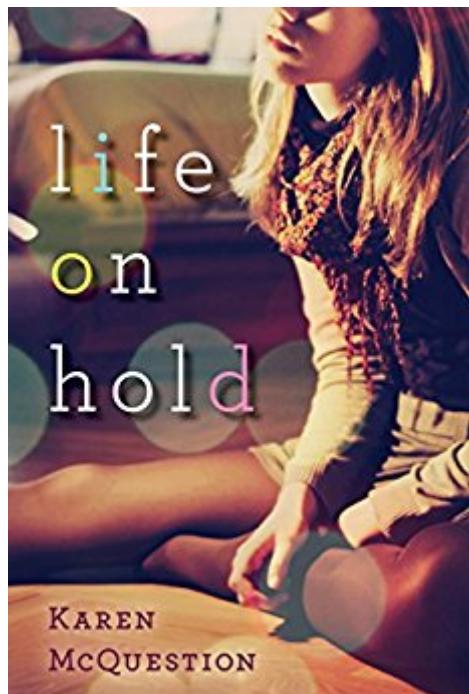


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# Life On Hold



## Synopsis

A beautiful and engaging story about realizing what is important in life and following your heart. Rae Maddox's mom, Gina, thinks nothing of packing up and moving. New apartment, new town, new job--all of it is 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 graduation. Cautiously optimistic, Rae 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.

## Book Information

File Size: 443 KB

Print Length: 197 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1935597272

Publisher: Skyscape (April 1, 2011)

Publication Date: April 1, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004519PFG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #34,943 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Social Issues > Self Esteem #9

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness > Mental Illness #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

## Customer Reviews

This was a beautiful coming of age story about Rae, a young girl that decides she is tired of a life of being shuffled around at the whim of her flaky mother from small town to small town all over the country, never laying down permanent roots. She allows herself to form more lasting friendships and even a romance as she decides that this time things will be different. This is a beautiful and engaging story about realizing what is important in life and following your heart. Well written and enjoyable!! Karen McQuestion is undoubtedly one of the best new authors around!!!!!!!

Life on Hold is a moving story of understanding, empathy, and maturity as 15-year old Rae and her nomadic mother both have some growing up to do. Forced to move to a new place almost every year, Rae desperately wants roots, a sense of family, and a place to belong. Although she tries to make herself invisible and stay out of trouble, two seemingly insignificant incidents lead to her being paired with a troubled new student. As Rae reluctantly shows Allison around the school and introduces her to her two friends, she really just wants to finish this duty and go back to her normal routine, but Allison's stories don't add up and Rae is curious to discover the truth of Allison's traumatic past. Rae and her mother reach out to Allison and try to help her to heal and Rae finally allows herself to both be a good friend and to open up more to others. Helping Allison also enables Rae and her mother to face some long-lasting problems in their relationship and to reach a new understanding of one another. Great character development and growth, realistic dialogue, and a touching storyline. Highly recommend!

A beautiful coming of age book, for both young girls and mothers alike. This is a great book that really forces you to open your eyes to your own life and relationships in a whole new way. It was a great coming of age story and fun to read. What a great read and the author is very insightful!

This was a great quick read and a bargain at \$1.99! I've started to read the second in the series and sadly it is very similar.

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

The mother-daughter relationship between Rae and Gina reminded me a lot of the movie "Anywhere but here" with Natalie Portman - the reasonable, shy teenager and her extravert mother. This story completely threw me off track (in a good way). I thought the story was going to be about Rae being dragged from one town to another, but it's really about Alison's character. Rae is so unassuming and lonely - but she discovers there's a lot worse off than she is when Alison arrives in her high school. Alison is secretive to the point of seeming rude and a snob. But somehow Raes' friends and mother take interest in her (miserable people tend to have that effect). Rae doesn't know what to think, between Alison's sometimes manipulative attitudes and the very different account about her she hears from the school's bully, with whose family Alison lives. Little by little, Rae puts together bits and pieces of Alison's past. Tension builds up as a major crisis later, everything comes to light. This was not your typical teenage girls' story (by that I mean it's no juvenile version of Sex and the City - there's no clothes or hairstyle chats between girlfriends). It is, however, a story about nothing being quite what it seems on the surface, and how other human beings are mysterious worlds of their own - and how difficult it is to fit in as a teenager. It's a good story. It's not tragic, it's not full of humour or suspense, it's more life-like - and I liked it!

Life On Hold was the first Young Adult novel I read by Karen McQuestion after falling in love with two of her Adult novels. She is on par with other YA Authors of this genera like Sarah Dessen. The story is about a 15 year old girl who, along with her slightly flighty mother, moves every time the going gets tough. Now, she is 45 minutes away from the only other family she knows, her Grandparents who are so welcoming they even have a bedroom for her at their house. Her own bedroom where she can keep anything she wants while her mother drags her around the country. After her mother promised they would stay in one place for the next two and a half years so Rae can graduate from High School where they currently life, Rae finally lets her guard down and begins to make a few friends. Being the smart, responsible kid she is known to be, her Vice Principal matches her up with another new student who could use some help learning her way around the school. This opens Rae up to friendships she has never experienced before and pushes her to learn to stand up for herself to her mother. Karen McQuestion has a knack for telling a story through a teenager's eye without making the reader feel like she is reading someone's diary. I was hooked at the start of the book and didn't want to put it down until the story was finished. She has a way of neatly wrapping up the story lines so the book feels complete and well rounded. I recommend this book to any teenage girl or woman looking for a heartfelt coming of age story.

Fifteen year old Rae is the new girl in school. Almost ever year. Her single mother Gina isn't fond of setting down roots. Enter Allison, another new girl--a girl with a secret. Recently orphaned in a house fire, she has retreated inward and just might be more of an outcast than Rae. What follows is a story about an unlikely friendship, as Rae struggles to come to terms with her relationship with her mother, tries to befriend Allison, who just may be an arsonist, and maybe fall in love. This is Karen McQuestion's best work. The characters are multifaceted, they're easy to root for, and realistic. I like books that I don't want to put down, because I can't wait to see what happens next and LIFE ON HOLD is just such a book. I gave the book 4 rather than 5 stars because I reserve 5 star ratings for books I can't wait to reread, and I didn't feel that way about LIFE ON HOLD. Still, it's a great read.

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