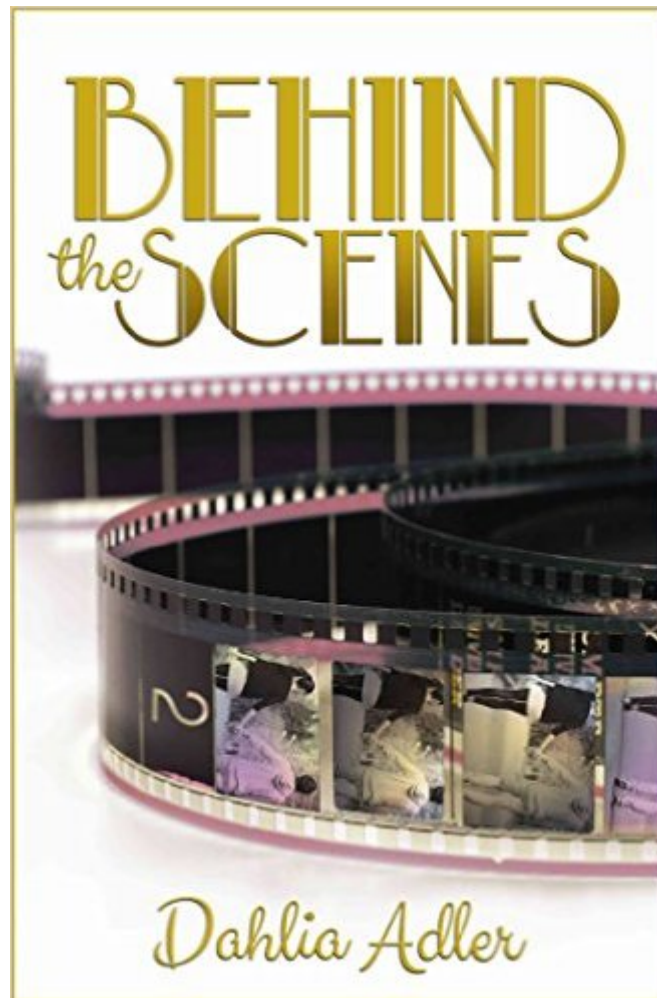


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# Behind The Scenes (Daylight Falls)



## 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.

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 7 - 9

## Customer Reviews

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?

You know how some books make you swoon and cry and yell at the characters and at the end you have this goofy smile on your face and just want to hug the book and never let go? That's this book. BEHIND THE SCENES is at the same time the incredibly swoony and delicious love story every girl wished she could experience/could have experienced as a teenager "falling for the gorgeous famous guy everyone has pictures of in their lockers and having him fall for you even harder" and the story of a girl "growing into herself and dealing with difficult stuff at home and just trying to come out of it in one piece. What else do I love about this book? -The friendship between Ally and Van "I love seeing real friends in books. Not frenemies, not rivals "best friends who would do anything for each other. -The behind the scenes ;) sneak peek into the world of young Hollywood, for better and for worse "fascinating and SO fun. -The humor "I was laughing so hard at parts of this book. The characters are so witty and compelling and three-dimensional that I loved reading about even the ones I was supposed to dislike. -Liam. Enough said, right? (Seriously though, if you are looking for a hot guy who's also nice but a little bit troubled and it just makes him even hotter "here you go.) And if nothing else, read for Liam's abs. Totally worth it.

My Review I was lucky enough to win an ARC of Behind the Scenes from the Flyleaf Review, thanks again to them! I hadn't heard much about it before reading it, but I had recently started following Dahlia on Twitter and reading her blog and really loved her sense of humor. Let's talk about reading styles for a second, ok? Normally, I read books in pieces, 50 pages here and there. A lot of that is I don't have the time to read a lot at once, but sometimes it's just fine to take a break from a book and do some other things. You guys, I read this book basically in one sitting. If you would have seen me, you would have laughed your butts off. I cooked dinner with the book in one hand, spatula in the other. I mumbled generic answers to my kids so I could ship them off to bedtime and keep reading. After I got them in bed, I stayed in one spot on the couch for two more hours until I finished. It was so so good. I don't throw around 5 star ratings easily, because when I give one, I really want it to matter. This is a 5 star book. It's been rare for me recently to find really good contemporary books, and I was so happy when this one blew me away. In fact, I've been contemplating re-reading it now, lol. Enough gushing, let me tell you guys why I loved it so much; spoiler free I promise! Ally is a senior in high school and she's got it all planned out. She's going to graduate with excellent grades and go to Columbia.

After taking French for years, she's dreaming of doing her semester abroad in her junior year in Paris. So when her father's serious illness and medical bills are going to take away her college fund, she needs a way to make some extra money. After growing up with Van, an up and coming teen star in Hollywood, Ally is pretty jaded when it comes to the Hollywood lifestyle. When Van convinces her to become her assistant, Ally is sure that it will just be an easy job spending time with her best friend and making some cash as well. She didn't really count on Liam. Ally is pretty sure that Liam is just like all the other ridiculously good looking actors; a pretty face and no substance. So when she catches him studying for the SAT, he suddenly becomes a lot more interesting in her eyes. Ally didn't count on having to share her crush with Van though, especially when Van has to publicly date Liam for the popularity of her show. Even though Ally was sure she wasn't going to get sucked into the drama of Hollywood, her life suddenly gets a lot more complicated.

**What I Loved**  
**The Hollywood setting** - I'm not ashamed to say I like some celebrity gossip sometimes. It's always intriguing to think of how the rich and famous live and I loved that as a setting for this book. You see the behind the scenes of how a tv show runs, and what an assistant is responsible for (even if you're friends with the talent!). I also really liked how we got to see the power struggles of who gets roles and how getting or missing a part affects these stars lives. It was also really interesting to get the flip side of the story in how stars must get frustrated by being judged by their looks before anyone really gets to know them.

**Van** - I loved loved loved that Dahlia Adler made Van Korean. It was so great to see a POC in this book, and especially as a tv star. It was even better that she tried to give us a glimpse of the struggles of working in an industry that highly favors the white, blonde actresses. Van is also an awesome friend to Ally and their relationship is a huge part of the book.

**Liam** - Ugh. I wanted to hate him at first. Just like Ally, judging him because of his six-pack, brown hair, blue eyes. . . sorry, got distracted. He is so so swoonworthy. He's had his struggles, but he's a smart, loyal guy who actually wants to learn French! I know, I know. Perfect.

**The importance of family**- A major part of the story line is Ally's dad's illness and how their family deals with it. It really felt like an honest portrayal of how each person in the family treated her dad, and how someone who is seriously ill almost becomes their illness.

**THE WRITING**- You guys. I was only at about page 50, and I had already laughed out loud several times. That just doesn't happen that much with me. Dahlia has a really fun writing style that stands out in the dialogue. I could picture the conversations like they were happening right in front of me. I love Ally forever for her snappy one-liners and quick comebacks. She says all the things that I would love to say, instead of thinking of them two hours later! If you don't pick up this book for any other reason, get it for the

writing. It is just so well done, you suddenly realize your butt is numb and you've sat in the same place for two hours without even noticing. The romance - Dahlia sets up a very real, believable romance in this book. It's sweet and romantic, but it's also realistic. The problems that are encountered in the book are very authentic, I never once felt like drama was just added to make the story more exciting. I think I might want my own Liam! I feel like this review might not be doing the book justice! If you're looking for a totally engrossing contemporary YA that will make you laugh out loud, swoon and forget about your to do list, this is for you. I can honestly say it's the best contemporary book I've read this year, and if you buy one book based on my recommendation, it should be this one. Go forth and buy people! If you liked this review, you can read more over at [...]

Full disclosure: Initially, I didn't particularly want to read this book because I thought the premise was not my cup of tea. But I've read the author's blog/Twitter feed for years, so I decided to buy it this week when it came. I'm so glad I did. Behind the Scenes was funny and charming. I loved the relationships Ally had with her family members (no disappearing parents here!) and her best friend Vanessa. Liam was utterly believable as a down-to-earth teen heartthrob. And I loved Josh, because who doesn't love a jerk who delivers some serious straight-talk? (Ok, that might just be me...) If you like contemporary YA or romance, you should check out Behind the Scenes.

Dahlia's book is SO FREAKING FRESH. Her characters are flawed and hilarious and smart and incredibly developed--don't let the Hollywood plot fool you. This story has depth and grit and heart by the tons. She's written a book that I will read again and again, anytime I want to laugh and cringe and smile. So great. Also, #liamsabs

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