucas who was mentored by Madoc when he was just a kid... Lucas is not around anymore but Quinn never forgot about him...

Quinn is a very good kid who is always helping the others and she always doing what she's been told... But is she happy with that arrangement???

And just like that, one day, Quinn is receiving a book by an unknown source and when she is start reading, everything is turning upside down in her world...

*"No one knows what I want.
No one looks closely enough.
No one except Lucas..."*

"Someone sent the book to me for a reason..." {Quinn}

As i told you above, through Quinn we learn Kat and Jase's story and what a story was that!!!
I think i needed it very much, but damn, it made me also so sad...
Their love story was absolute and great, but at the same time was so fuckin' toxic!!!

Both of them, made me angry mostly for the sake of their child's and i felt so much sadness because they were destroying each other... They wasted so much time and they destruct their selves, especially Kat....
Honestly, i was so mad with both of them, but i liked that i understood and that i found more about them...

*"You said you were going to give me everything, and you didn't. You can't... I would've eventually gotten away from Thomas, but you?..."
You've made a mess of me." {Kat}*

"I'd crash and burn a thousand times just to have you." {Jase}

And now, for once again, I'm begging for more stories about those guys...
I adored that we saw all the gang for once again, even though that they are twenty years older, but hey, after all, there are so many more people that their stories have to found out the light, right???

Quinn, Lucas, Dylan, Kane, Hunter, Hawke...

I want to learn everything about them!!!

And why I'm drawn so much toward the asshole type guy, Kade??? Maybe because he reminds me Jared in his youth and because i want him so desperately to be with Dylan....

Please, Penelope, hurry up!!!

"What do you want, Quinn? What makes you happy?... Whatever it is, don't wait on anyone else to give it to you. Don't wait for it to just happen. Go get it."

Warning: You should read all the five books of the Fall Away series before you read this one...
Honestly, i don't know why they refer to this book as the number 4.5.... In my opinion is number 5.5...

Snow says

3 stars

I'll probably be in the **minority** here with **3 star rating** but this was a bit of a downfall for me...i went in expecting something else (**obviously more Quinn and Lucas**) but what i got was **a messy story of Quinn's parents love affair**, as Quinn reads her mom's journal, figuring out that **it is actually a story about her parents...and how they've met, what they went through and how they finally found the guts to stand up**

for themselves and be able to look themselves in the mirror first, face up the failing of the "relationship" they tried to justify with. *sigh*

I still dont understand the low point in existence that was **Jase/Jason Caruthers**.

He was a selfish piece of shit that cheated his wife whom he "loved" but wasnt "in love with", and he didn't want his kid to hate him, like he hated his own cheater-father, and yet again, he ended up being just like his prick of a father, cause he had **Kat/Katherine** play out the fuckin "love/need/passion/life" role of a mistress and basically a kept woman.

Cause he wanted it all...a prestige, a well respected job and position, and sitting on two chairs...

It s less to say that, for me, he s a low-life, despicable selfish prick who couldnt face up to his own mirror image and respect himself...yuck! Lets face it, he 's a fuckin cheater! Why find the excuses?

God, i hate cheaters...that's just lame...

Man the fuck up...or just walk away!

And Katherine was a doormat, she loved him, true...and yet she tasted the dirt of the path her precious Jase walked on...and for what?! For a fuck?! A warm bed...

When all she wanted was a family with him and that s the only thing she didnt have....

And he finally put things in motion when he realized that Kat didnt "need" him anymore, after 16 years of rotting for a guy who fucked it all up.

I guess, even assholes and drunken doormats deserve a second chance at love

Yes, they sure do, they absolutely deserve each other!

The point of that journal was to show Quinn how she first needs to love herself then she'd be able to love another person and not being blindly depended on.

Yeah, she sure had a real role model...but the point is when you make a mistake, you learn from it, you dont repeat it cause it makes you stupid...

Sorry for the rant but this was just way of set course i expected...

I know what to expect from Penelope, i just got lost in the way of justifying the human mistakes...

It's human nature to be imperfect,after all.

Well, i disagree...

Just because we are marked as sinners simply cause we were born as humans, therefore imperfect at start...i think it's not supposed to be an excuse to do shit/mistakes cause, well to hell with it, my nature is already wired that way...

Simply said, in my POV, that s a load of crap!

I'm not saying that i dont make mistakes, duh?! But they are put down at their minimum and I tend to thrive not doing the mistakes cause i'm wired that way, but i tend on reaching higher by learning from

my mistakes and not do the same shit again. Not to be perfect but to make believe that i can and i am better and more than the odds of my miserable human nature

But to each his own!

And this went way off the road of just writing a review for this book, it also got me thinking and pissed along the way, so i guess the book indeed got my attention, after all

Radmila says

"Happiness is a direction, not a place."

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

3.75 stars!

"That's the hardest thing about being a parent. Living through heartache, bearing your struggles, learning the hard lessons the hard way, and enduring years of climbing a wall only to fall back down and have to start all over again . . ."

Next to Never opens with Quinn, the younger sister of Jared and Madoc, two characters from the Fall Away series. Quinn is seventeen and doesn't know her path in life, she does what her parents want, but she wants to find something she's passionate about. Randomly, Quinn receives a romance book from Canada, no return sender listed. As she reads, she begins to realize this story might not be fiction at all, and connected to her life....

"We could say we were young and stupid, but that excuse only lasts so long before you realize that you were selfish and just really big assholes."

I spent the first part of the book extremely confused:

I had a lot of trouble figuring out who was married to whom, who was blood related or not, and just keeping track of names in general. I think this book really could have used a family tree diagram to follow in the beginning of the book. Once I got the hang of things it became easier to read but I honestly still don't know a lot of which kids belong to whom.....

I went into this book blind, I didn't really read the blurb beyond knowing Quinn was Jared's younger sister. I didn't know a huge part of the plot would be Quinn reading about the story of her parents, how Kat and Jase

fell in love and how it affected their lives. I thought it was a beautiful love story, one of two people who just didn't know how to get the timing right.

I do feel this book despite being from Quinn's perspective, she was just an observer, it wasn't her own story. Even in the present time she's just observing what her other younger family members were doing, except for one racing instance and the end. I wish we had seen more of **her** in the story, but after the end I suspect there is more to come. If Quinn and Lucas get their own book I will be DESPERATE for it!

***"When I come back for you, it will be forever. Tell me it's not over."
"I guess we'll see."***

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Jennifer Kyle says

4.5 ~ 5 STARS

"How could something be so right and so toxic at the same time?"

Wow I read this novella cover to cover last night. I'm still thinking about how brilliantly Penelope Douglas gifted the untold story of Katherine and Jason while in the present we are introduced to teenage Quinn. Quinn is their daughter and sister to Jared, Madoc, and Jax.

Quinn's all about doing what pleases her family as a senior in high school. She's hanging out with some great characters all of which are the offspring of prior characters of this series. Quinn has been harboring a HUGE crush on Lucas who had left town years prior and the story takes flight as she receives a book to read.

"...someone sent the book to me for a reason."

This story isn't Quinn and Lucas' and I'm pretty sure that will follow this novella. It's what is delivered in the pages of the mysterious book that will completely capture your attention. Quinn is shocked that the names resemble her parents and her brothers and she gets a solid understanding of the love they shared when it was toxic and controlling and how they got to where they are in the present. My friends this was one well done journey. Katherine's pov was fantastic while being ugly and real and swoon-worthy and heart breaking.

"I'd never been his mother, because I never made the choice to. I grew up with him, not for him."

"The only person happy here was Jase, because he got the best of both worlds. And I was only happy when I saw him. Which was next to never. And for so long, I'd accepted it. Because I didn't think I deserved something more."

To be honest, I needed to ask a friend to refresh my memory on who Quinn was, but once I got the picture of who was who, this was a stellar installment in the series. This is a book worth reading about being the other woman, finding your self-worth for self, and loving yourself. Top all the above with some great characters that also have interesting storylines going on for themselves (and not in keep writing off of the original story replica sort of way) and this series may never end.

This is the prologue its on author's page but had to be cut from novella due to word count:

<http://penelopedouglasauthor.com/news...>

Penelope Douglas says

NEXT TO NEVER is up for pre-order!! I'm so excited for everyone to read this, and I know I'm excited, because I'm having a hard time not giving too many teasers right now :D

Links are below, and please remember, this is ebook only on January 17th. The paperback comes out with both Aflame and Next to Never in one on May 2, 2017. Pre-order below, as well.

Amazon---> <http://amzn.to/2d9Zg97>

Nook---> Available Soon

iTunes---> <http://apple.co/2cZOXCa>

KOBO---> <http://bit.ly/2da1G7u>

Order the paperback (releases May 2)---> <http://amzn.to/2deUKVL>

AGAIN, this is NOT Quinn's love story. It is from her pov, it covers some family history, and it leads into the spin-off series coming eventually. It's a light and fun novella (in my opinion ;)) with lots of goodies <3 Hope you enjoy!!

109 DAYS 7 HOURS 8 MINUTES

Original Post:

Yes! You read it right. This is a new novella for the Fall Away series coming this winter!

I had planned on eventually moving on with the kids' stories some day, but I was never going to write a novella. However, when I tried to sweet-talk my publisher into putting Aflame into paperback, they also did some sweet talking of their own. ;) Soooooooo...we have a new novella coming. The digital copies will be released January 17, 2017, and Aflame will be printed in paperback ALONG WITH this new novella in a two-for-one type deal on May 2, 2017.

The publisher will release the blurb and the cover some time this summer, but I can tell you this is told from Quinn's point-of-view. In case you don't remember who she is, she's Jared's, Madoc's, and Jax's little sister from Aflame, but this is NOT her story. That will be a full length novel eventually. This is simply a short novel to touch base with the characters, clear up a couple of loose ends, and give you a nice little tease into the next generation's stories.

As for more books after this in a spin-off series (i.e. the kids' stories) I can't yet tell you when they'll be written. I don't plan on it being too long, but I'm not actively writing those at the moment, so please keep that in mind.

The Next to Never storyboard is open. It's a work-in-progress---><http://bit.ly/1Ut31EJ>

You will see everyone, and the kids will be teenagers in this book. Just an FYI...

xoxo
