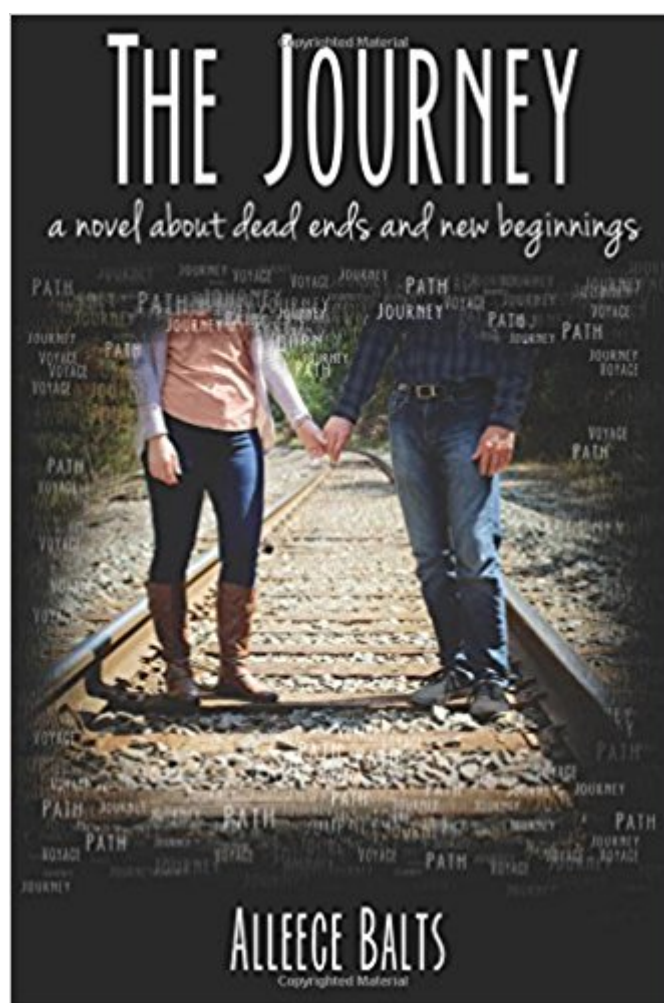


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The Journey: A Novel About Dead Ends And New Beginnings (The Crowd Series) (Volume 2)



Synopsis

How do you keep moving forward when the path you're on comes to an end? At nineteen years old, Ella Parker is a star on the rise. With her vocal training at Juilliard underway, she's more than prepared for a glittering performance career with the rock band Wicked Youth, and eagerly anticipating the prospect of accepting an engagement ring from her billionaire boyfriend. Someday. But when she collapses on stage during a summer concert and receives a chilling diagnosis, the promise of someday suddenly slips away. Forced to confront her darkest fears, Ella must not only find the courage to go on after her once certain future has disappeared, but also find the strength to track down her runaway friend, Lucas, before time runs out. More intense and suspenseful than its predecessor, *The Journey* is an adventure brimming with romance, heartache, hope and grace in seasons of victory and - ultimately - bravery in moments of defeat.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alleece Balts is an American YA fiction author best known for her debut novel, *The Crowd*, the first in a trilogy she is currently penning. When she's not writing, you can find her studying the Bible, reading a novel with a strong heroine, or drinking (another) chai tea. Alleece lives in Minneapolis with her cheesehead husband, three sticky children, a spoiled cat, and a shamelessly flatulent dog. Visit her on the Web at ww.alleecebalts.wordpress.com.

I've been looking forward to this book ever since reading "The Crowd". I was lucky enough to get an

advanced copy and read it over a weekend. The plot kept twisting in different directions and I couldn't put it down until I knew what was happening! The book is full of adventures, hope, loss and heartache. At times I wanted to cry along with the characters and then burst out laughing the next moment from Jack's little sayings. It was fun too watch the characters grow up and learn how planning for the future is not that easy and finding your way requires prayer and support from those around you. I also loved that the book is full of love and romance while maintaining Christian morals. I can't wait for my daughter to be able to read this series when she's a little older, she's only 7 now, and especially for the next book in the series for me!

I received an advanced copy of this book and I am telling you... I couldn't put it down! I literally read it in less than a day. I have been dying to find out what happened next to Ella and the rest of the beloved characters and I was not disappointed. I loved Ella as a character before but in *The Journey* she became so much deeper and inspiring. It is impossible not to wish that she lived next door. This book was both a fun and easy read as well as thought provoking and challenging. So grab a snack and snuggle up because you are not going to want to put this one down.

Another compelling story, beautifully written and hard to put down. Can't wait for the third!

I received an ARC in exchange for my honest review. Reading this book was such an incredible journey for me. It didn't take me long to get into it; the questions I asked along the way kept me going until the very end. I won't list any so that I don't ruin the story for others. The themes that are weaved throughout are very enjoyable as well. "All the way." "Man of action." Ella and her hiccups. All of these things make for carefully crafted characters and stories, and each time they come back and remind me of who that character is, I smile. Alleece does a wonderful job with words - she paints a picture with all of the senses, not just one. Her words made me laugh and cry along with the characters. My favorite thing in this book that made me laugh throughout is the little sayings by Jack. I don't know where she comes up with these things, but they often made me giggle out loud! And then there are the serious parts, too, with meaningful lessons learned by the characters and passed onto the reader. This book is just so rich - a must read! I can't wait for the next one.

I received an advanced copy, and I really enjoyed this sequel to *The Crowd*! If you're looking for clean but engaging young adult fiction I highly recommend this book. Like the description says, it is more suspenseful than the first! There were times it was a little sappy for me (but not nearly as

much as, say, Twilight...) but then I remembered what I was like and what I enjoyed when I was 19 - I would have lapped this up for sure. I'm 34 now and I still loved it. So I think it's a great book for anyone age 14 and up! I read it in a week and at times couldn't put it down. It's a really good story and did not at all go where I expected it to go after the ending of the first book. I think it's very realistic, as a Christian novel, about the true feelings and emotions of a young couple in love, and how it's possible to acknowledge and embrace those as healthy, but not waver in moral standards. Ella is someone relate-able who you get a little bit frustrated with at times (in a good way) and then get to see her grow and learn as she deals with some pretty hard things. I hope Alleece Balts gets the recognition as an author that this series is worthy of!

I read *The Journey* two weeks ago having received an advanced copy. This sequel continues Ella's story which began in *The Crowd*. This time around, Ella has to deal with a lot bigger issues than fitting in at school. How do you cope and what do you do when the perfect plan you have for your life evaporates in an instance? That is what Ella faces in this book and that is the journey she takes. I had my own life changing journey two years ago, so some aspects of this story were very personal to me. I admit that there were times Ella frustrated me with her thoughts and actions, until I remembered she is only 19 years old. I struggled mightily, and I was 49! I found her boyfriend, Jack, to be very caring and thoughtful, and any girl's dream guy. There are others who accompany Ella on her journey. Some are helpful and compassionate, some, not so much, just like real life. Overall, I found the book an engrossing read and would not hesitate to recommend it, especially to the target audience of young adults. Do yourself a favor, however, and begin with *The Crowd*. *The Journey* does stand alone, but there are continuing story lines from the first book that will take Not a good day today. Car needs new alternator \$1,100.00. Possibly a new battery and/or new PCM (some kind of monitor). Blood work shows elevated A1C and liver enzymes, so have to see doctor sooner (like in Sept). Doug's lawyer is calling me obstinate, because I won't let Doug come over to get some items he has requested. I see Mr Ed tomorrow to sign? some papers, so I 'll talk to him about it then. How's your day going?you a while to piece together and will be incomplete without the first installment.

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review. I loved this book! When I finished the first book, *The Crowd*, I couldn't wait to read the next book in the series. Alleece Balts does an amazing job of making the reader feel all of the emotions of the characters. I read a lot of books and most of the time I don't have an emotional response to what I am reading. In this book, I felt all of the

emotions that the characters were experiencing. To me, that is the mark of a talented author. Balts also writes with great detail on topics that the average person may not know. It made me wonder whether it was from personal experience or from doing a lot of research - either way it makes the book very interesting. Overall, it was a book that I couldn't put down until I was finished and then I just had to take some time and digest it. I am looking forward to the final book in the trilogy!

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