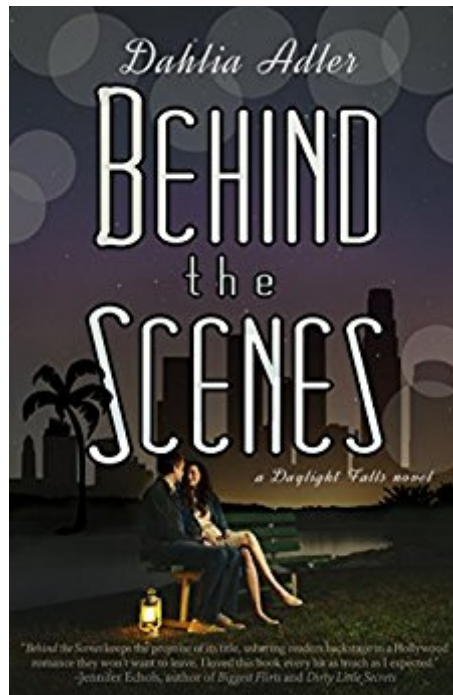




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Behind The Scenes (Daylight Falls Book 1)



Synopsis

High school senior Ally Duncan's best friend may be the Vanessa Park - star of TV's hottest new teen drama - but Ally's not interested in following in her BFF's Hollywood footsteps. In fact, the only thing Ally's ever really wanted is to go to Columbia and study abroad in Paris. But when her father's mounting medical bills threaten to stop her dream in its tracks, Ally nabs a position as Van's on-set assistant to get the cash she needs. Spending the extra time with Van turns out to be fun, and getting to know her sexy co-star Liam is an added bonus. But when the actors' publicist arranges for Van and Liam to date for the tabloids just after he and Ally share their first kiss, Ally will have to decide exactly what role she's capable of playing in their world of make believe. If she can't play by Hollywood's rules, she may lose her best friend, her dream future, and her first shot at love.

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book several months ago after it hit my radar for the first time, but I took forever to get

around to reading it. It sounded great and I was interested, but it got lost in the stack of review books. Once I got an ARC for the second book in the series, *Under the Lights*, I knew I needed to finally dive into this one. While I'm kicking myself for taking this long to read it, I'm also kinda glad I waited so I could binge read the series. It's been a long time since I read a famous person/regular person book and I have to say, this one really hit the spot. I really liked both Ally and Liam. The supporting characters were interesting. Even with all the "teenager drama" and conflict, I enjoyed the story. It was believable and real, as were the characters. More than anything though, I loved Dahlia's writing. She has a fresh voice, even when writing a trope I've read a number of times. The romance between Ally and Liam was great. I loved how they just got each other. Of course, this made it a little difficult at times to watch as he paraded Ally's best friend Vanessa around as his (fake) girlfriend as a PR stunt. I was so much in Ally's head that I felt every emotion she felt. And believe me, between her father's illness and this relationship drama, she was feeling a lot. I was in this 1000% as they navigated the bumpy waters of having a real relationship in secret while letting the world think Liam was in a VERY public relationship with someone else. It was messy. It was dramatic in that way that young adult books can be. But it's all of that which made it realistic and engrossing. One thing I've learned with Dahlia's books is that you should expect the unexpected. You might think you know what direction a story point is heading, but more often than not, you'll be completely wrong. This is just one of many reasons I love her books. It would've been so easy for her to turn Ally and Vanessa's friendship into frenemies or to draw out her dad's storyline. Instead, she made it her own and I loved what it was.

What a fun read! Yes, I was a casual reader of Dahlia's blog shortly before finding out about her debut novel, at which point I knew I had to read it. And then when I found out what the book was about?! I pretty much leapt with joy. That is my kind of book, I thought. And now, after reading, I can say without hesitation that this book delivers everything I wanted and more! Dahlia took a piece of Hollywood and gave us an up close and personal look at one of the tangled webs in that town that so many of us may have thought about. And I loved it! Oh my gosh, this was so exciting. And frustrating given the lovely yet lonely sacrifice and circumstance at hand but that conflict, seeing what people who love you will do for you without hesitation made for such a gripping tale and what a tale it is! And perfectly paced, I might add! Dahlia is a wonderful storyteller and a fantastic writer. Fantastic. I connected with all of the characters right away and that, my friend, is not easy to do. Go, Dahlia! I was rooting for Ally and Liam on every page and was more emotionally invested than I anticipated. I don't read a lot of contemporary novels and I especially don't read many novels heavy

on the romance (it just typically doesn't move me, I'm not really a romantic) but I am so, so glad that I read this because this moved me. And not only was I rooting for Ally and Liam but I absolutely love that this book is about friendship and family just as much as it is about the romance. I love how Dahlia addressed the fears and desires that each of her characters have in more than just one aspect of their lives. These characters are three dimensional and demand to be heard and I love that! What a marvelous job here. Other things worth mentioning... I loved The Grove mention, as it's always exciting to know of and have been to actual settings that are in novels. As well as using upfronts to further the plot. Way to win over a TV girl's heart! Dahlia knows her stuff. With her characters, her setting, her story, she gave her all and delivered the goods...and best of all, the heart behind all of that hard work shines through and with that, I couldn't have asked for more. I was captivated by every word and read this book in two sittings. It would have been one had I not actually needed to get to sleep for a very long day of work ahead. My advice to you is to read this when you know you have four or five hours to completely devote to this because once you fall into this, you'll fall hard. And the next thing you know, it will be over. But this story will have resonated with you so it will have been so worth it. Behind the Scenes is my favorite contemporary read of the year. So if you need any more reason to read this, that's it!

So often the protagonists in YA novels have small problems that they seem to elevate to life-shattering importance. In Behind the Scenes, Ally has real problems that can't be easily solved. But she does her best, even when her attempts at fixing her situation end up tossing even more problems in her path. I loved that all the characters in this book were flawed. Everyone had something they wanted or needed to keep to themselves, and by not communicating effectively, misunderstandings and all kinds of chaos ensued. And who couldn't fall a little bit in love with Liam, the hot movie star who would much rather be doing algebra or studying French?

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