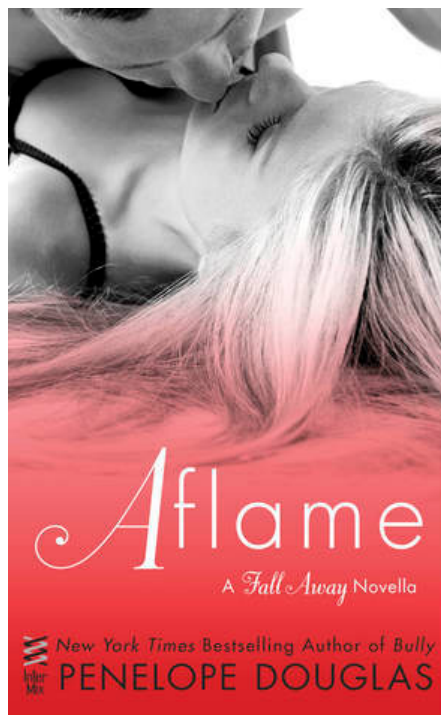




Aflame

Penelope Douglas

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From the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *Bully*, *Until You*, *Rival*, and *Falling Away* comes the sizzling conclusion to the *Fall Away* series.

The tables have turned. Now I have the power—and it's his turn to beg...

Everyone wants to be me.

Maybe it's the sway of my skirt or the way I flip my hair, but I don't care. Even though their attention is the last thing I crave, I just can't stop. I dominate the track, the speed rattles my bones, and the wind and the crowd screams my name.

I'm her. The girl driver. The queen of the race. And I'm surviving—something he thought I'd never do.

They all still talk about him. Did you see Jared Trent on T.V? What did you think of his last race, Tate? When is he coming back to town, Tate?

But I refuse to care too much. Because when Jared does come home, I won't be here.

Tatum Brandt is gone. I'm someone new.

Aflame Details

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From Reader Review Aflame for online ebook

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

5 AMAZING STARS

I really enjoyed this book and I also generally loved the series! Penelope is so talented that I would read whatever she writes!! I adore Tate and Jared! They are one of my favorite couples!! I missed them so much and I was glad to see that they have another book together!! From Until You I knew that something was missing in their story, I needed more! This book really broke me and then put me together and made me so happy!! It was intense, emotional, sweet and so hot!!

Tate has unsuccessfully tried to get Jared out of her mind, now after two years of separation Jared is back! Seeing each other again isn't easy for them. Tate has changed so much she isn't the same girl he left behind. She is much stronger and distant. Can they finally be back together? Can they finally have their happy ending?

I loved Tate so much!! She is definitely one of the best heroines!! She became so strong!! I loved seeing a different side of Jared that we haven't seen before. I had forgotten how much I liked him! In this book I loved him even more and devoured him!! He love and cares so much for Tate! What I love about these two characters is that we see them grown up!! Their relationship is full of sexual tension! There is a fire when these two are together!!

It was nice to see the other characters again!! I loved this group of friends!! Madoc, Fallon, Jax and Juliet!! The epilogue was exactly what I need it!! It has everything I wanted and even more!! I'm going to miss them all!! They always will be a part of my heart!!

Candace says

I'm still not sure how I feel about this book. On one hand, the story was good and it was nice to reconnect with the characters we've grown to love over the course of the earlier books in this series. I also think Ms. Douglas deserves some credit for taking this story in such a brave and unpopular direction. On the other hand, let's face it, nobody wants to have their favorite book couples break up! That's why it is unpopular to take a book in that direction!

Yep, Jared and Tate are split up for most of this book. That was a pretty big downer for me. I want my happy book couples to live their perfect lives together forever, without any problems. I know it isn't reality, but if I wanted reality in my love stories, I'd watch an afternoon of Divorce Court! I want a HEA!

Now that I've had my tantrum, I should say that I did enjoy the story once I got past my initial upset. They still loved one another, but it was painfully awkward to read about Tate's attempts to move on. Even if it was all Jared's fault, I wanted her to be devoted to the very end. He had it coming, but still...

Finally, things get worked out. This book didn't play out like I had wanted, but I enjoyed it. The ending was good one and it left me feeling content again. However, even though I liked it, I'm not sure I'd do that to myself again. I'd rather remain blissfully unaware than to have my happy bubble burst.

Arabella ~?AB?~ says

★★★★ 4 Stars ★★★★★

I make it no secret, I love this series, and I love it hard. Of course I was nervous to read it, especially since I knew going in that Tate & Jared were no longer a couple and they had spend a few years apart.

Jared was feeling lost, and he wanted to be a better man for Tate. He didn't know what he could offer her, he was doing something that he didn't enjoy and he needed to be away from Tate to do that. Some might think this is dumb move but by the end of the story you come to understand his reasons, he just went about it the wrong way.

"I'm twenty, and all I know about myself is that I love Tatum Brandt."

Two years later, Jared is back in Shelburne Falls and at first reverts back to doing what he does best when he's hurting, he bullies Tate.

**"Fuck me, Tate.
Fuck me like you hate me."**

Jax & Madoc save the day and make him see what he needs to do, that they belong together and that neither is happy without the other.

Jared is doing well in life, and Tate has grown as a strong confident woman, but she is missing a piece of her heart that only Jared can fill.

"Jared devoured me like food. No one loved me like he did, and I lived him. And loved him."

This was actually quite low in the angst department, and I really enjoyed seeing these two come back together again as adults. It was great to spend time with the other couples too, and the epilogue was absolutely lovely.

I just want to give a shout out to my man Madoc <3 I loved his relationship with Tate and his banter and his general silliness. I really will miss this series, it has been such a pleasure to read.

Lisa says

ARC Given to Blog for Honest Review

5++++ **“I melted” “forever” “JT” “My new lifeline.”** Kisses

I have so many things to say about this book and this series that I am completely and totally at a loss for what to actually write. How can I put into words what this book means to me...how deeply these characters are imbedded in my heart...how hard it is to say goodbye to a series that has been a part of my life for almost two years? The feels are overwhelming! Needless to say, *Aflame* blew any and all expectations I had for an epic way to end the Fall Away Series out of the universe. If the series had to end at all, I cannot think of a way that Penelope could have done these characters any better justice. So...as I said, *Aflame* is the fourth (and final) book in the Fall Away Series...if you haven't read *Bully & Until You*, I would definitely recommend it (cause this book will not make any sense...) and if you don't want any spoilers, I would read *Rival* and *Falling Away* too. To really appreciate the build of the story in the series overall...it's better to read in order.

Tatum Brandt...my love for Tate runs deep...this girl just speaks to a part of me and I simply adore her. From the moment I met Tate, I knew she was one of the strongest heroines I have ever read...but she has proved consistently how strong she truly is...emotionally and physically. I mean, it definitely takes a strong girl to put up with a guy like Jared, but the strongest thing about Tate is her heart. She is so loving...so giving...so kind...she's just a naturally good, sweet girl...and four years after *Until You*, that hasn't changed. She's driven and dedicated...I love that she's focused on fulfilling her dream of becoming a doctor and considering she got into Stanford medical school, she's still insanely smart. I love that she's still a tom boy to her core...wearing chucks and kicking ass on the race track...spending any free time she has under the hood of her car and playing her fav rock bands as loud as she can. Add that to another one of the things I love about Tate...she's such a contradiction...on the outside she looks like a Barbie doll but she couldn't be farther from a girlie girl...well, unless you look at Fallon. Tate really has grown a lot in the past few years...she's still the same girl that captivated me in *Bully*...but she has changed a little bit...not in a bad way by any means, but something felt different about her, and that had a lot to do with the actions of the boy who stole her heart when she was 10 years old.

‘At ten years old, Jared was my friend. At fourteen, my enemy; at eighteen, my love; and at twenty, my heartbreak. I’d known him more than half my life, and although the roles had changed, his impact was always all consuming. Always.’

Jared Trent...**le sigh**...where do I begin with this boy. I can't not love him...it's physically incapable for me to. Part of me wanted to, after reading the excerpt in the back of *Falling Away*...or at least get **really** mad at him...but I couldn't even do that. It's like once I truly understood him in *Bully*, a switch was flicked and my brain will not allow me to do anything but love and adore him unconditionally...and so I do. In all of his tatt'd up, bad boy glory...I so completely do. Because the thing is...you don't love Jared Trent because he's romantic in the typical book boyfriend kind of way (cause he's not)...you love him for his filthy mouth...his ability to command respect in any room that he walks into...the fact that he can drive anything with a motor (sorry, there is just something infinitely sexy about that!)...and you love him for his dedication to those he cares about...because when Jared Trent loves, he loves for life. I could go on for days about all the things I

love about Jared...all the ways he is absolutely unfathomably amazing...he's totally one of a kind...but I will say that if I thought I loved him before...his actions in *Aflame* sent my feelings to another universe. I **knew** to expect greatness from Jared and I got so much more than I bargained for.

‘Tate was different.

I shook my head and turned my gaze back to the track, seeing her hop out of her car and talk with the other drivers. So confident. So strong.

But the way I wanted her was still the same.

Jax was right. I could go around about it for days or weeks or another two years, but I’d still come to the same conclusion as he did this afternoon. I loved Tate, and I would always love her.’

The fact that Jared and Tate aren’t together in *Aflame* was never kept a secret...I’m not going to sit here and lie and say that I wasn’t upset at first...but it was definitely short lived. I never doubted Penelope’s creative genius when it came to what she would do with the story line for *Aflame*...that’s not to say that the moment I read the excerpt in the back of *Falling Away* that I wasn’t filled with a myriad of emotions...but one of those emotions was excitement. I know that might make me sound a little crazy but...it’s true. I have to think back on *Bully*...she took this practically impossible situation and worked some voo-doo magic on me, made me fall head over heels in love with this complete ass who was so horrible to Tate...and yet turned him around into this amazing creature who I couldn’t love more if I tried...I fell **so** hard for Jared and Tate the first time...and going through all of that was one of the best reading experiences I can remember. So...getting to experience that again, on another level – umm, yes please! Considering I’m more invested with Jared and Tate now than I was two years ago...they’ve grown up considerably...there are just a lot of factors going on and every single one of them adds up to this amazing cocktail of reading bliss. I cannot imagine the plot being any more brilliant than it was...and this is coming from someone who would have rather poked her eyes out than have Jared and Tate be separated from one another but the way it all worked was genius.

“I’m never letting you go again, Tate,” I whispered, almost desperate. “I’m your friend forever, and if that’s all I get, then that’s what I’m taking, because only when you’re here” – I took her hand and placed it on my heart – “do I feel like my life is worth a damn.”

Penelope Douglas is one of my favorite writers ever...for **so** many reasons. First of all...as if I haven’t said it enough, her characters are **perfection**...and it’s not only who they are individually, but how they interact as a group. Each of them have their strengths and they play off each other so effortlessly...the combination of all of their personalities is priceless...it’s impossible to force. The emotions that are entwined in this book are as crucial as the characters are...no matter whose POV she writes in, I feel every ounce of what they’re experiencing...I always look forward to having that connection with those characters because it’s everything I crave when I read and she never leaves me wanting more. Her combination of angst and tension...sexy and swoon...comedy and fun...friendship and family...it’s equal parts of everything that blends flawlessly into this brilliant story. It’s funny because I couldn’t ask for more from any of her books...but I always want more because I love them so much, I never want it to stop – it’s a very satisfying and conflicting feeling.

“It’s easier to be angry and pass judgment than it is to take a chance. It feels stronger.”
I felt his chest inflate with a breath. “Yeah, I know that feeling.”
I laid the side of my face on his back, hugging him close. “Nothing feels right without you. Not school or home,” I cried. “Everything is just giving me enough air to get to the next day without you. I never stopped being yours.”
He dropped his head back, letting out a sigh.
I swallowed, taking my chance. “I love you, Jared. I’ve always loved you, and I will always love you.”
There was no one but him, and even when he wasn’t around, he was. I would never be free of him – because I didn’t want to be.’

Of course the main focus of *Aflame* is Jared and Tate...we started with them, we end with them – but just like with all of the other books in the series, Madoc and Fallon and Jax and Juliet have their key parts of play and we get continuations of their stories as well. Madoc is one of the funniest characters I’ve read and he totally kept me laughing in *Aflame*...his timing was perfect, his liners were fantastic...he’s just this perfect little preppy boy class clown that I love to death. Jax...is like a ninja – he flies totally under the radar until he wants to make his presence known and then usually it’s something completely unexpected and totally freaking awesome. Fallon and Juliet...they’re the perfect besties for Tate...these three girls have this rare balance of just the right amount of things in common to keep them close but they’ve got their own uniqueness. And I don’t think there is every going to be a word to describe the feelings I have with seeing these three couples together...it fills a part of my heart that nothing else can touch, it makes me want to cry and yet I’m smiling so hard my face hurts.

‘I ignored truth and reason, because it was easier to believe that my power defined me rather than admitting I needed anyone. Rather than admitting the reality.
That I loved Tate.
That she loved me.
And that together we were invincible.
It has taken me years to learn, but I’d spend the rest of my life making up for it.’

I am not afraid to admit it...I **hate** goodbyes. Not that I think anyone particularly loves them but still...and I especially hate them with books. I’m a self-professed stage 5 clinger...and I think it’s even stronger with these characters because they’re some of my favorites. But as I said in the beginning, this was the **best** way for the Fall Away series to end...I truly cannot be happier after reading that epilogue. I love a good epilogue and holy fuckin hell...this is one for the record books. Per-freakin'-fection! There is no other word to describe it. At the end of *Aflame*, Penelope wrote a note to the reader...and she said ‘*Jared, Tate, Madoc, Fallon, Jaxon, and Juliet represent a piece of who I am. I put so much of my heart into creating them, and they are not imaginary to me. It’s a difficult good-bye, but then I guess most good-byes are.*’ Well...bravo Penelope, because from a readers perspective, you’ve made it equally as difficult to say goodbye. These characters have been in my head and heart for almost two years...I have loved every single second of every page that I have read and having to accept the fact that the series is over is **hard**...there’s no way around it. Alas...all good things come to an end...but my head is happy and my heart is overflowing with love...and all because *Aflame* was an absolutely flawless ending to this series.

Samantha Young says

Ahhh it was awesome to return to Jared and Tate. Heart wrenching, passionate, emotional! I'm so glad I got to read this early because the suspense was killing me! A fantastic, authentic, beautiful conclusion. I love this series!

Michelle says

ARC provided by publisher in exchange for an honest review

If I could sum up my review of Aflame by Penelope Douglas, it would be ABSOLUTELY BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!!!! This was one story that I truly wanted to savor and take my time reading but being that it was a Penelope Douglas book, I couldn't help but devour this book. I have nothing but LOVE LOVE LOVE for Aflame. Ms. Douglas consumed and captivated me with her brilliant and engaging writing and storytelling. So if you want a story to get lost in and have your heart brimming with love, friendship, family, sacrifices, and hope then Aflame is the book for you. We all know the saying when you truly love someone, you have to let them go and if they come back to you, they were always yours. And so Ms. Douglas will finally complete the story of Jared and Tate. Will these soul-mates finally get their chance to write their storybook ending and drive off to the HEA? Or will their love and friendship be not enough to save them?

I will admit this was a bittersweet read for me since I am a bit sad to say goodbye to Jared, Tate, Madoc, Fallon, Jax and Juliet but at the same time I am beyond happy that Ms. Douglas brought back these beloved characters back into our hearts. When I first read Bully, I was so consumed with the relationship of Jared and Tate. Their story and struggle was so engrained into our hearts that I felt their deep emotional connections and scars that ties them. In the previous books, we all saw that Fallon and Madoc got their happily ever after ending. And so did Jax and Juliet. And now it's time for Jared and Tate to get theirs. Aflame is a story that completes and brings to a full circle of Jared and Tate's journey. It is a journey that was filled with happiness, pain, resentment, sadness, loneliness, loss, anger, and love. So will Tate and Jared be able to drive this new journey together or separately?

Can the heart truly forget a love that was so consuming and etched onto your soul and being? And the answer is NO. In Aflame, Ms. Douglas delivered a story of characters who grew and learned from their mistakes. The past was something that neither Jared and Tate could forget. It is a reminder of the hurt, pain, and sadness that they inflicted upon themselves. But at the same time, the past was a reminder of an intense passionate love that was tattooed in their hearts and memories. The beauty of this book was that Ms. Douglas allowed us to see Jared and Tate grow as individuals. They are two people who had to learn from their past. They were a couple who was separated. You can blame it on their lack of communication, stubbornness, pride, and fear for their separation. In a sense, maybe they did need that time apart so they can finally realized the truth. The truth that they belonged together. The truth that were meant to be. The truth that Jared and Tate are fated. The truth that their love for one another never died. The truth that their love was a flame that was still burning bright but they just needed a little help from their friends and family to make them see

the truth.

I have nothing but high praises for Ms. Douglas for showcasing a passionate love. A love that made your heart pitter patter and gives you the warm fuzzy feelings. Ms. Douglas completed my heart when she gave us the ending that we all knew Jared and Tate deserved. The writing was so consuming that you could feel every emotion that Jared and Tate were feeling. And as for the chemistry, this book was so intense and dripping with passion, love and devotion. Every raw emotion was captured and felt. Did I love this book? Absolutely! Would I want to re-read this book again? Of course, especially I could re-read the last 25% of the book and epilogue so many times!! Would I recommend this book and series? Absolutely YES!!!! So if you are a big fan of this series, this book is a MUST READ!!!

Aflame and this series is a reminder to us all that we are all human. We all make mistakes. Our past doesn't define our happiness and future. Love heals. And most importantly, life is about growing and learning from our mistakes. And Jared and Tate's journey of HEA was not instant but it was a journey filled with so many ups and downs but it was a journey they are learning to tackle together. A journey of forever. So I want to thank Ms. Douglas for bringing Jared, Tate, Madoc, Fallon, Jax and Juliet into our lives. Their story was like a puzzle, hard to piece together but beautiful when all the right pieces are put together. And now Aflame is the final piece to the Falling Away series.

Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages Penelope Douglas

Penelope Douglas says

Madoc and Fallon got their happily ever after.
So did Jax and Juliet.

This is Jared and Tate's.

Thank you for everything. The reviews you've left throughout the series and the messages. Your faith and confidence in me means the world. If you're interested in Aflame information, here you go--->
<http://on.fb.me/1EGF8Rp>

Jennifer Kyle says

4 Stars

I was a bit hesitant in reading this last book in the series with the fear of what the author would do to this once thought HEA'd couple. To be honest, their separation could have been cut down a ton if they actually communicated. I still don't get the need to cut things off completely as Jared sets out to find his own way. (Thus star deduction for simply being dumb and a phone call could have remedied things a whole lot sooner.) Still, this story is well done and the drama was kept at a bare minimum.

Jared returns to Fall Away Lane after two long years and his feelings for Tate haven't change in the slightest.

"I'm a better man, but there's never been a better woman for me."

The banter and chemistry between the two was very well done. I also enjoyed all the other characters being present along the way and the great epilogues that the author gifted. Overall, this pretty light on the drama, high on the heat, and ties up the series very nicely.

Goodbye to all my friends on Fall Away Lane!

Katy Loves Romance ♥? says

5+++++ **AMAZING Stars**

Ok first off I adored Bully, I got it for free before I even knew about this author I just picked it up from the recommendations that got shared at the time and I just went into the unknown. Lets say it blew me away, I was so effected by Bully I stayed up late and it made me think made me **FEEL** well here's my review to understand my thoughts ~ <http://bit.ly/1EfqqBz>

Therefore when there are novellas on this couple I would stop anything to read more of Jared and Tate.

At the end of Bully you get a HFN feel and although I was happy to see them happy I'm overjoyed to read this cause in Aflame we get a HEA maybe it wasn't all sweet and lovely but that isn't them, this really was the icing on the cake 'for me' it was what was needed. It was a journey they both needed to go through they had to ride the pain out to get their ending, not sure I'm making sense here but for me this really gave me the complete ending for them to be **whole**.

Tate knew what she wanted to be and where she was going and Jared didn't, he didn't get that chance growing up the way he did, therefore here in Aflame this is where Jared felt he needed to go and find himself its how he knew he couldn't stay in their hometown and just pretend that everything was ok when it wasn't. You could get annoyed with Penelope for making these characters go through it all over again when we felt that everything was ok but in reality Jared wasn't happy so to me its what was needed.

And that was it. No more talking, no more arguing, no more denying what couldn't be changed..... I only lived in her orbit, and I would die there, too. There was no choice to be made.

What I enjoyed

- I enjoyed them as MEN and WOMEN and not children anymore, mature and stronger, Individually and as a couple.
- I thought that Jared's career helped him to grow as a person and made him a wiser man, made him stand on

his own two feet. He as a young man had to be strong for his brother and as a teen learn to live independently concerning his mum but he didn't know who is was and to me this really shone though on the pages he was stronger, wiser and much more put together as a MAN.

- Tate has been through the pain has been hurt and is hurting but there's only one person for Tatum Brant and that's Jared. They are Intense as ever but Tate knows who she is, she is feisty but not over the top, just in that playful way she is when you love someone. Jared just brings it out of her and in turn she fights to be stronger its all she's known yet its her learning to fight for her man, **here we see that.**

- Jared what a sweetheart he is, in Bully you probably didn't like him that much or maybe you did? Here he fights and works hard to learn who Tate is again, to find out who this new Tate is, a much more mature lady she's become. How he takes his time to gain her **TRUST** again and in turn to see how Tate remembers how much she loves Jared.

- Tate went overseas to get stronger in school and Jared never had that so I can totally see why the author did what she did, Jared needed this time to find him away from his girl in all honesty he loved her too much to see what he needed for himself now he knows and now he's come to GET HER, even if that's not how it started out.

All in all it was a perfect ending to Jared and Tate, it was fast paced, Intense but loving and romantic too. I will **FOREVER** keep them close to my heart **ALWAYS**. If you love friends to lovers YA/NA reads this a definite page turner and I highly recommend it.

THAT.IS.ALL

READING ORDER!!!

For more Reviews and blog posts.

Geri Reads says

I'm twenty, and all I know about myself is that I love Tatum Brandt. Two years ago, I thought that was enough.

One thing that Penelope Douglas did right, right off the bat with this book was she gave us Jared's POV during that pivotal scene at the end of Falling Away. It set the tone for the whole book.

Aflame is about Tate and Jared coming full circle. It's also about growing up, finding out who you are. It's about finding your place in the world. It's about letting go.

It's no secret that a lot of fans of the series are upset about this book and what they perceive to be a betrayal by breaking up an established couple. To me personally, an author is allowed to write whatever book she wants the same way the reader has every right to refuse reading a book she doesn't like. End of.

That said, I personally believe this story needed to be told. Yes, Jared and Tate already had their HEA in

Bully and Until You but their age and Jared's restlessness about his career choices made this book necessary for me. Did I want them to break up? Not necessarily but after reading this book, I couldn't blame Jared. Tate, for the most part had time to grow up and she did. She spent a year in France. She had time to figure out what she wants for her life apart from Jared. Jared on the other hand never had that chance. While Tate was away, he was dealing with his dad, Jax and his deteriorating relationship with his mom. He never really had that. Love him or hate him for his choices, the author did a great job with staying true to Jared's character 'til the very end.

So what did I like about Aflame?

♥ Jared and Tate's memories from childhood. We get a glimpse of how their lives are linked together. Same with Madoc and Jax. Theirs is a dynamic friendship and their bond is very apparent in this book.

♥ The way the author handled their time apart. I know a lot of people are scared about this part and I have to say, you shouldn't be. It was handled very well. I don't think you'll be disappointed. It all made sense.

♥ Jared's POV was on point. PD writes the male POV really well. As I mentioned, Jared grew up but he is still Jared. His ways of getting Tate again was very much in keeping with his character.

♥ Tate also has come a long way from the Tate we met in Bully. I loved how she moved on with her life and I didn't blame her for one moment.

As much as I really liked this one, there were parts that I didn't particularly care for:

The racing...I get that this is probably their way of communicating and I have no doubt that it's exciting and many readers will eat it up, but it just wasn't my cuppa. There was one race in particular that I didn't really care for. I would have rather they spent it fighting or talking like normal people. But like I said, character wise, it's very J&T, it just didn't do anything for me personally.

Favorite scene?

Jared and the gang meeting Quinn Caruthers the first time. Oh my word. That was one of the most beautiful moments in the book.

Overall, I really liked this one. For all the brouhaha this book has gotten, there was nothing rage inducing about this book at all. I was expecting chest crippling angst but there's none. The author stayed true to her characters and stayed true to her vision of the story. Plus, there's a sweet long-ass epilogue that had me grinning like a loon.

ARC provided by Penelope Douglas in exchange for an honest review.

I just need to do this first...

Update: The Prologue and Chapter One of Aflame is up on Penelope's website.

PROLOGUE & CHAPTER ONE

Yes! I will definitely be reading this. That teaser only fueled the newly-awakened angst whore in me!

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

3 stars

I'm not tagging my spoilers, so beware!!!

I loved Bully, Until You and Rival by this author. The first three books in the series were everything I look for in New Adult books. When it was revealed that Jared leaves Tate at the end of Falling Away I was pretty surprised. Sure they were not the perfect couple, but they never were.

My biggest issue with this book is **Jared never really had a good reason for leaving Tatum behind**. Yes it was to find himself, but with the career he found he didn't have to leave her behind and break up with her. I know the author needed to break them up in order to have this book, but I wanted something more believable.

My second issue. **NOT ENOUGH GROVELING** . It's the reason I gave Bully a 4 and not a 5. Jared doesn't work hard enough to get Tatum back and he does, easily. In fact, in this book, it literally takes her two days after two years of him being away to break up with her current boyfriend. I get that he wasn't the one, but after the BS of Jared leaving her, I needed to see some on the knees begging on his end.

"I wanted her to love me again. I wanted her to say she was mine. And I didn't want to have to bully her about it, either."

Now I wanted to focus on the positive. I loved seeing how all of the characters in this series grow. Four years later and Madoc still makes me smile and giggle, Fallon is still awesome. Jax is no longer an ass (imo) and is great to Juliet. The addition of Jared's little sister Quinn was such a sweet moment to read.

Overall I liked this book, but I honestly was okay with how things ended in Until You. Not to repeat myself but I felt like this book was unnecessary drama in order to create more plot.

Christy says

4 stars!

Aflame is one of those books I debated on whether to read or not. I am a huge Penelope Douglas fan. I

haven't loved every one of her books, but I think her writing is solid and I love how her characters seem to start out with this love/hate relationship. *Bully* will always hold a place on my favorites list. Book one and two in this series focus on Jared and Tate. They go through a lot to get to their happy, but they get it. I feel like this book sort of took it away and I didn't know how to feel about that.

"I left so I could be a better man for you. So I could come back for you."

Jared feels trapped. Not with Tate necessarily, but with his life. He's got to make a change, to figure out what he wants to do with his life. To be a better man for her. Tate takes this the wrong way and Jared doesn't do the best job reiterating what's going on. The miscommunications between them are both of their faults and it causes Jared to go years without much communication with anyone in their gang. But now, it's two years later and Jared is back in town. Something brought him home and he's facing Tate.

I love Jared. Nothing Jared does makes me not love him. He comes back to town not knowing what to do or how to feel, but after seeing Tate, one thing becomes apparent to him. He still loves her. He still wants her. And he will fight to get her back.

I wanted her to love me again. I wanted her to say she was mine. And I didn't want to have to bully her about it, either.

There were things about Tate in this story that irked me. She was hurt and made a few poor choices in my opinion. Jared may have went about things the wrong way, but his heart was always in the right place. I love how he loves Tate. Completely.

I thought that this story would completely stress me out and be full of angst, but I was pleasantly surprised that it wasn't. There was some drama, but not an overload. It was fantastic to catch up with these characters I love (especially Madoc) and even though it may not have been 100% necessary for this couple to have another book, I still enjoyed it and I'm happy I read it. I'll miss these characters and even though Penelope is done with this series, I'm hoping there might be some sort of spin off ;)

Polly says

I'm not a fan of continuing a series for the hell of it. Creating pointless drama and ruining what made the series great in the beginning.

Another author added to the Abbi Glines list.

All ARC readers giving it 5 stars?
I'm sooooo surprised ;)
Not really. Predictable.

Val...Shameless.Skanky.B*tchy. says

Some Stars

So I'm gonna kick off this ramble-fest with a bit of ~~verbal diarrhea~~ an aside.

Because that's just how I fucking roll, people.

But back to my *aside*...

Just the mere existence of this book leaves me torn, quite frankly.

Everyone has their own personal likes and dislikes - and none of those likes/dislikes are wrong...

However, mine are just that:

MINE.

And thus simply better than everyone else's...

I kid, I kid.

Seriously.

My point is that each and every one of us have our own personal reading preferences.

And one of *my* biggest personal reading statutes is...

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Thou shalt not fucketh with the covenant of the HEA-eth.

Quite simply, don't go back to the well and jack around with characters for whom you have already established an HEA in a previous book.

PERIOD.

We all know how tightly we can cling to our own personal reading statutes.

It's like chocolate the week before your period.

And when those statutes get broken?

We feel betrayed.

So needless to say, my initial reaction to the teaser for this book?

And the fact that my beloved Jared would be *leaving* his beloved Tatum?

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#sorrynotsorry

And so I took this book and said:

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But as release day got closer...

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My curiosity overcame my previous need for self-preservation.

And I pre-ordered that shit faster than a Paleo-eating Crossfitter binges on "cheat day."

And I became what some might refer to as:

A SELLOUT.

But you know what?

And I'm riding a fucking unicorn.

So, #WINNING.

I'm glad that I trusted Penelope Douglas and read this book, because I definitely enjoyed it.

It was cool to see Jared and Tate come back together as true adults.

Certain things that I wanted to see happen *did* happen.

And - sometimes more importantly - **certain things that I *did NOT* want to see happen...did NOT happen.**

So there's that.

At the end of day though, does it *still* inherently bother me that Jared and Tate were broken up in this book to begin with?

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Yes.

Because even though I know they were both young at the end of *Bully/Until You*...even though, yes I understand that in real life people need to go off and find themselves as complete individuals *before* they can truly be complete together...

I don't read WANT realism.

I want the fictional boy and girl who climbed trees to get to each other - the other half to each other's whole - to live forever in uninterrupted flawlessness in my imagination.

To get a piece of that idealistic perfection that - while we know it can't exist in the real world - we can revisit it untouched whenever we want, safe within the pages of our favorite romance novels.

But at the end of the day, these are Penelope Douglas' characters and - despite some of her rabid fan girls attacking myself and some of my friends (which isn't Douglas' fault) - I really *do* have nothing but respect for what she did with those characters in this book.

And, while I definitely don't regret reading this book, I wholeheartedly respect the reservations others may or may not have about reading it - because they used to be mine too.

In short:

If you don't want to read this book, rock on. Don't read it.

And if you are on the fence - like I was - I recommend you give it a shot.

Find me at:

Kristen says

4-I'm Impressed-Stars

I have to admit I wasn't planning on reading this book. I don't like authors messing with couples that have already had their HEA. **It's a huge no-no in the world of romance readers.** However, nothing this author writes could be considered the norm, so I decided to give it a try. I'm so glad I did!

I'm not going to go into detail about the plot; there are plenty of reviews that give a good summary, as well as answering some readers concerns (NO, Jared doesn't sleep around. The author handled that whole situation brilliantly.). I will, however, share my feeling about the story.

First, do I feel this book was necessary...**NO!** Am I glad the author wrote it...**YES! YES! YES!** This series has never been a fairytale. It's been messy, and complicated, and steeped in reality. Exaggerated reality, sure, but reality all the same. Because of that, this book worked. At least it did for me.

What shocked me was how my feelings for Jared changed in this story. I've **NEVER** been a Jared fan. Even after reading and loving *Until You*, Jared's POV of Bully, I still DID NOT like his character. That all changed after I finished this book. I really came to *like*, might I even say **LOVE**, Jared. He grew up and matured during the continuation of this couple's story—as most people do when transitioning into adulthood—and I appreciated getting to read about his progression rather than being told about it in a *Falling Away* epilogue. That aspect right there made this worth the read.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. It actually made me a believer in Tate and Jared's HEA. I'm glad Penelope Douglas not only had the courage but the skill to write what could have been a disaster of a book but ended up being a great read. If you're on the fence about this one like I was, I encourage you to give it a try. I don't think you'll be sorry.

