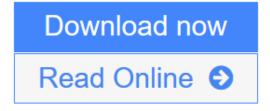


# Life on Hold

Karen McQuestion



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Rae Maddox's mom, Gina, thinks nothing of packing up and moving. New apartment, new town, new job-it's all an adventure to Gina, but for Rae, each move is just one more friend lost, one more chance to feel like an outsider. When they arrive in Wisconsin, Gina promises to stay put until Rae graduates. Cautiously optimistic, she wades into the social whirl at Whitman High School, making a few friends and even earning a chance at love.

But when the vice principal pairs her with a new student, Allison Daly, things go bad in a big way. It seems Allison was orphaned after her parents died in a suspicious house fire, leaving their daughter to bounce between relatives' homes. When a sleepover at Rae's house goes terribly wrong, Rae sees a troubling side of Allison--and learns a few secrets about her own mother in the process. Suddenly Rae is at risk of losing everything and everyone she cares about--unless she steps up and takes charge of her life once and for all.

## Life on Hold Details

Date: Published (first published December 4th 2009)ISBN:Author: Karen McQuestionFormat: Kindle Edition 198 pagesGenre: Young Adult, Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Coming Of Age, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Life on Hold for online ebook

## Nenette says

The book talks about the teen years, stability, single motherhood, friendship, parenting. All of us can benefit from this. Though it has its merits, I find it a bit too shallow for adults. A good read for high school kids, though. I'm onto another McQuestion book after this (my third) and that should decide if I will buy more of her books.

## L.A. says

Article first published as Book Review: Life on Hold by Karen McQuestion on Blogcritics.

Life if sometimes really messed up when you are a teenager. Your parents don't understand what you are going through. You can't argue and win because they have all the answers. What Rae Maddox had a problem with, was moving. Every time she would just get settled in a new school, it was time to move on. Her mom was pretty cool but it was definitely something that created an issue for her. Because she handled it all with aplomb, her mom never really understood. At her current school, she has a couple of people that she hangs out with. She does not call them friends because then she will be moving and lose more people that are close to her. The pain is too much, and she will just have to start again.

Kylie and Mason are the group she hangs with, but Blake and his friends are the, "cool Kids." She is just not a part of that crowd. So when she is singled out by her principle to help a new student adjust she does not understand. She is still feeling her own way to belonging, but as usual, she goes with the flow. The new student Allison is quiet and standoffish. Rae struggles with finding a common ground. When she finds out that Allison's parents just recently died in a fire, she tries very hard to understand. Allison is Blake's cousin, but he goes out of his way to treat her rudely and taunt her. When Allison meets Rae's mother, Rae is unsure how she feels about the bonding that occurs.

What Rae does not realize is that Allison is hiding her wounds; she is not mentally capable of dealing with her parent's death. The unkindness of her cousin Blake and her difficulty fitting in, just pile more stones upon an already fragile ego. When Allison disappears, no one understands what has happened. Searching her heart, Rae believes she understands where Allison may have gone. Will she find her before it is too late?

In Life on Hold, Karen McQuestion has taken the horrifying events that occasionally happen in life and used it to build a lesson of understanding. The characters are very much like teenagers everywhere. Life happens all around them, but they only plug into what shows on the surface. There are often deep waters lurking in the shadows of their minds that are unplumbed. As with most kids, making fun and scoring off someone else often gets you laughs, but those laughs are often painful to the person on the other end.

Rae is a young woman with a heart, growing up without her father, but with a mother's undivided attention has given her a different view of life. Trying to put herself in Allison's place, she tries to be kinder to her. However, Allison herself makes it difficult. Can Rae reach deep within herself to find the solution to Allison's disappearance. Will she be too late to save her?

I would recommend this book for the young adult reader. It is a harrowing look at what can happen when a teenager's pain goes unnoticed. It is an eye opening look at challenges, which sometimes seem

insurmountable. I believe it would be a great book to open dialog and create discussion. McQuestion puts together a realistic and fast-paced look at life.

This book was received free from the author. All opinions are my own based off me reading and understanding of the material.

## Lestat says

#### It's so/so

It was interesting enough to finish, but it really wasn't exciting at all. But, it was a quick and well written read.

## Nikki Pennington says

This was just an okay book. A quick read and not a bad story at all, I just think I've read so many amazing books the past couple weeks this one just didn't hold a candle to those!

## Laura says

Easy read--something I would have loved when I was in high school. Fortunately, I still love those kinds of books!

## **Diane U says**

This book was great! This is the second book that I have read by Karen McQuestion. I totally enjoyed it! It was longer than the last one I read (Favorite) so the characters were more developed. I really felt a connection with Rae and all of her friends. I would totally recommend this book to anyone.

## **Jennifer Peavler says**

#### A feel good book about a teen figuring out life

I really enjoyed this book. It might be fiction but it is full of reality of the life of high school kids! Angst, depression, bullying, feeling lonely, and being part of a group, as well as being wise despite your youth. This book has it all!

## **Becky Knapp says**

#### Life on hold until finished

The book is really good but in the end it reads like it is unfinished or they're is going to be a next book. It is just like a tv show that wants to leave you wanting more so you keep watching. Really wished it had not doe that.

## **Beth Hudspeth says**

Short, but pretty good! I enjoyed the characters!

## Amy:) says

Easy read. I enjoyed it.

## Carol S Tikkanen says

#### Life on Hold

I enjoyed this story immensely. It was not all that many pages but it came together nicely. Mom and her daughter, Rae got along fairly well during her teenage years until Rae found a boyfriend. Then all the feelings came out as Rae was tired of moving with all the changes she had to make. I would recommend it if you like a family oriented book.

### **Roberta J.Hackett says**

#### The future looks good

Despite many adversity's there is a lesson to be learned in this young persons life . Compassion for others , never giving up on your dreams, and staying true to yourself and your values.

### **Emily says**

I thought this book was an excellent addition to my "just read" shelf. The burning question I had throughout the book, and was surprised it was never answered, was why did Rae call her mom by her first name? If this question was answered in the book and I simply overlooked it, please tell me why this was. All in all great read.

## Javonne knight says

#### \*\*\*

I loved this book I can really relate to the story line if you've even been forced to up and move from a place to place and never seem to fit in then you will understand rae's pain

## Jan Shuyler says

#### Love her books!

She writes stories that are real, making you feel like you are living in the story, not just reading a story. Her characters all come to life and draw you in. If you like Catherine Ryan Hyde you will like Karen McQuestion! Suitable for adults and young readers alike, always happy to ignore what I should be doing to finish one of her books! All thumbs up!