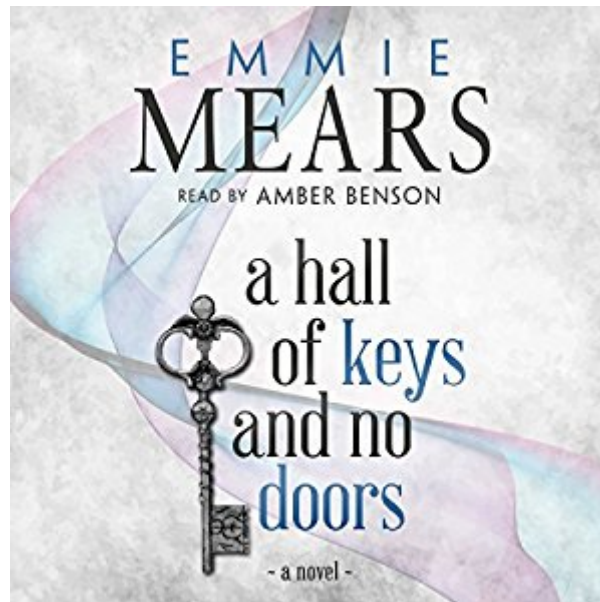


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# A Hall Of Keys And No Doors



## Synopsis

Ella Keyes thought the death of her twin brother, Stuart, was the last time she'd let life surprise her. She's up for tenure at her university, she escaped a doomed engagement, and her fluffy cat knows exactly when to expect her home every day. But when her grandmother passes and leaves Ella her house, Ella discovers that the third-floor corridor of keys is more than just a family pun. The seemingly unremarkable keys don't unlock any doors in the house, but each time Ella touches one, something in her life shifts. Her life's carefully grown roots are ripped out of their soil. Flowers bloom in the middle of a Buffalo winter. A blind date with the wrong person ends up being just maybe the right one. Her grandmother's batty twin sister turns up every day searching for something even she doesn't know how to identify, and Ella's parents refuse to return her calls. Worse, she finds trinkets from Stuart everywhere she goes, ghosts of a game they used to play. The leash she's kept on life's surprises for three years has snapped, and Ella will have to learn that the road to peace starts with letting go of control and that sometimes the best family you have is the family you build.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Hall of Keys and No Doors is the sort of work that can only be written by someone with scar tissue on their heart. Mears has a fantastic ability to convey the strange contours of pain and loss in ways that are real (and occasionally funny). The author has a way of writing characters that feel both whimsical and deep, evoking the sensation of a drifting through a long, sad dream before waking up to a bright autumn morning. Would highly recommend to anyone who desires an offbeat but

powerfully-written story to pass through the doldrums of the early Fall.

I don't know how Emmie Mears managed it, but they wrote a book that managed to keep me up late at night for the first time in years! Sometime over my life of reading, my superhuman ability to fall asleep slowed my reading pace painfully. But with *A Hall of Keys and No Doors*, I was up late reading the entire book in two nights. I only stopped reading the first night because I knew it was getting ridiculously late, but I tossed and turned with the agony of not picking my kindle back up. The tension on this book never lets up. Ella, the protag, suffers every inch down the page, through both her external circumstances and her personal decisions. And yet somehow Emmie Mears managed to pull Ella back from the precipice of insanity just enough to keep me hopeful throughout the book. I'm normally a Space Opera fan, but a few months ago I read an article by the author on *Terrible Minds* and wanted to read more of their voice. The writing is well-crafted, simple enough to get out of the way but fanciful enough to accompany the magic that sparkles through the story. It's a story about a supernatural mystery, but more it's a story about relationships, and about finding oneself and one's true friends through tragedy.

This book is amazing. Loss and grief has been much in the forefront this year and this book addressed them in such a wonderful way. All of the characters had great depth. Events happened in a very real, human way (I mean, besides the magical stuff...) And, as ever, I appreciate not only the inclusion of LGBTQ+ characters, but the lack of their demise. I have ever been a fan of Emmie Mears, and I dare say their books keep getting better and better. I cannot wait for further works by this talented author.

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