



Blue Dream

Xavier Neal

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First love. Last love. Only love. Well, at least that's how Ryder Collins thinks of the girl he lost because of his addiction ten years ago. While Ryder is battling the demons of his past to save his future, he will start to question the nightmare that has become his reality and the illusive blue dream that he swears started it all.

Blue Dream Details

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Author : Xavier Neal

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From Reader Review Blue Dream for online ebook

Dona Brown-forrest says

Blue Dream is the coming of age story that is as relatable and recognizable as your eyes seeing the truth of your soul in your own reflection.

Ryder and Presley's story is written in a fresh Oprah/Dr. Phil therapy type moment in time. The adults they have become successful for Presley, but still unfulfilled. Ryder whose self destructive but yet redeemable introspection proves he had lost his way.. not lost his sense of self or his dream of redemption.

The Journey of both Ryder and Presley is the same as most of us walked in our teenage years where our first love, not necessarily our first sexual encounter led to our dreams of a permanent marital relationship. But, like most of those dreams, the world and its harsh realities interfered, turning what should have been the dream of forever into adult dreams of what if, that keeps us awake at night, or lives in our deepest psyche that comes into our intimate protected thoughts.

Ryder and Presley had the perfect first love relationship, that is the talk of the school and their families, and at the same time envied by the same people.

When Ryder takes the advice of his father and goes against himself and his love for Presley, he loses the man he was coming into, and spirals into the man he was ashamed to be in adulthood.

Presley, becomes a shell of the woman she is coming into, and although she is now a successful adult she is missing the basic feeling of wholeness

. Both characters had something so deep, so complete, so innocent when their relationship ended they both lost a piece of themselves , the piece that holds their abilities to grow fully into who they were meant to be both individually and together.

Grab this book, share with your friends. Don't sleep this thought provoking, soul wrenching, amazingly realistic coming of age story

Michelle Rene says

It isn't very often that you pick up a book and from the first paragraph know that you are going to suffer from a book hangover. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that's a bad thing. in fact I was pretty much due for a book hangover. Xavier Neal delivered in spades.

Ryder and Presley's story is tragic and beautiful. It's also proof that true love never dies, it just lies dormant until those involved are ready to accept their destiny.

Sarah Greenwood says

OMG OMG OMG I absolutely loved this book! Right from the first chapter I was hooked and knew that if I didn't have to get up early for work the next day I would have read all night – as it was I read till midnight anyway. Slightly panicking now though as have to wait till February for the next part. I'm not sure I can wait that long! So if you don't like waiting between books then I would hold off until you can read both back to back.

A very cleverly laid out story of two halves told from both Presley and Ryder's perspectives. They show what they are doing in present day and how both their lives have turned out. Then take us back to the past to where everything began and how because of one moment the path they were on changed forever. A trip down memory lane if you will, however not all memories remembered are good ones. Such a gritty, heart wrenching story that draws you in and refuses to let you go – not that I wanted it to.

The relationship that Ryder and Presley had as teens was electric and you can see why they would be addicted to each other. Both were very easily led in how they thought they should act in the 'school environment' though which ultimately caused problems. No matter what obstacles were in their way they were always going to be drawn together. Ryder doesn't realise until now he's getting help though that when you are constantly chasing the next high you start losing yourself within.

Ryder is back in rehab and Doc, his shrink, is trying to help him through the last part of his programme before he can (or if he can) be released. He is getting him to think back to what the catalyst for his downward spiral of substance abuse was. To find the point where everything started to go wrong for him and by extension his relationship with Presley. He is the first person that Ryder feels actually wants to know and so it helps him begin to tell his story for the first time. Admitting things to Doc, and at times to himself, for the first time. He breaks it down for Doc, telling him about his first high, something so sweet that nothing could compare. She's that one high he will never truly give up – no matter what. His first high was Presley, his very own Blue Dream and he destroyed her.

Presley has never really dealt with her past relationship with Ryder. It's not until her best friend asks for her help with her new book that she has a chance to look back and see it all in a different light. Her friend is using her past relationship as a base for what women find themselves doing for love. It's only after reliving the past that she truly sees how much it affected her then and still affects her now. She questions her current relationship because of it and wonders whether she will always hold out for the love that said he would always be there for her. Someone who said they would find their way back to her, and them, no matter what. How far would you go to save the one you love before you realise they have to want to save themselves first or your both be lost.

Love the ending so much as it gives you a great starting off point for what's to come next. Presley has some decisions to make and from the sneak peak preview at the end of the book it looks like her past might soon meet her present. Love the authors' style of writing and how she draws you in effortlessly into the story. Can't wait for the next one!

I received this ARC from the author for my honest review.

<https://readingnook84.wordpress.com/2...>

Gina says

OMG

Out of all the books I've read by Ms. Neal this has to be best one Hopefully i want have to wait to long for the next part!

Tanya says

I received an arc in exchange for an honest review.

Oh Lordy, where do I begin. This book broke my heart, made it palpate, and then left me with hope that there is an HEA coming in the sequel. Blue Dream switches perspectives between Ryder and Presley. Ryder is in rehab, trying to work through the pain that led to his addiction, as well as forgiving himself for hurting the one person that meant the most to him, his first love, Presley.

Presley, in helping her friend write a novel, agrees to talk about her first love, the roller coaster of their relationship, which causes her to assess her present day loveless relationship.

I love the depth of the characters, I love the pain and loss, I love that the relationship is interracial, and the magnitude of their addiction to one another. The only thing I don't love, is that I must wait for the sequel to come out. So yes, if you're not a fan of sequels, wait until this one is complete. But it will be well worth it.

Amber says

In feeling so many ways after finishing this book. Review to come.

Danielle says

This is an amazing, emotional read by the talented Xavier Neal.

Ryder and Presley were high school sweethearts. They were making plans for college and beyond always with the assumption they would be together. But Ryder's need for acceptance by his father caused him to break things off with Presley, thus beginning the downward spiral his life would take. The pain and loss that were impossible to deal with, only became bearable for Ryder with the help of drugs and alcohol.

During his most recent stint in rehab, 10 years later, Ryder finally has a therapist that will make him take a hard look at the decisions he made and learn to forgive himself and move forward. Will he be able to stay clean this time and make amends for the wrongs he committed?

Even though Presley has been very successful in her professional life, she has never moved on in her personal life. She is living with her boyfriend but knows she doesn't love him, staying because it's safe and comfortable. But when her best friend makes her answer some tough questions about her lost first love, Presley finds it difficult to accept the loveless relationship any longer.

Will Ryder and Presley take back control over their personal lives even if it means letting go of the past once and for all?

This is a beautiful story. There are parts that are certainly painful to read but unfortunately, that is part of dealing with addiction and the pain it causes. Even though Ryder made some bad choices in his life, I couldn't help but fall for him and hope that this stint in rehab would be the turning point in his life. I loved the dual POV in this story and getting to know the very different lives the two main characters were leading.

Xavier Neal continues to amaze me with her ability to write any type of book and draw me in every time! I look forward to the continuation of Ryder and Presley's story in Purple Haze!!

Sandra Shipman ~ Two Book Pushers says

Blue Dream is the first novel I have read by Xavier Neal and I am now a fan! The way she wrote the story was unique and an amazing way for us to get to know Ryder and Presley...

Ryder lost the love of his life ten years ago and since that day he has never found a bigger high. He has been chasing that high for the last ten years and once again he is in rehab. He was never comfortable enough to speak to his counselors but then his new one was different, he was older, blunt, intimating, tattooed and had smokes. Throughout the book you will hear Ryder's side of the story about his past with Presley along with his present life. It's not all butterflies and daisies but it's beautiful and heartbreaking.

Presley lost herself ten years ago. She changed when Ryder left her out of nowhere. She didn't understand it but tried her best to get passed it. She had hoped it wasn't the end. You will also hear about Presley's side of their relationship because she helping a friend with a project but will it also help her in the future? She still isn't herself, she hasn't been living just existing when it comes to her current relationship.

I thought the way this story was told was perfect. It was easy to follow and engaging. It was a great way to get to know the characters and how their pasts have impacted their present. They both lost themselves ten years ago and need to figure out a way to find themselves again. This isn't the end of the story...

Overall...They had a beautiful relationship that was lost. The story is beautiful, heartbreaking and frustrating. I awed, laughed, cried and wanted to slap the shit out of Ryder at more than one point. But, I still love him. The real him is pretty awesome.

Quotes:

"You were my first addiction, my sweetest high."

Black sheep to them, shining star to her.

The love I have for Ryder Collins may be dormant, but it is by no means dead. Merely lost.

Faye Errington says

What can I say about Blue Dream ????......

I NEED BOOK 2 LIKE NOW !!!!!!!

WOW Xavier you did good yet again ;)

another awesome book... I don't think I've read a book of yours that I haven't absolutely loved....

And I loved Blue Dream.. like always, it has left me speechless

... that's a good thing :)

Blue Dream is a 2 part series, this book kind of ends on a bloody HUGE cliff-hanger

... That's why I need book 2 like yesterday

Ryder is the main male lead...

Ryder... Oh poor Ryder

he is in rehab battling his addictions... and is meeting regularly with a in house counsellor to talk through his feelings... which is how we get a real deep look at what demons he is dealing with... and we really get to know how lost and wounded he is :(

I just loved Ryder... he is hurting and battling with a lot of crap in his life, and he is now living and dealing with the consequences of using drugs to help numb all the hurt and sorrow in his soul.... basically he has been in one big drugged up state to keep his mind and body from feeling

he has numbed himself for years and is now taking the leap to fight his addiction and finally confront the heartbreak he has held onto from hurting and losing the love of his life years ago.... he has never forgiven himself for breaking Presley's heart, the girl he gave his heart too many years ago

Even though at times I wanted to give him a smack and tell him to sort himself out !!!!

I just couldn't help but love the lost, broken heart-breaking man he is..

Presley is kind of living her life on pause...

she has a great if very boring/vanilla husband, a great business and a lovely home.... but the spark from her marriage has long gone... if it was ever really there to begin with...

and she feels kind of lost

Pres and Ryder were childhood sweethearts.... they were soul mates

they had promised each other forever, planned out their lives together... marriage, kids.. the whole white picket fence future together

Until one day out of the total blue Ryder (the dick) shatters their dreams and breaks Presley's heart !!!

Now both living totally different lives they haven't seen each other since... but they both still absolutely love each other, they are meant for each other and no one can ever replace the other....

They are both in totally different places/stages in their lives.... and they both now lead really different lives.....

Presley's heart was shattered by Ryder and it will never fully heal from the heartbreak he caused... so how could she ever forgive the man that broke her????

What will happen when they meet again after many years apart... can she ever forgive him for all the hurt and pain he caused???

WELL WE HAVE TO WAIT TIL THE NEXT BLOODY BOOK TO FIND OUT !!!! GRRRRRR

Even though ends on a cliffy I am so happy I read it :)

The plot was really original, well thought out and the story flow was seamless....

Yet another EPIC book by Xavier

Its a MUST READ... as are all her books if I'm honest

I cant recommend Blue Dream enough... READ IT !!!!

99* read.. haha I took off 1* for the bloody cliff-hanger

Ok Xavier... I NEED BOOK 2 NOW :D

She's a Lip Biter says

3.5 Star Review

An ARC was received for an HONEST REVIEW

This book jumps back and forth between past and present and is written in 2 POV's. I can honestly say that I enjoyed the book and need to find out what happens to Ryder and Presley next.

I am in two minds about Ryder, having grown up in the situation he did I feel does not excuse him of his behaviour. I was rooting for Presley throughout the whole book and felt real empathy for her character.

This is a book about addiction and what it does to those who suffer and those who love them. If that sounds like something you want to read then this book is for you.

Musings of A Romance Junkie says

Shit, this was a depressing read. Given the subject matter, I kinda expected it, but damn, I feel so empty after finishing it. Xavier Neal is a great writer, and this is definitely something new and different. Like her other books, her characters are flawed, but not fucked up like this guy, whew! Drugs are bad mkay?

Told through a series of flashbacks intermingled with present day, Ryder Collins is given one last chance at redemption. He's in a rehab center where he is not only ridding his body of all the poison he's ingested over the years, but facing all the shit that drove him to it to begin with. Presley Morrison is the love of his life, and his Blue Dream. Their addiction to one another soon becomes the gateway drug to other addictions when they can no longer have each other.

Warning: Their story is not complete. This is just the setup for all the things to come. It ends on a mild cliffhanger, but if you can get through this story, then you definitely want to stick with the series, because I have a feeling Ryder and Presley's story will only get better once book 2, Purple Haze drops.

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

I finished this book a few days ago and I'm still trying to get the words together to give this book a review that it deserves.

This story is told through Ryder and Presley's point of view and switches from past to present.

I'm not going to say anything about the storyline. What I will say is this book had me grabbing the tissues and the alcohol.

Knowing that this story is based on true life events gutted me even more.

I absolutely loved everything about this book- even the cliffhanger as it gives me an excuse to re read this when book two comes out.

Xavier you rock. Amazing read.

Rachel says

Why on earth was she still with him after he dumps her? Total spineless doormat. The H dumps the h because his father told him to sow his oats, he proceeds to start seeing a new girl at school and rub it in her face, she for some reason starts sneaking around with him cheating on his now girlfriend. He sticks up for his new girlfriend when she and the h get into a spat, telling her that her pussy smells like crabs in front of a group of people at a party and that the new girlfriend will always be better than her and yet she's still sneaking around with him. She only leaves him when he attacked her while high on drugs, knocking her unconscious.

He was a total selfish dick and really not worth the time and effort she put in. She was a spineless turd and needed to run far away from him.

R.J. Nicolson says

I received this book for and honest review.

My mind went into overload while reading this book its like nothing Ive ever read before. The characters are so different and incredible appealing, the story line goes above and beyond the norm. the writing is both captivating and intense. I have nothing bad to say about it.

Ryder is in his own hell fighting more than just addiction, he's fighting his own feelings.
Presley has settled, settled into a life she's not even sure she wants.

Both share their story.

Don't expect to not get swallowed up within the pages of this book, I can assure you that when this book ends you will be desperate for book 2. I am, I need to know what happens between these characters.
Xavier has once again blown me away with her writing I'm excited for what she does next.

Jai says

This book was absolutely incredible! It really goes in depth on what it's like to be in love, want love and the demons that afflict individuals with an addiction. This is a must read!
