



# The Turning Point

*Marie Meyer*

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**The Turning Point** Marie Meyer

**It's funny how a piece of paper can change your life-a diploma, a ticket . . . a plain, white envelope**

For as long as I could remember, I was the girl with the plan. Good college, good medical school, good career. I would save lives instead of standing by helplessly, watching while they slipped away.

That was before my father called for the first time in fifteen years to tell me about the terminal illness stealing his life-an illness that might be stealing mine, too. It was before he gave me the name of a doctor and a plane ticket to Italy. Before I flew across an ocean. Before I realized how brilliantly bright life could be. Before I met Lucas.

He's everything I've always wanted, and the timing couldn't be worse. I can't do this to him-he deserves so much better. My head tells me I can't afford to fall in love with Lucas, but my heart won't listen. Lucas is fearless about the future, while I'm not even sure I have one. There's only one way to know what's ahead and it's waiting for me at home inside a plain, white envelope.

All I have to do, is open it . . .

## The Turning Point Details

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Author : Marie Meyer

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# From Reader Review The Turning Point for online ebook

## Autumn says

After tragedy teaches her a harsh lesson, Sophia spends all of high school mapping out her future instead of having fun. Just when she's about to put her carefully laid out plans into action, she receives some news that changes everything.

The father that abandoned her so long ago is dying of a genetic disorder –a disorder that she stands a fifty-fifty chance of inheriting. His graduation present is an all expense paid trip to Italy and a wish that while she's there; she stops to meet her Grandfather.

Now walking in the shadows between life and death, she's going to throw caution to the wind and live what life she might have left to the fullest.

Lucas Walsh left San Diego for Italy weeks ago to try to run from a broken heart. When he accidentally runs into Sophia, he finds a girl that makes him see everything in a different light. She's beautiful, smart and more alive than anyone he has ever met.

Together - they are learning to fall in love during a sun-soaked Italian summer and it's going to mean more than they could ever know...

The Turning Point is a poignant and inspirational story about life and love. Marie's characters genuinely shine and her story aims right for the heart. It reminds you to celebrate life's highs with laughter and to take its lows with grace. And in the end, you're glad to have just had the experience...

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## Jenn says

This is the first book that I have read by Marie Meyer and after this, it definitely won't be the last!! I loved the whole concept of this storyline and thought it was unique and original. I loved the friendships and romance as well as the dynamic and developed characters. This is a definite must read!

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## Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

3.5 stars

Have you ever had that turning point in your life, the one that suddenly turned your world upside down?

Sophia Belmonte just graduated and in a few weeks, she'd be starting med school. All her plans were getting into place. She's a woman with a vision, and that included seeing herself wearing white scrubs with stethoscope hanging by her neck. She wanted to save lives. She wanted to make a difference.

But when her father dropped the bomb about his medical condition, her world was shattered. A genetic disorder that could only mean one thing. She may have it too in the future. Suddenly, the girl with plans had

her world collapsed and left in ruins.

Her father gave her Italy, to reward herself, to live and breathe, to be carefree, to discover life. But what she discovered wasn't part of her plan. Lucas.

Lucas was running away from his past. He thought being with girls would make him forget about a broken heart. Until he bumped into Sophia and he fell on his ass. Literally.

What happened next was unexpected. Sophia didn't expect promises. Sophia didn't expect any future for her. Sophia didn't want this turning point in her life. Sophia didn't expect Lucas.

The Turning Point is a well-written novel, one that would startle you at first, then make you appreciate what Italy has to offer, have you sweating in the middle (of the book) and expect you to sigh in the end.

***"I knew I'd get your number before the end of the day," he texted.***

***My thumb flew over my keypad. "Yeah, I planned on giving it to you. I just liked seeing you work for it!"***

***"It was the most pleasurable day's work I've had in a long time, even though it started it out with me on my ass..."***

Honestly though, I wasn't particularly in favor of Sophia's character. I thought she was kind of a spoiled brat. She was annoying, especially to her father. I was expecting her to soften up after she discovered the real reason why her father left them, but up until she was in Italy (thanks to her dad's grand gift, by the way), she was still stubborn and unforgiving. But she redeemed herself when she finally realized about selflessness versus selfishness.

Lucas, on the other hand, was an ideal boyfriend. Though I found his reason for escaping St. Louis was kind of flat and shallow, he showed his sensitive side in Italy. He had this "rainbow" descriptions of Sophia which sounded a little cheesy for me at first, and then, boom, I drowned in his sweet colorful world.

***"You could have a chance at something normal, Lucas. Why me?"***

***"Normal's boring. I want the ten million colors in full, gleaming high definition."***

Aside from his disposition though, Lucas was rational and sensible. He's got a lot of interesting questions too..

***"So, why is it okay for a twentysomething woman to live with her mother, but the second a twentysomething man says he lives with Mom, it's frowned upon?"***

- believe me Lucas, I ask myself that, too!

Oh Italy! The descriptions of this amazing country are highly commendable. Makes you want to take that earliest flight to Rome and be dazzled with its beauty, arts and wonders.

Sadly though, I was looking forward to reading more about Huntington's disease but the book didn't give it much attention. I would have preferred it if Sophia's dad's medical condition was further discussed. And it took a whole book before we finally learned about the content of the envelope. Whoa!

The steamy scenes... Well, I only got three words for you - hot, hot, hot! 'Nuff said!

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## **Marie says**

**Find this and other reviews at [Ramblings of a Daydreamer](#).**

I wanted to read *The Turning Point* from the moment I saw the cover and read the word 'Italy' in the synopsis. It was one of my most anticipated New Adult books of 2016, and it didn't disappoint.

Sophia was smart, driven, and knew what she wanted in life. One of the ways I related to her was how focused she was - there have been times in my life where I've worked so hard I forgot to have a life. Her reasons for being driven were familiar too; having experienced serious loss several times myself, I know how hard it can be to open your heart or let people in. I enjoyed Sophia's journey from someone who lived a very rigid, planned life to someone who was willing to take a chance, have some fun, and ultimately open her heart, learn to forgive, learn to love, and learn to truly live.

I love books with running jokes and nicknames, and *The Turning Point* had both. Sophia and Lucas met in a funny, unexpected way, and it became a running joke through the book, which was so cute and fitting. Their interactions ranged from funny to frustrating to touching to sexy. They had instant chemistry, but I appreciated that things didn't happen instantly. There was a push and pull between them, and I liked that they waited to have sex while still having super steamy sexytimes. They really got to know each other, and learned some important things about themselves - and each other - in the process.

*The Turning Point* is a story about the power of love. I really enjoyed Sophia's relationship with her mom and nonna, and the romance between Sophia and Lucas was so fun to read. There were some truly beautiful moments between them that will stick with me. I loved following them through Italy and watching them fall for each other. If you enjoy NA that will make you laugh, swoon, and think about life and love, I highly recommend *The Turning Point*.

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## **Claire Robinson says**

3 - **"Live a little."** Stars!

This is one of those books that you love and hate in equal quantities. I loved the story line, the writing and plot development was extremely well executed. The main issues I had unfortunately were with the lead characters Sophia and Lucas...

Sophia was 22 going on 12, I struggled big time with her for the first part of the book *Pre-Italy* as I just found her attitude to be so childish and spoilt, but once she arrived in Italy and shook off the daddy issues and the 'woe is me' attitude a bit, the reading got a lot easier.

**"Misery loves company."**

On the whole I quite liked Lucas, he was a little more easy-going and took Sophia out of her head, which really helped with the immaturity issues I experienced with her at the beginning of the story. And due to this the middle 60% of *The Turning Point* book isn't too bad at all, you get to experience the sights and sounds of Italy through their adventures all the while the relationship and attraction between them is building.

**"I've been in a dark place for a while, and all I want to do is step into your light."**

But you are lead to understand that Lucas is in Italy, due to something upsetting happening to him back in the US, and when it is revealed, I kind of felt like a deflated balloon, because it all just seemed a little overblown to me... I don't know, I think the easy-going 25 year old guy versus the issues he was apparently in Italy to get away from didn't really correlate to me, in the grand scheme of the story.

***Happily-ever-after might not be in the cards for me, but that didn't mean I couldn't have a happily-right-now.***

Especially if you take into account Sophia's reasons for being in Italy, and the little they were actually referred to for the bulk of the book. In fact it's only really the beginning and the end they were rolled out as an excuse for her to act out like a petulant child, with a side of cowardly-martyrdom thrown in just for good measure, as I said I really did struggle with her and he theatrics at points.

**"I'm sorry jumped to conclusions."**

This isn't a bad book, if you want something light and not too heavy going to read. Which considering the subject matter, is a little contrived, but I suppose it highlights that the author kept the angst and drama to a minimum (for the most part). I just found myself frustrated at times, I really did enjoy the middle part, I just found the beginning and end a little too hormonally charged, and I kind of expect twenty-somethings to have gotten over that sort of behaviour.

ARC generously provided via the *New Adult Book Club* in exchange for the above honest review.

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## **Tegan Wren says**

Loved it! Review to come!

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## **Jess (the cozy reader) says**

*Big thanks to Forever Yours Publishing and NetGalley for an ARC copy for review.*

What a delightful and romantic novel, and just what I was looking for. Marie really creates a wonderful and engaging New Adult story. You have Sophia and Lucas, two people from different walks of life struggling with illness and heartache escape to Italy, where they not only find strength within themselves, but also discover unexpected love along the way.

The narrator, Sophia was a tenacious, brave and outspoken girl. But she is also afraid due to a possible family inherited disease that could rob her chance of a normal life. I felt her fear and anxiety for the

unknown and dreaded wait for the test results. Sophia held it together pretty with the circumstances. But that didn't mean I didn't want to slap her for some of her dumb decisions that she made.

Come on Sophia..

Now for the amazing Lucas, who is all kinds of awesome. He is handsome, kind, funny, full of life and adventure. He is in the midst trying to heal from a broken heart. It's in Italy where they find this almost second chance for themselves again, but also find a love that neither thought they were looking for. The chemistry between them was instant, but I loved how nice and slow their relationship played out. Plus he called her on her bullshit excuses.

***"Here's where you're wrong, sweetheart." He turned the full force of his blue eyes on me. "Love is unexpected. It slams into with a force of a damn bullet train, crashing into you at speeds greater than two hundred miles per hours. There's risk in love, adventure, peace, happiness, and the thrill of figuring out the future with the person you're in love with. Love isn't a momentary bump in the road, something you get over and forget about. It's a high-speed journey of shared unknowns. Unexpected. ~ Lucas***

Lucas knows Sophia is the one for him, and his assertion to her was just incredibly honest and heartfelt. Because love is a powerful thing and for Lucas and Sophia it makes everything worth it. I couldn't be happier with their ending or should I say their beginning.

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## **Carlene Inspired says**

Find more of my thoughts on this book, and other reviews, at [Carlene Inspired](#).

Many thanks to Netgalley and Forever Yours for providing an ARC in exchange for my honest review.

Sophia has had enough grief and surprise in her life, after giving up the girl she used to be she's determined to become a doctor. When her MIA dad asks to speak to her, she goes at the urging of her mother and nonna. She doesn't expect a wheelchair and she certainly doesn't expect to find out that she too could have the same terminal illness. When her father hands her an all expenses paid trip to Italy, where she can meet her family who still resides there, Sophia is ready to say no. After some poking and prodding, she gives in, trying to see the good in a 6-week Italian trip and delaying her med school future. There she meets Lucas, good looking secret-keeping Lucas. Sophia experiences emotions she hadn't ever planned to feel, for once she's considering more than just herself. Everything related to her future lies in a little white envelope, if only she can face all her fears.

Can I have Sophia as every main character in every book? She's a real girl! She's dealing with real life issues! Oh thank heavens for a book that feels like reality. I loved Sophia, from the get go. She's pretty but not perfect, smart but for a sad reason, and stubborn because of "fucking life." There was a moment when I was maybe a quarter of the way through this book and realized I wasn't reading just another cliché novel, no, this was new adult romance done right. Sophia is dealing with a heavy dose of reality when she finds she too could have the life altering disease that will soon consume her father. She has a mother and a nonna who are literally the best family members ever and who push her to do something they know is right for her in the long run. She stumbles and grumbles her way to Italy only to find it is really just what she needed. I don't

care what anyone says, if you think it's impossible to be angry about a vacation you are wrong, I have so done this! Then enters Lucas, the good looking man with mood swings that becomes only the best travel companion ever. As individuals they're dealing with personal life in their own ways, but their instant attraction makes them both open up slowly to one another. Their relationship, the kind of friendship with a slowly growing flirtationship, is so what I picture (and have experienced) from traveling at a young age on your own. I loved their adventures together, how both break out of their mold to try something so new. There was character development, super realistic situations and reactions from both characters, and there was attraction that felt oh so right in the heat of Italy.

Let's talk a bit about books that blow you away, that take you completely by surprise and suck you in. The Turning Point was this book for me. It wasn't on my list of highly anticipated new releases, it wasn't even a book I was super excited about, but it should have been. While I just enjoyed the synopsis, this book is so much more. The writing in this novel is phenomenal, there hasn't been a book where I felt like I knew the main character like this in a very long time. The dialogue is perfect and the running inner monologue made me feel like I was the main character at times. Plus, every detail is described perfectly, it was never over done or not enough. And Italy? I feel like I've been there now. Mix that in with personal tragedy, self reflection, and first love and you have a pretty perfect NA romance novel. It was sweet, it was satisfying, it was at times smutty, and even a bit dramatic. I highly recommend The Turning Point to readers who enjoy romance of any kind. While I would categorize it as a New Adult novel, I think it could easily fall into the adult category as well.

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### **Boundless Book Reviews says**

The Turning Point is one of those books that you fall in love with, it's the type of book that you cant wait to pick up, but hate to put down! And I didn't, I read it in one sitting! It was really that good! I read books all the time. I'm a reviewer and that's what I do. This book grabbed me. I was so wrapped up I couldn't put it down!

Sophia, is a young driven woman heading off to med school. Her father gives her a once in a lifetime trip to Italy and a horrible diagnosis that may end all her dreams. On this trip she fights the fear and hurt from her past and bumps (literally) into her future.

This was such an awesome read! It was filled with pain, hope, love, and family. It was written so well you can't help but fall in love with it, I know I did! I fell in love! I love the characters, the story-line, the setting, I loved everything! The Turning Point hit so close to home for some reason. It just really had me, heart and soul!...Stormi

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

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### **Glady Oestreich says**

One-click the heck out of this book, people! What a fun and poignant story!



Marie Meyer is a gifted writer and sure knows how to weave a story.

Sophia finds out she may have a genetic disorder that could affect her plans for the future. Her dad gives her an all expenses paid trip to Italy where she meets the sexy, handsome Lucas.

Watching Sophia and Lucas's relationship blossom into a beautiful love story with Italy as their stage, was absolutely gorgeous.

If you haven't read *The Turning Point*, you are missing out! Pick it up today, you won't be disappointed!

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## **Booknut says**

### **Come on a journey filled with gelato, love, & laughter!**

*The Turning Point* by Marie Meyer ignites your inner Italy-and-gelato-related obsessive streak. One minute you're happily sitting down with a new book...and the next you're Googling hotels in Italy, flight timetables, and where the closest gelato shop from the Naples airport is!

### **Sophia has her life all planned out...until it gets turned upside down.**

When she's confronted with the news that her estranged father has Huntington's Disease - a genetic dominant disorder that gradually kills nerve cells in the brain - suddenly her plans don't look so shiny and certain. All Sophia needs is one dominant allele and she can kiss her future goodbye. She could end up losing everything that makes her her.

But her father gives her one piece of good news: he's booked her a six-week trip to Italy. A trip where she can learn more about her family heritage and consider her future. A trip where she can live.

Sophia is a funny protagonist whom you can't help but love and sympathise with. Although I wanted to scream at her when she acted like her father had booked her a 'one-way trip to hell' ~~because hieeeeee! hoooo who wouldn't want to go to ITALY~~ thanks to Marie Meyer's excellent writing I keenly felt Sophia's warring emotions as if they were my own.

My favourite part of this book is, of course, that you get to tour Italy without leaving your home! Take a journey with Sophia (and her handsome newfound friend Lucas) that explores both the beautiful sights that Italy has to offer and the delicate nature of new love.

Book cover: Don't we all want to ride on the back of some gorgeous guy's Vespa?!

~~That is a totally rhetorical question because the answer is always YES.~~ The vacation spirit of the cover is certainly infectious and captures the book's theme of taking chances and living life.

### Favourite quote:

*"I'm not ready to die." I choked on the last word.*

*He backtracked a few steps and snatched the envelope off his coat. "I'm dying, Sophia," he said matter-of-factly, standing between my legs again. "You're dying, my dad's dying, your*

*mom, Dean, anyone with a pulse. The only difference between you and the rest of us? You get a life meter. You get to know when yours will start to run out.” He held up the envelope. “If your number is higher than twenty-seven, what are you going to do with the time you have left?”*

*“I don’t know!” I shouted. “What can I do?”*

*He pulled at my chin, forcing me to look at him. “Live. Just like the rest of us.”*

**\*\*For the original review including gifs click here\*\***

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## **Kate Mary says**

*The Turning Point* grabbed me from the get-go, pulling me into the life of Sophia and never letting me go. As someone who doesn't read a lot of contemporary romance, it's rare that I pick one up and finish it in less than 24 hours, but that's what I did with *The Turning Point*. Marie Meyer's third book was enthralling, taking its readers across Italy and bringing the countryside to life, but it was also sweet, sexy, and heartbreaking at times. The chemistry between Sophia and Lucas was so hot I'm surprised my iPad didn't overheat, and their adorable interaction and playful banter had me grinning from ear to ear. The characters were real, flawed and foolish, but in a redeemable way.

If you enjoy a sweet and steamy read, then definitely check out *The Turning Point*!

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## **Amanda Heger says**

(tl;dr: I'm an insomniac. Also this is a fabulous travel book that tackles messy, real-to-life issues, with characters that made me care and plenty of super steamy kissing. A+)

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I loaded *The Turning Point* on my Kindle and opened it, not intending to actually read it right then. Deadlines were looming, other books were waiting on the TBR pile, etc. I just wanted to see how it started, maybe read a paragraph or two.

Suddenly, I was at 25%.

I reluctantly put it away because deadlines were looming, other books were waiting in the TBR pile, etc. But last night I was hit with a bout of insomnia and picked it up again.

Suddenly, it was 2:30am, I was at 75%, and my Kindle battery was dead. I could have taken that as a sign from the universe to go the #\*D! to sleep. Instead, I opened the Kindle app on my phone and read the last 25%. Stopping at that point was not an option. Totally worth the exhaustion and book hangover today.

\*I received an ARC from the publisher. I also bought a copy. I also like cheese.

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## **Meredith Tate says**

This was the third book by Marie Meyer that I've read, and it didn't disappoint. **THE TURNING POINT** features a character with a life-changing but terrifying choice to make, a swoon-worthy romance, and a stunning Italian backdrop.

Sophia Belmonte hasn't been the same since her cousin Penley died from a heart condition back in high school. Since then, she's put all her time and effort into her grades, forfeiting a social life, with the goal of going to medical school to become a doctor. But all that changes at her college graduation.

Having grown up with her tight knit Italian-American family of her mother and grandmother, Sophia resents her estranged father who walked out when she was seven. When he shows up back in her life, he brings some devastating news; he is dying from Huntington's Disease, a genetic condition that paralyzed him from a young age. There is a fifty-fifty chance that Sophia inherited the condition as well. Not only would the disease mean a short life, but it would also jeopardize her future as a doctor - the future into which Sophia has thrown all her passion and plans. Sophia is terrified, unsure if she should get the genetic test done that will reveal her fate once and for all.

Angry and devastated, Sophia begrudgingly accepts a graduation gift from her father - a six week paid trip to Italy to meet her grandfather and learn about her culture. She's barely in Pompeii for the first time when she stumbles upon - literally - a hot Californian traveler named Lucas. Sophia and Lucas pair up and decide to travel the country together. But when their feelings for each other grow deeper than simply being travel buddies, Sophia must decide whether or not to tell her new boyfriend about her potential condition - and whether or not to get the test when she returns home.

**THE TURNING POINT** was a great story of self discovery, letting go, and making the most of life. I loved Sophia's family and learning about her Italian culture. Lucas was adorable, and definitely a swoon-worthy book boyfriend. I loved seeing the scenes of Italy through Sophia's eyes and enjoyed watching her character develop throughout the book. Also, if you loved Meyer's first two books but wished they had more heat, I assure you that **THE TURNING POINT** is quite steamy!

Five stars!

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## **1-Click Addict Support Group says**

Sophia is not a risk taker. After a tragic loss in high school, she shut herself down and focused on school. Studying, working and going to med school are the only things Sophia has made room for in her life. That is, until life threw a wrench in her plans.

After some potentially life shattering news, Sophia embarks on a journey of self-discovery—to Italy. It is there that she comes alive again. When she bumps into Lucas, a fellow American who is using Italy as an escape of his own, there is an immediate connection. However, these two have barricades around their hearts. Lucas's heart is still healing from wounds of the past, and Sophia is guarding hers from getting too

excited about the future. Though their connection is powerful, is it enough for them to take the risks that come with love?

This book was a slow starter for me. There's a lot of exposition and build-up in the beginning that laid some important groundwork to the story, but felt a little long and drawn out. I'm a greedy romance reader and I was impatient to get to the swoon. It wasn't until Sophia arrived in Italy that I felt myself really investing in her story. Then, she met Lucas...and my heart jumped on the bandwagon and decided we were in this for the long haul. The wait for the swoon was worth it because, holy shit—\*\*SWOON\*\*.

Lucas is wonderful. He's so charming and genuinely nice. He's funny and sweet and so romantic, it sometimes took my breath away. He draws Sophia out of her shell and makes her come alive again. Likewise, Sophia does the same thing for Lucas. Lucas is angry and hurting and broken—or at least he was until Sophia showed up and acted like a balm to his ragged and bleeding heart. They're beautiful together—touching and affectionate. I loved reading about their adventures, but for me? Lucas's words stole the show. That man has a charmed tongue (uh, in more ways than one) and it was a complete pleasure to read.

I really enjoyed this story—there were moments where I wanted to shake some sense into Sophia, but I never had to because she saw reason all on her own. I loved how Lucas and Sophia cared for each other, digging deep and letting each other in. I loved how patient Sophia was with Lucas, and how Lucas called Sophia out on her bullshit. In the end, this was a sometimes funny, sometimes swoony, and sometimes a little heartbreaking but overall a deeply romantic, heart happy read. ~ Shelly, 4 stars

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