



## Landslide

*A.R. Hadley*

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# **Landslide**

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**Landslide** A.R. Hadley

One summer has the power to change everything.

One night, one choice, can alter life's trajectory — cause the heart's debris to slip and slide down the mountain.

After graduating college, rising photographer Annie Baxter relocates to South Beach, Florida.

A new start.

**ONE CHOICE.**

A chance to leave behind her anxiety, her grief, and prepare her photographs for display in an art gallery. Annie is determined to mend her heart in the sand and breathe, commune with the stars and beach and old friends.

Then Cal Prescott steps in front of her lens — a man twenty years her senior. An understated, sexy puzzle who may not wish to be solved. Cal is quiet. Strong. Eyes like the tides. Coming in, going out. Pulling her under.

They meet at a party.

**ONE NIGHT.**

The chemistry cannot be denied.

But they only have the summer.

**ONE SUMMER.**

One unforgettable connection.

But every June, July, and August must come to an end.

## **Landslide Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2018 by Chameleon Productions

ISBN :

Author : A.R. Hadley

Format : Kindle Edition 336 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance

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# From Reader Review Landslide for online ebook

## Lager & Lefse Book Blog says

Well, there's good news and bad news, and it kills me to say that. With that being said, *Landslide* is a story that revolves around Annie and Cal, with secondary characters, Maggie and John.

Annie is a recent college graduate that has sustained a huge loss in her life. She decides to relocate to Florida to recover emotionally, find her place in the world and work on her photography. She is living with family friends, that are more of a mother/father figure than just friends.

Cal is a quiet, stoic older gentleman that has been hiding out in Florida (it is completely unclear as to why exactly, despite little hints being dropped here and there). He is a business partner to John, but also has been one of their friends for years.

For unexplainable reasons, he and Annie are drawn to each other. They carry on a 'relationship' (used loosely) with no expectations for the future beyond Annie leaving at the end of summer. This budding relationship bristles Maggie's feathers and causes Annie distress. For some unknown reason, Cal and Maggie have a fractured friendship. There are nuggets of information that are dropped that lead you to think they may have had a relationship in the past, however, both vehemently deny having one.

### Good News:

This relatively new author is excellent at penning her words to make the story come alive. Yes, I realize this is a book, so don't shoot me when I say this, but *Landslide* is a little 'wordy'. It is through all those words that she makes you feel as if you are part of the story.

I could truly feel Annie's heartbreak when you found out what has happened to her. On a side note, Cal doesn't know what has happened to her in the past.

Annie as a heroine has a quiet strength, meaning she's not in your face, loud and over the top. What she has is this inner strength that keeps her going on a daily basis, despite not realizing how truly strong she is. I admire this different take of a female lead.

Cal is hard to describe as we haven't gotten too much of his background. However, he is a quiet, calm and attentive man. He may appear aloof, but he is always watching what is going on around him.

### Bad News:

I'm just going to say this first, get it out of the way as it might explain some of the unfinished thoughts previously. I HATE CLIFFY's! Yep, I said that right. This book ends in a cliffhanger. Unfortunately, it doesn't end in some big or great cliffhanger. It just seems to end. If I know either going into the book or am led that way through the course of the story with specific ingenious nuggets of information, then I'm ok. However honestly, if I know there's a cliffhanger, I usually wait until the second book is out at least to start it. Because of this cliffhanger, we are left with many questions, just like Annie. Annie isn't the most forthcoming with information (Cal doesn't know what her great sadness is from), but Cal is even more aloof when it comes to questions and answers regarding him and his past.

A good cliffhanger should make you want to scream at the characters, have you thinking about it for days after and possibly question everything you just read. Sadly, I was lacking after this cliffy and not because of

any of the previous statements. There were so many unknown or glanced over issues that it doesn't make sense. I feel cheated of that good cliffhanger ending.

A.R. Hadley does have a promising future in the book world, because of her writing style. She was able to transport me to a beach in Florida where these characters were living and dealing with all their problems. I became invested in the four characters, because I enjoyed them 'as a character'. It was the melding of all storylines thrown on top of a cliffhanger that did me in. Will I read the next book when it comes out? Abs-freaking-lutely! I just pray that the ending is better than this one, despite it being a trilogy.

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### **Carlene Inspired says**

A.R. Hadley weaves an impassioned story about that first big emotional connection and the struggles that come with an affair that can't be left behind in the rumpled sheets. Annie is the girl with her head in the clouds amongst the castles in the sky, while significantly older Cal is held steady by numbers and work, only giving bits of himself away during his trysts with Annie. Both feel a draw between them, as though one another is intrinsic to their individual summers. Annie and Cal's interactions, at least those that are within the pages of *Landslide*, are filled with lust and intent. Readers are treated to glimpses of dialogue and simple interactions, with A.R. Hadley choosing to give this book a headier, more tempestuous driven plot. Annie and Cal communicate in looks during their dalliances, the serious Cal leaving Annie guessing at his thoughts beyond the look his mask does not cover. Annie, however, highlights her naivety in her looks, her emotions always teetering on the edge of calm and out of control. There is a very obvious magnetic field pushing these two together, but the connection they feel beyond lust is not apparent to anyone looking in from the outside. I enjoyed the push and pull between the two and Cal's natural dominant role over Annie, with or without their ages in mind. The book is definitely sexy and written in such a melodic way that I found myself floating in the currents of the ocean as I escaped real life for the coast of South Beach.

*"There was no safe distance from her."*

I am not a huge fan of omniscient third person narrative when switching in a single chapter and with the use of it in *Landslide* I found myself struggling to connect with the characters. It created, for me, a surface level relationship and took away from either character really owning the position of "main" character or narrator. I think I would've had more luck had each chapter been in a third person limited format, focusing on each character and their thoughts and emotions, rather than changing the focus within the chapter several times. It took away from the relationship between Annie and Cal, the chemistry lacking, because I never really felt like I was present in their exchanges. That said, it lent itself beautifully to the setting. *Landslide* may seem wordy, but A.R. Hadley uses every opportunity to describe the town, the homes, the small details that play into interactions between the characters. It works very well with Annie's career as a photographer.

*"The commands. The surrender. The net she fell into under the tightrope."*

*"He would catch her."*

I will finish this review by highlighting what several other reviews have noted, there is indeed an abrupt cliffhanger that closes out this novel. I was unprepared for it and left feeling unsatisfied, but I was also left wanting more, so much more. There is obviously so much left to this story than we have been told and this first novel promises a trilogy that will entice and entertain. There's history to be uncovered, a relationship just waiting to be discovered, and definitely some climactic answers to be revealed. A.R. Hadley's first non-World release is one worth taking a chance on, romance lovers everywhere will enjoy her poetic, more

literary style and fans of the drama will delight in the secrets that have yet to be uncovered.

*"And it was too late to stop now, anyway. It had been too late the night he'd met her. It couldn't be stopped."*  
ARC kindly provided by the author.

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### **Silvia says**

**Landslide** by **A.R. Hadley** has a unique writing style that I absolutely loved. It is structured writing combined with bursts of poems strewn throughout the pages of wild imaginings. Uncertainty meets the unknown. Reality mixing with dreams and random thoughts.

Annie is the young heroine who meets Cal, the mysterious older man. A delicious recipe. They both keep parts of themselves hidden from each other then slowly start to open up as their story progresses. Both of them trying to hide their insecurities but to me this only makes them more vulnerable to hurts that seem inevitable.

In the middle of this yummy meal are Annie's surrogate parents, Maggie and John, who are also close friends with Cal. There is more than meets the eye with those two as they are the ones who introduced Annie to Cal, albeit reluctantly.

There are lingering questions at the end that will undoubtedly be answered in the next book(s). Who really is this mysterious older man who loves to control? But is he really the one in control? As for our young heroine, she comes across as naive at relationships but very much into playing games. And where do Maggie and John fit into this? Charades anyone? I have no idea where this story is going but I'm definitely in for the ride which is why I'm giving it 5 stars.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

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### **J.M. Kelley says**

Ms. Hadley has a unique, artistic style of writing. Her poetic expression and descriptive words draw you into the story immediately, making the characters come to life. This is a sexy, emotional story about two people struggling to fight their demons. Annie and Cal are drawn to each other instantly, and their attraction burns off the charts. They try to find solace in each other's arms, just for the summer, but their relationship is just too intense and hot to be a summer fling. There is a cliffy, as it is part of a trilogy, and I can't wait to get my greedy little hands on book two. There is so much more to learn about these two, and lots of secrets to be uncovered. This book is emotional and sexy, and the sparks fly between Annie and Cal. I can't wait to see what's next for them. Ms. Hadley is a talented writer and I can't wait to read more from her.

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### **Ann Marie says**

In this book, we meet Annie. She is dealing with some pretty heavy stuff and after graduating college goes to stay with some friends for the summer. Dorothy, Annie's biological mom, is divorced from her father.

Growing up Annie's mother dealt with addiction in turn Annie also suffered. I truly love this story.

Once in Florida with her family/friends the Allens; they Allens' are the sweetest people and I love and adore John and Maggie. They love Annie as their own, and feel protective of her. They are also long time friends with Cal.

We get to meet Cal as well. Their chemistry is off the charts. And I could feel it, like tremors. Cal is around my age of 40 something and I absolutely love him. His control in the bedroom, his desire for Annie and knowing he is hiding himself, makes me want to read the next book and learn more about Cal.

Great characters, great storyline, great chemistry between the two main characters!

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### **Indie Wish List says**

I had to stop reading to write this. I'm four or five chapters in, and all I can say is that this book is mesmerizing. The elegance in the writing has me spellbound. This is how a book should be written!

#### **Amendment**

I would say that's enough said, but that's not how you write a review.

So much can be said without dialogue, and this book proves that. This story is told through looks and gestures, through the thoughts each character has, yet doesn't share with each other. Not with words. Instead, a million words are spoken through the eyes, through a grip of hands, a touch.

I really liked Annie. She is the dreamer, the artist. She is always thinking of what ifs, what could be, the whys. She sees the beauty and heartache in life in all things. Meanwhile, Cal is the logical brooder. He has forgotten what it means to dream. He remembers, though, with Annie. She makes him feel and think things he had forgotten he once thought and felt. However, he wars with himself on those thoughts, on what Annie does and mean to him. That's where this book ends. It doesn't even really have an ending, just a stop before it continues in the next book, which I can't wait to read!

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### **DJ Sakata says**

My Rating:

3.5

Favorite Quotes:

She hated labels, but the complacent doctor had slapped her with one anyway. Two awful words encompassing a mess of complications: Panic. Disorder. It sounded like knots tangled up inside a dirty throw rug.

Like how old? George Clooney old? Or like, Father Christmas, white-beard old?

A woman always knew where he stood. Even if it was on the fence.

My Review:

I struggled valiantly with this one. The pacing and writing style were unusual with an abundance of short staccato sentences and incomplete thoughts, which kept me questioning and wanting the rest of the sentence yet was also quite frustrating at times. I was intrigued by the premise, storylines, and deeply flawed characters, but exasperated with their constant waffling – they were both often locked in inner debate and ran hot and cold with each other. Both seemed riddled with personal turmoil and tension. I know many of my fellow reader friends disagree but I don't find high angst or constant conflict an enjoyable state or an entertaining read. However, their sensual chemistry was off the charts.

Despite my frustration, I remain consumed with curiosity about the character of Cal. He was far too aloof, contradictory, and a total enigma; yet oh, so alluring and hard to resist. Perhaps if I knew his shady secrets this would no longer be a problem. My greatest consternation was with the character of Annie whom I found more than a bit tedious and not all that endearing with the scattiness, daydreaming, high anxiety and overthinking every - little - thing. She was a hot mess and even her inner musings were scattered and often fractured thoughts that were difficult to follow. And then there is the issue of a cliffhanger. Sigh. So, I'm intrigued yet remain conflicted.

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## K. Nilsson says

4.5 out of 5 Stars! #shattered #listless #metloveofherlife #landslide of #emotions @ ARHadley

Landslide is one of those books that will strike a chord with anyone who experienced a loss that left them shattered. She was vivified, brought back from the living dead by a landslide of emotions.

Annie is that shattered person. She is also a beautiful woman in her twenties who went to spend the summer with family friends in Florida, ostensibly, to showcase her photography. Photography was her gateway to freedom. It was a respite from the anxiety and helped her connect with others.

While reading the first few chapters, I realized the half-sentences, a syncopation of inner dialogue were of Annie in the throes of a panic attack. She was attempting to deal the anxiety without drugs. Her social life was almost nonexistent because of this debilitating affliction.

Enter Cal, the forty-something, alpha-stern, sex-on-legs, friend of the family friends and sparks flew. It was a May/December romance at first sight.

Cal's description is integrated throughout the book. You will see him clearly in your mind's eye; you've seen this guy, I've seen this guy. His allure was charisma and power. He was unrelenting dominance. His seduction of Annie anchored and conquered her. His physical possession enticed a dormant, repressed, sex-hungry goddess to come out in the open.

A. R. Hadley conveyed the complex feelings via poetry and the narrative through Annie's viewfinder. Lyrical poetic metaphors prefaced each chapter. The carefully crafted character's flaws were like a labor of

love from a doting parent. Though I can't help but wonder if Annie's habit of twisting her hair is something Hadley does herself. In any case, I like this tic.

Did Annie change in this first of three books? She was vivified, brought back from the living dead by a landslide of emotions.

Hadley's literary style of writing immersed me in the life of the characters, felt their doubts, endured the hiding of emotions and the explosions. I felt the soothing, the unsettling nature of their interactions, hook, line, and sinker.

Landslide ended with a gentle cliffhanger, nevertheless, if the second book was ready, I'd one-click it, right now.

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## **BookAddict says**

Cliffhanger Rant In 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . .

Authors and readers have a relationship via a book, and an emotional one, at that. The trust of the reader is built through the words and the relationship has to benefit the reader if it is to continue. This book's skillfully penned words gained my trust but the relationship let me down. In any book there is a beginning, middle and end, yet this book was finished before the middle of Cal and Annie's story was even reached. The blurb for the book gives no indication of the abrupt stop at the edge of the cliff, nor all the threads left hanging after the last page. In fact, it gives the impression the book concludes at the end of the summer and then stops when the summer has barely begun.

This book left me unfulfilled and with conflicting emotions. The advance copy I read is my first by this author, and I found her to be quite talented and showing great promise. Her fresh voice is poetically lyrical with a touch of attitude and it quickly drew me in and cast a hypnotic spell. I loved both of the main characters, Annie and Cal, as well as the strong secondary characters, Maggie and John.

Annie is a jaggedly broken young woman, troubled and disquieted with the weight of her tragic past continually pulling her under. She's intelligent, stronger than she realizes, and has a unique view of the world which she portrays in her photography. Cal defines stoic – quiet, intense and guarded – yet the troubles of his past are revealed in his eyes when an astute observer looks closely.

Annie and Cal's relationship is intense but complicated. There is fierce, burning attraction yet so much is alluded to and never revealed. Secrets Cal has about three women in his past are built up in significance yet little is disclosed. We know early on that Annie suffered a great loss, yet the details of that loss aren't shared with Cal by the book's end. Cal and Maggie have a fractured relationship and there are far more questions than answers regarding that schism. Also lacking is any declaration of love, with merely an early suspicion the main characters are beginning to realize. So the reader is left with very little other than a large time investment, some pretty words and an emotional bankruptcy.

There is nothing I despise more than a book with a cliffhanger ending that I had no way of anticipating! An astute author will present critical facts up front so the reader can make an informed decision to choose a book or reject it, rather than risk the reader feeling that she was deceived. Instead of that happy sigh at the end of a terrific reading experience, I'm left feeling duped, frustrated and disappointed, which is ironic. Annie's

biggest frustration with Cal is that he doesn't open up or share and she's left with far more questions than answers. She certainly has my sympathy!

This author has a gift for creating a realistic fictional world and complex, endearing characters in whom the reader quickly becomes invested. Hopefully she will realize that being up front about a book and allowing the reader to set realistic explanations as well as including some conclusions or resolutions, even in a cliffhanger, will gain readers rather than alienating them. In order to obtain the reader's loyalty there has to be some payoff or reward which is sadly lacking in this book.

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### **Laura says**

Landslide is a slow burn kind of story. At first, it was a bit slow going for me until I realized that was the pace the author had set. At the end, I was not disappointed and really enjoyed the story. The characters were very well written. There are some definite feel moments throughout the story. The multiple POV's did get confusing at times but not too much to take away from the story. I look forward to reading the next book! I give this 4 stars.

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### **Amy Toward says**

I enjoyed this new author's book. Her detailed writing sucks you in and won't let go. Annie is a 25 year old college graduate of photography. She decides to spend her summer with friends, Maggie and John, in Florida. These friends are older (mid 40s) and helped raise her since she was nine. Annie had a tragic event happen to her a year ago and is battling anxiety. She hopes this summer can help her heal. Annie meets Maggie and John's friend Cal at their house party. Immediately Annie is engulfed by Cal. His eyes suck her in and she is greatly affected in a very positive way. Cal in turn is captured by Annie. They decide to see where this chemistry takes them, even though they are both only in Florida for the summer and there is a 20 year age difference. The sexual tension is off the charts hot. And when they finally come together, wow. But both Annie and Cal have demons in their closet and this causes trust issues. Cal is a quiet, domineering man and Annie finds it difficult to break his walls down. Their journey is long and a hard fought one. This book does end on a cliffhanger. Both Annie and Cal realizing their life may significantly change. Will it be for the better is yet to be determined. I can not wait until Wanderlust, book 2 in the series

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### **Tanja Kezmic says**

I'm having a hard time writing this review – this book was a hard read for me. Everything about it just didn't sit well with me. And I'm not sure why because it had all I usually like in a book: lovely young girl, an attractive older man, the push and pull between the characters and yet somehow I didn't connect with it. Maybe it's the fact that it isn't written in the usual M/F POV as I'm accustomed - as you read it it switches between the person's that are having a conversation.

With every turned page I kept hoping that something will happen that will give me pause and say **WOW THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR**. **Annie** and **Cal** had a strange relationship with all the unresolved issues from the past and it was preventing them to let go and be happy together. The relationship between Maggie and Cal was confusing as hell even though they claimed that they didn't have anything but

friendship between them.

And let's talk about cliffhangers; I'm usually open to them. But this one ended so abruptly that I don't think I'll be picking up the sequel. But then again; the abruptly ending is the point of cliffhangers I suppose.

A.R. Hadley has a really unique style in storytelling. Maybe if I pick up her work in the future I'll get to appreciate it more, but right now sorry to say but I'm giving it 2\*.

**\*\*\*Review copy requested and reviewed on behalf of OMGReads Blog\*\*\***

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### **Becca W says**

Dating an older guy is exciting, and for Annie it's a chance to experience what she's never felt before. Sexy and tempting Cal is twenty years older than her, but it only shows how mature he is compared to younger men. Mutually connected by Annie's friends, the two met and were drawn to each other instantly. From there, Cal and Annie explore a sexy yet emotional relationship and realize that they don't want to be without each other. With Annie's past haunting her every day and Cal's hot-and-cold behavior, their relationship is confusing. Having only three months together, the summer's tensions run high.

Living with what happened in the past is never easy, especially when you lose someone you loved dearly. Landslide makes Annie's grief come alive, and I felt her pain and sorrow. I felt the spark between Cal and Annie, and their intensity was unreal. The author did an amazing job of depicting emotion, and I felt everything right along with the characters.

I loved that Cal and Annie had such a short amount of time together, as it made their relationship seem like a vacation with one another. Having only three months to enjoy someone really brings you to have as much fun as possible, and Landslide definitely emphasizes that.

One final aspect I enjoy was that Annie's past wasn't explained until the very end of the book. Landslide wasn't about Annie revealing her past and getting over it all in one novel, but instead the book focuses on what she goes through while trying to forget what haunts her. This made the novel so much better, and the development of the story is perfect in this sense because the story wasn't rushed. I would give this book 6/5 stars if I could just for that!

I loved Landslide. This book screams maturity, and the romance between Cal and Annie is captivating. A.R. Hadley created perfection in the form of a book! I would recommend Landslide to those who love a mature, developed romance novel.

\*I read this book via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **C says**

ARC Graciously provided by author

It was hard to review this one~\*sigh\*

My cast pic for Annie

My cast pic for Cal

Annie has an awesome freelance photography career, she's young, no strings, can travel and experience the world more than just from behind her lens!

Thus, @the beggining of the story I was like:

Then some family history haunts her, understandable~completely... but it gets so draaaaaaged out that it made it difficult to continue to read...which is hard to admit because the writing was flawless, poetic @times and I do mean that literally and figuratively. But sometimes I was just

Then Cal is introduced~so I was back to

for a few pages....

Let me just say their "relationship" had me

**BUT I KEPT KEEPING ON!!!**

I knew there was light @the end of the tunnel~I just had to get to THAT part!

Then I got to the end~and I felt like

Now the question is: To continue this tunnel or not?

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**Coco.V says**

?FREE on Amazon today (5/11/2018)!!

Blurb:

One summer has the power to change everything.

One night, one choice, can alter life's trajectory — cause the heart's debris to slip and slide down the mountain.

After graduating college, rising photographer Annie Baxter relocates to South Beach, Florida.

A new start.

**ONE CHOICE.**

A chance to leave behind her anxiety, her grief, and prepare her photographs for display in an art gallery. Annie is determined to mend her heart in the sand and breathe, commune with the stars and beach and old friends.

Then Cal Prescott steps in front of her lens — a man twenty years her senior. An understated, sexy puzzle who may not wish to be solved. Cal is quiet. Strong. Eyes like the tides. Coming in, going out. Pulling her under.

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