



Believe

Katie Delahanty

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My name is Amanda Conrad and I. Am. A doctor.

When my cousin Liv whisked me away to South Africa to be maid of honor in her super-secret celebrity wedding, I was about to begin a five-year residency at NYU and was on my way to becoming a plastic surgeon. My plans definitely did not include a rock-star best man sweeping me off my feet.

But what happened in South Africa needed to stay there—he'd return to his touring and I'd start my residency, with our fond memories of a whirlwind, fairy-tale week. But now nothing feels right—I'm questioning my once solid plans, and I can't stop thinking about him. Our lives are so different... Am I ready to risk everything I've worked for since I was thirteen—and put my heart on the line? To dream bigger than I ever thought possible? To believe I can have it all? That's the thing about growing up...sometimes you have to be brave enough to redefine happily ever after.

Each book in the Brightside series is a standalone, full-length story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Series Order:

Book #1 In Bloom

Book #2 Blushing

Book #3 Believe

Believe Details

Date : Published October 24th 2016 by Entangled: Embrace

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Author : Katie Delahanty

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Genre : Romance, New Adult, Contemporary Romance, Music

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From Reader Review Believe for online ebook

Lindsey says

This is my first novel by Katie.

Believe follows the up an coming surgeon and a rock star.
Both happen in love. Both struggle to find balance in their life.

Can Amanda and Mark find true love?
I really enjoyed this book.

4 stars

Jeannie Zelos says

Believe, Katie Delahanty

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: New Adult, Romance

I loved Katie's first two Brightside novels, and was so pleased to get this third one for review.
Its another great read, funny at times, tear-jerking at others – right up my street.

I remember Amanda (Boots) from the first two books, she's Liv's cousin, and knows Liv's friends Blair and Parker too. They pop up here and it was great to catch up with them. I'd love a Parker/Tux book ;-)
Here we really get to know her, and I so understood her. She's just like me in always lacking confidence, second guessing herself and what's she's done. Oh how many times I do that....especially when its something that needs a response from the other person, and then when it doesn't come quickly, like Boots I'm thinking what did I do wrong, did i say the wrong thing? Indicate that? and why did I ever think to do that in the first place? Yep, her mind rambles were so so familiar and I loved her.

I'm almost ashamed to say I can't really remember poor Mark though – what is that line keeps creeping in?
Ah that's it “no one takes any notice of the bass player” yep – sorry Mark, I missed you ;-)
He's a gorgeous guy though and I grew to love him, though I wanted to shake him a few times....He was a bit or a jerk a couple of times but when I knew more I understood why, and his reaction was reasonable given what he thought had happened.

Amanda is maid of honour at Liv's wedding, one held in top secret to avoid all the publicity, Mark is Berkeley's best man.

She's got a short time before her career picks up on its next time sucking interlude to life. When she's in Doc training everything else takes a backseat, its literally work – eat- nap-work- eat-nap-work-eat and maybe this time an actual sleep.

A little side rant here....What we put docs in training through is crazy, sleep deprived and making life

changing decisions. When I was having my chemo years ago the doc on call all weekend was like Amanda, hoping to further her career, training for the next leg, and I met her Fri pm, by Sunday pm she was still working, giving me an unusual cocktail of chemo drugs after having been shown the routine in just a few quick minutes on Fri, she then had to remember it all ready for Sat. on little or no sleep, and again on Sunday....Sat she flushed through a litre of saline, usually they'd only do about 100-200ml, as the chemo nurse had stressed she wasn't to let the two drugs mix at all, and she said to me " good job you're not an 80 yr old lady,doing that would have probably killed you " :-) We were joking about it but she was really scared, really tired, really stressed and yet the only one there able to give me the drugs to save my life. #NotGood But it meant I really understood Boots and the pressure she was under, from her parents, her work, herself.

So a great couple of lead characters, snippets of all the old gang, loved Psychic mum :-) and was great to see them all brought into the story.

Its a very different feel read from Liv's story, and Mark and Boots are more off that on. They get together in Africa, and its a steamingly sensual couple of days, but then Boots isn't sure if she's time for romance with her residency coming up, Mark isn't sure he wants more, they're both really scared in a way, and manage to part as friends when its clear to reader they could have much more.

Mark seems to me to be kind of uncertain of what he wants, in a way he wants what Berkeley and Liv have, but though he thinks Boots could be his Liv he's not sure he's ready for that yet – well, that's how he feels to me. Others may put a different interpretation on his actions.

Boots has been so set on being a doc since she was 13 she's not letting anything stand in her way, and though inside she wants more with Mark she's scared it'll take up too much of her life, and she'll fail at the doc thing she's so focussed on. Her parents don't help, her doctor father clearly puts pressure on her, reminds her constantly it seems, not to let anything affect her focus.

She's also telling herself what would a big star like Mark want with her, a plain, ordinary person, when he could have anyone? She thinks the only thing that makes her interesting is being a doc, and she just can't see how much more to her there is, how special she is. When she looks at pics of Mark in the past with all the gorgeous, stunningly attractive ladies she feels unworthy, and she feels that there are ladies like that who fit in to his life so much better.

I really enjoyed that almost-together-and-then-another-setback feel that the middle section had.

I so understood Boots and how she felt, loved the secondary characters that played a strong part in the story (mama Rosie – great lady), loved Mark – even when I wanted to slop him! and of course the snippets we got of Liv and Berkeley.

Its another great read, and so often with this sort of connected novel the subsequent ones really just mirror the first, become a sort of pastel facsimile, but Katie's given this a really fresh feel, very different to Liv and Berkeley's stories, and yet still kept the characters and humour true to those books.

Stars: Five, a lovely feel-good read, full of emotion.

ARC supplied by Netgalley and publisher

Andrea says

For me this is by far the best book in the Brightside series. I enjoyed it so much that when I got half way threw it I couldn't believe it, the story simply flowed so well!
It's not the perfect book, but it is pretty enjoyable.

The book is told from Amanda's POV.

Amanda and Mark have an instant attraction from the beginning and some pretty magical moments, but at the end of the day they both want completely different thing from their lives. It seems impossible that a relationship could happen. Still there's a lot of tension between those two.

There were a few moments were I wanted to shake Amanda but overall I think she was an awesome driven character with failures and all. I do wish we could have had more insight on Mark's thoughts. At the end we have a nice HEA, which I love.

I will keep an eye out to more books from the author.

****I reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from Entangled Publishing via NetGalley. This in no way affect my review, my thoughts are completely mine****

Kim Mote says

This is the first book I've read by this author, missed the other two books in the series but was able to pick right up with no problems. This is Mark and Amanda's book and there chance at happiness. Mark the bass player of Brightside has started a side band because he wants to go back small vs the big times with the corporate game.

Amanda, Liv's cousin/sister a medical student who will be starting residency in New York to become a plastic surgeon is on a path to make that happen. She has to be focused with no distractions and on the end game that she has planned on most of her life.

Amanda and Mark meet in Africa at Liv's wedding and hit it off regardless how they try to fight it. Both leaving with opposite goals in life.

After Amanda has an issue at work she starts guessing her life and where she should go, Mark talks her into going on a trip with him and the band to find that answer out. During that trip Amanda is able to find herself and learn things about herself.

This book showed things in life happen and you have to be able to adjust and realize its ok if they do, its part of changing and growing.

This was a great read and totally enjoyed it. Honest review in exchange for ARC.

Michelle (Much Loved Books) says

I have been a big fan of this series since I read the first book, In Bloom, and have been obsessively checking when this book would become available. I somehow got lucky and ended up with two copies, and I could not

wait to dive in.

Going into **Believe**, I knew that it wasn't going to be the characters that I know and love taking the lead, that it was in fact going to be from a different perspective, and I was both excited and nervous to venture into this, knowing what to expect but also wondering if I would love it as much as the previous books.

Believe carries on the tradition of having tweets between the characters at the beginning of each chapter, which not only make it easier to break up the story, but also add a little amusement or insight into the upcoming chapter.

Amanda Conrad @BootsMD

Just plowed through a bag of Sour Patch Kids while reading about Type 2 diabetes and you know what? I LIKE BEING A REBEL

Believe is Amanda's story, Liv's cousin, and we begin with the set up of the secretive wedding between Liv and Berkeley with Liv arriving at the Vineyard. But as you can see from the above quote we get a lot more going on than weddings.

Amanda has finish med school, and has her heart set on becoming a plastic surgeon, but before her new adventure begins, Amanda attends her cousin's wedding, where she meets Mark, friend and fellow band member of Berkeley. Determined to enjoy herself and relax before heading home, Amanda takes up the motto 'what happens in Africa, stays in Africa', which leads some some amazing adventures, and some very heated nights. But when it's all over, Amanda is torn over her head and her heart, her future and her present, and ends up making a silly mistake (and you can believe I was shouting at her to change her mind).

Believe takes us on an adventure with Amanda as she struggles to find her place, to follow her dreams, and make the right decision for herself. It's not an easy journey and there are plenty of bumps along the way. Even right up to the very end of the book I was never quite sure what the final decision would be.

Amanda is also a strong willed, determined person. She sets her mind on a goal and won't let anything get in her way. Amanda's goal has been set for year, and with her hard work and dedication she is starting to see it become a reality, but is this goal for her or for others, and what happens when her heart wants a say in things.

This series is one that I really enjoy, and getting to read **Believe** was both exciting and sad. Exciting to get my hands on this but also sad at knowing this is the end. **Believe** has to be my favourite out of the series, although it's from a different perspective we still get the rock star moments, but we also experience the normality of everyday life, and also how precious it is. We see how things are taken for granted, but how much someone can achieve when they put their mind to it. Its hopeful and also disheartening, but its also real, it's not picture perfect and I think this is one of the main reasons that Amanda stands out more than the other characters ever did. She makes things seem attainable, that you can reach the stars yourself.

I've tried to keep my review vague, but also try to squeeze in all my thoughts and feelings about **Believe**. I LOVED the adventure of this book, I liked getting to catch up with other characters and see what they are up to now, and I love the journey that we as a reader, and the characters take, from start to finish.

Final Verdict

Believe is the perfect end to this series, it wraps everything up nicely and is an unputdownable book. I didn't want this one to end and I wish I could have made it last a bit longer..maybe another week or three.

Hilda says

I received this book via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

I have read nothing by this author before and here this morning with my book hangover I am asking myself, WHY? I started this book late, around 10pm, and boy was that a mistake. The story of Dr. Amanda “Boots” Conrad, grabbed a hold of me and would not let go. I was constantly saying just one more chapter, just one more chapter. I finally had to succumb to sleep when my eyes wouldn’t allow me to read anymore more than three quarters way through. But I didn’t want to put the book down and tossed and turned because I couldn’t wait to find out what happened next in Amanda’s life.

This book doesn’t disappoint. It is well written with great character development that has you emotionally bonded with them. During the read I was thinking that it was a little long winded but I realized as the book went on that some of those moments brought treasures that help us understand Amanda and Mark better at another point. The push and pull of their relationship and the desire for them to get together kept me enthralled. I loved the characters and felt like I lost someone when the final pages turned.

Amanda Conrad has always wanted to not disappoint her father. Her dream, or so she has become to believe, that her dream is to be a plastics surgeon. Whisked away to Africa for her cousin’s super-secret wedding, she lives life a little and calls it her one last hurrah. But what happens in Africa doesn’t always stay in Africa. Can she come to grips with the fact that the universe has another plan for her?

When an African romance takes place and they decide to stay in the friends zone when returning to the states. Amanda and Mark fight the feelings that are budding in each other and a number of awkward situations take place. But when Amanda’s world is rocked by her first death as a doctor the first person she thinks to speak to is Mark. The hospital gives her a leave of absence to deal with her emotions and she begins to question everything she ever thought her life was to hold. Her father’s temper tantrum doesn’t help either. Will she live her life for herself or will she be someone her father wants her to be?

Lucia says

Falling for the best man romance mixed with a doctor and rock star romance.

Believe was my first book by Katie Delahanty so I had no idea what to expect from this book, only getting drawn in by the blurb, but overall I enjoyed this book. This falling for the best man romance is mixed with a doctor and rock star romance.

Told solely from Amanda’s POV, Amanda and Mark have a clear instant attraction at the beginning when they meet but at that exact time in their lives they both have different things they want from their lives and careers that it doesn’t seem possible for the two to blend together. As a result of their opposite lives, it’s more of a slow to steady paced book in terms of the relationship development pace and there is plenty of tension and drama to get through first. You would think these two contrasting characters of a doctor and rock star wouldn’t work but they do. However, I’ll be honest and say I had mixed feelings with Amanda where I kind of blew hot and cold with her character. She wasn’t bad but just struggled to fully warm up and stay liking her throughout the whole book, while on the other hand, you don’t really fully get to know Mark fully as we get no POV to fully understand all his thoughts and feelings.

Believe is well written and had a decent plot from start to finish with just enough twists and turns to keep you guessing how things would play out. I personally have not read the previous books in this series but could follow along, although I can imagine it is more enjoyable for those who have read previous books. The book can be read, however, as a standalone with a HEA.

Overall, I enjoyed this book.

*I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from Entangled Publishing via NetGalley. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own.

Roxanne says

Thank you to Netgalley and Entangled Embrace for a copy of the eArc in exchange for a fair review.

Amanda is beginning her residency in New York when her cousin Liv whisks her off to South Africa for super secret wedding to Berkley. While there Amanda meets Mark and they have an instant connection and hot hookup. But Amanda isn't sure where this will go so she leaves things kind of causal. Once back in New York, she runs into Mark with another girl and immediately thinks the worse. She does find out that the girl was just a friend and he acted like he didn't know her because she with a guy who was just her co-worker.

She reaches out to Mark again and he invites her to a show, but while having a drink with him she sees a call or text come in from Vivian and doubts herself. So she takes off besides she is dealing with her first death as a doctor. Eventually, she runs into Mark yet again and he invites her out on the road. Amanda is on leave after the death of her patient and she decides why not.

Will Mark and Amanda get it right? Or will they keep missing the Mark with each other?

I am going to knock out my one dislike with this book first, I felt like they spent a lot of time missing each other or avoiding each other so I didn't get near as much romance as I wanted. That being said I loved Amanda, even though she is the smart doctor in training she felt like a normal person with normal insecurities. Including thinking, she wasn't good enough and not trusting a rockstar hottie.

The only other thing I kind of disliked was it felt like most of the time she was doing the work, Mark did tell her how he felt once, and of course he responded most of the time when she called or texted. But as a reader, I could see how his actions almost fed her insecurity. He didn't always make it easy on Amanda nor did he really take the time to chase her or clear up misperceptions.

Okay, maybe I did have more than one dislike, but in some ways, it made the romance more realistic, we all know guys don't always do or say the right thing. Plus we as women often fall prey to our insecurities and

flaws. So even though I disliked some of those aspects I also liked them and thought that they made the story real. So if you are looking for realistic love story to pass the afternoon away then look no further!

Suze Lavender says

Amanda doesn't know where she belongs and she's desperate to find her place in the world. She only feels at home with Rosie, who runs a very special bar with magical food, music and drinks. Amanda's friend Liv is getting married in South Africa. She's incredibly happy with her rock star boyfriend, which is something Amanda can only dream of. When she meets Mark, another musician, but less famous, Amanda allows herself to really feel for just a few days. Then she can go back to being a doctor.

Amanda tries hard to win a residency in New York. She's always had one goal in life and that is becoming a surgeon. Is that what she truly wants or is she supposed to be somewhere else doing something different? Keeping in touch with Mark is difficult, he's like a dream, but he also has fans and he's getting plenty of female attention. He can't be the man for her. Will Amanda eventually find out what she's meant to do?

Amanda has an incredibly good heart, which often overflows. She's emotional, caring and loving. She's also insecure and needs to find her place in the world. I loved reading about her search to find herself. She's determined to follow the path she's chosen many years ago, but is it still the one she should take? It was interesting to see where she would end up. Mark is a jovial guy with many friends and acquaintances. Wherever he is he's having a good time. I loved his calmness and cheerful personality. There's plenty of chemistry between the two main characters. Amanda has the tendency to run when things become too much and I kept hoping she would slow down and walk in the right direction eventually.

Believe is a lovely romantic story. It's a book that takes time to finish as it has a lot of pages, which are all definitely worth reading. It starts with a wonderful wedding and it ends like a fairytale. Amanda's journey isn't without tears and disappointment, which gives the story quite a bit of depth. I loved that she often allows herself to cry when she's emotional. She's a strong main character, she's driven, becoming a doctor is in her blood, she has dreams of her own and she never leans on anybody else. Sometimes she should let someone in though and I couldn't wait to find out what would happen if she would open her heart just a little bit more. I enjoyed reading Believe very much.

Sydney D. says

Amanda "Boots" Conrad is entering her residency and dead set on becoming a plastic surgeon. She's totally focused on the end goal and isn't going to let anything distract her. When her cousin and best friend's wedding rolls around though, she leaves New York for South Africa, letting herself have a little vacation. When sparks start to fly with Mark, best man, bass player for Berkeley and the Brightside, and lead of the new band Coconut Teazer, Boots has some rethinking to do. Does she stay the course, become a doctor and let her heart come second, or does she follow her heart and learn to have it all?

This book had some serious pros and some definite cons for me.

Pros:

It was so well written! Delahanty did a wonderful job mixing description with action (and when the "action" was well described, it was oh-so-steamy....)

Amanda, the main character, had a real job! I loved this. Amanda was serious about her career and had a realistic issue choosing between love and work.

Cons:

The love took a while. Things start out hot and heavy but then seriously sizzle out until the end.

Amanda was pretty hard-headed. I wanted her to be a little more open and less stuck in her ways. It felt a little unrealistic.

The story was super fun though and overall I had a blast reading it. At times I thought "Okay, let's get this show on the road," but in the end it was worth the wait!

Heather says

This was the first book I read in this series as it can be read as a standalone. I wish though that I had read the other books as there were situations and characters that were previously introduced throughout this book.

The only thing preventing me from giving this story 5 stars was Amanda. Her character at times truly aggravated me. She was too quick to run off and too afraid of facing what was right in front of her. She was meant to be this strong person, but her actions completely contradicted that image. I wanted her to just let her down every so often, but it took too long for her to actually do that for me.

Otherwise, an amazing book with a great story about bringing two people from completely different worlds together.

** ARC received from Netgalley **

Eva • All Books Considered says

Review originally posted at **All Books Considered: 4 STARS**

This is the third book in this series although it could be read as a standalone (note, however, that the first two are definitely a duo to be read together and in order). And yet, the same magic from the first two books continues in this one as well! I love love love Amanda -- we'd gotten to know her a bit in the first two books as being a sounding board for Liv but being inside her head felt so real. And I feel the same re: Matt. We knew him a bit from the first two books but we really get to know him in this one. The settings were so fun, too -- from Africa and its magic for the wedding to NYC where both Amanda and Matt have just moved for different reasons to being on the road together while Matt tours. Having been on the road before with a band, I can tell you that this was accurate and nostalgic and fun. I liked that this wasn't too serious because I was in the mood for that -- it was a bit more about trust and self-discovery but the romance was super cute as well.

I really think this is such a fun and funny underrated contemporary romance series -- bonus points if you like rockstar romance, too! *Believe* comes out today on October 24, 2016, and you can purchase [HERE](#).

"What is it really about?"

He thinks for a moment before responding with a smile. "I'll never tell."

"Why not?"

"I learned that from Berkeley. As a writer, once a song is released it's not yours anymore. It belongs to the listener. I don't want to change it for you; it could ruin it. Music is memories; it can transport you back in time, and that song is a moment for me--it's what I needed then-- just as it became for you what you needed then. It's yours."

Sherin says

This was my first book by Katie Delahanty and I absolutely loved it! I am currently reading her other two books too ;)

When I saw this book listed under Entangled Publishing, I knew I would love it! The cover and description were enticing too and who doesn't love Rockstars? This is the story of Amanda (the cousin of Olivia) and Mark, and their book *Believe* is the third in The Brightside Series. This can be read as a standalone and is a fairly quick read.

Amanda is a doctor and she meets Mark at her cousin's wedding ... They connect instantly ... but Amanda wants to have a career and a relationship isn't a commitment she can afford ... Mark has started his own band and things are just getting started in his career ...

Amanda was a giving character and her father, was thoroughly frustrating to say the least! *Psychic Mom* was entertaining and I loved the friendship between Berkeley (the leading character of the other books in the series) and Mark and also, the bonding between Amanda and Rosie.

I felt a few things could have been handled better like Harrison for example ... I understood Amanda's hesitation and how she wanted to choose her career but I really wanted to know what would have happened had she got the Surgeon option, which she was always vying for and if or not she would have chosen Mark had she got it. Having that said, this was an entertaining read and ideal when you don't have time for a long and drama-filled read ;)

**I was kindly provided and ARC by Entangled Publishing through Net Galley.

Paula Phillips says

Amanda Conrad aka @BootsMD's cousin Olivia Bloom aka Liv is finally getting married. After a whirlwind romance and life in the tabloids as the other woman ever since she fell head over heels and in love with the lead singer of the band Brightside Berkley. Whisked to South Africa, this is not only the trip of a lifetime as she is the maid of honor at her cousin's wedding. It is also her last trip anywhere for a while as she is about to start her residency as a Doctor and hopefully get the position in Plastics that she has been aiming for. During the wedding party, Amanda meets Mark. He is the bass player for Brightside and lately he has been trying to go his way with music and started a band called Coconut Teazer. During the trip in South Africa and a Safari hunt, Mark and Amanda connect and spend a glorious night together before reality hits, and they are both back to their real lives. Months pass and Amanda is working hard at work and Mark with his band when they run into each other, Amanda never stopped thinking of him but doesn't know if he feels the same. One thing leads to another and when a tragedy occurs - it gives Amanda an epiphany to live her life and do something spontaneous, this act leads her to head on tour with Mark (as a friend) but what happens when she knows she feels more and jealousy strikes and she ends up getting hurt. This part annoyed me as it was like a child tantrum and full-on pity party. It's like why didn't she tell Mark how she felt as HELLO he cares about her too. This last leaving pushed them both to the brink, and they left without a word to one another, and we read as they both go along with their lives, but of course something is missing for both of them. The love they had for one another. Can Mark prove to Amanda that she isn't just another notch on the bedpost and that he does love her just like Berkley and Liv do? One of my favorite parts of this book was near the last chapter when we see the final rise of Amanda and Mark's relationship. This part filled my heart with glee. I am now looking forward to heading back to the earlier two books in the series and reading more about the family and their relationships.

Amanda Sowinski says

I loved that Amanda was such a strong hearted girl who fell in love at the wrong time. She is getting ready to start her residency for plastic surgeon. This is something she wanted to do since she was a little and ended up meeting a nice surgeon. Amanda is done school and getting ready to start what is the rest of her life as a surgeon but first, her cousin is getting married to a rock star. So where is the wedding? Of course, Africa. Amanda finds this to be her last hoorah before she starts at the hospital. She shows up in Africa not expecting to fall for her cousins fiances best man- Mark. When the two hit it off at the wedding and a night alone, do they forget each other? Just be friends? Or will they build a much deeper relationship? This book is defiantly a reader. So pick it up and see if these two end up becoming the next couple to wed.

I had no idea that this book had two before it. I read the description and saw that the lead character's name is Amanda, she was becoming a doctor and there was a hot love story. Who does not love the hot love story? After going back and reading the description of the other two, I feel like you do not need to read those to read this one..

I really don't care for the whole 'Rock Star love boy' storyline but this one was different. I connected with the main character and it kept me going. I was pulling for her to be with Mark. His career had a lot to do with their love but I don't think a choice in career chance would have been good. If that makes sense.

This was a quick read and I think people who are interested in a doctor/rock star love should check this out.
