



## Waking Olivia

*Elizabeth O'Roark*

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"That girl isn't just trouble of the not-a-team-player, not-a-reliable-runner variety. She's trouble of the devious, manipulative, too-f\*\*\*ing-hot-for-her-own good variety. She's the kind of girl who causes trouble merely by existing, and then makes sure to cause more.

And the last thing I need right now is more trouble."

A failing farm.

His father's debt.

And a struggling college track team.

Will Langstrom has too many responsibilities, and the last thing he needs is Olivia Finnegan, a beautiful but troubled new transfer student.

A smart mouth.

A strong right hook.

And a secret that could destroy her.

Olivia is her own worst enemy, with a past she can't seem to escape, and the last person she wants help from is a cocky track coach she can never seem to please.

Refusing to be pushed away, Will is determined to save her.

And determined to resist an attraction that could destroy them both.

## **Waking Olivia Details**

Date : Published March 14th 2016 by Elizabeth O'Roark (first published March 2016)

ISBN : 9780989813556

Author : Elizabeth O'Roark

Format : Paperback 378 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Sports and Games, Sports, Academic, College, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Waking Olivia for online ebook

SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

★★★★ 1/2! **Waking Olivia (stand-alone). A beautiful, against-all-odds forbidden College love story!**

*“It’s something far beyond running or lust or even friendship.”*

**Waking Olivia** (stand-alone) is a poignant story about a lonely girl, **Olivia Finnegan, Finn** arriving at a new College on an athletic scholarship after a scandal at her previous. As a track star with potential and a stunning beauty Olivia is met by hostility, envy and curiosity.

For her new track coach, **Will Langstrom** her arrival evokes all kinds of emotions; mostly annoyance and concern, but also desire and forbidden thoughts.

When Will discovers that Olivia is hiding **shocking secrets and a troubled past** he gets involved against his better judgment. What follows is a whirlwind of **lust, loyalty, lies, betrayal, secrets, denial** and the healing power of **hope and love**.

Seven words to describe **Olivia Finnegan, Finn**: Captivating, smart, lonely, private, complex, tormented and broken.

Seven words to describe **Will Langstrom**: Loyal, nurturing, moody, meek, responsible, conflicted and confused.

**Waking Olivia**, told from dual POVs, is a **beautifully depicted, slow brewing forbidden romance** with unraveling secrets, unlikely friendships, hot-cold romance and an against-all-odds love that will melt your heart. Add to that a 6-star ending!

*“There’s a part of me that wants to beg him not to ask, not to question, not to try to take my secrets away from me.”*

\*\*\*

Hero rating: 4.5 stars

Heroine rating: 5 stars

Sexual tension rating: 5 stars

Sex scenes rating: 5 stars

Sex scenes frequency: 4 stars

Plot rating: 4.5 stars

Dialogue rating: 4.5 stars

Storytelling rating: 4.5 stars

Story ending rating: 6 stars

\*\*\*\*\*

**Overall rating: 4.5 stars**

**Would I recommend this book: Yes.**

**Would I re-read this book: Maybe later.**

**Would I read future books by this author: Yes.**

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*A free copy provided to me by author Elizabeth O'Roark in exchange for an honest review.*

**Snow says**

Ha!

I love sport!

I love romance, duh?!

I love college shit too!

And I fuckin thrive for angst!

And yeah, I own the book \*wink\*

And this turned out to be an **epic love story set in college, a push and pull forbidden relationship** between a **"messed-up" troubled** with a sleep-running nightmares as a proof of her horrid past childhood, young runner **Olivia Finnegan** and her new track coach/ex-climber **Will Landstrom** as they each fight with their own demons of the past and the undeniable attraction as well as the mutual need to connect - his need to protect her from all the harm, and her need to be loved - **they will collide and burst after they conquer the obstacles ahead...**

It was **intense**, it was **passionate** and **palpable** filled with **mild angst and a larger than life episode in an epilogue** that showed how the choices they made would never make them regret the paths they had to cross to get where they are now, these two characters outlived it all proving every single odd and every single person wrong!

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**Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says**

**4.5 Stars**

I really enjoyed this book.

And I really liked the character Olivia, the Cross Country runner.

I should start off by saying that I personally love to run.  
Even when no one is chasing me.

I just love the feeling I get when I am having a good running day.  
The endorphins are pumping.  
The body feels good.  
The wind is blowing through my hair.

I feel all gazelle-like and shit.

Now.

Truth be told...I in no way shape or form resemble a gazelle.  
I am NOT fast.  
I am NOT streamlined.

And the wind is not flowing through my locks in girl power solidarity.

\*  
\*  
\*

When I am attempting to sprint, my head actually jerks to the right like those club idiots from SNL.

In fact, one of my collegiate teammates said I looked like - and I quote - "An epileptic having a fucking seizure" whenever my non-gazelle-like ass attempted to traverse the first baseline.

This is actually exemplifies my situation perfectly:

Nevertheless, regardless of how retarded I might look while running...I like food.  
But I also like to fit in my pants.  
So I run, albeit not well.

Needless to say, it was pretty cool to be the badass, hot as fuck chick on the cross country team while I read this thing, even if only vicariously.

I remember I used to watch all those skinny ass CC bitches all huddled up together in the training room ice bath bin with their perfect abs and their cross country runner legs while I was getting my beefy ~~linebacker~~ softball shoulder ice cupped (a VERY unpleasant thing to have to do every day, by the way).

Man, I wanted to ~~kick them in the face with my metal cleats~~ grab them a warm towel so badly.

\*nostalgic sigh\*

Anyenvy, back to this book.

I really enjoyed the collegiate sports angle here.

I also really enjoyed the twist on the taboo student/teacher shtick.

But, most of all, I was really intrigued by Olivia's issue.

I liked how it made for some interesting scenarios and, most of all, how it drew the two main characters together.

I will definitely check out more from this author.

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### **Jennifer Kyle says**

#### **4.5 STARS**

This story is very engrossing, the characters well developed, and the story overall enjoyable. The heroine, Olivia Finnegan is snarky, tough, and she has a bad reputation following assault charges against her from her prior school. She is sent with her scholarship as a transfer student and to now be a member of the East Colorado University track team.

Olivia's issues come to light as her handsome coach, Will Langstrom and her go from enemies to friends and slowly to so very much more as he tries to help her handle her problems. Olivia is hands down the faster runner on the team, the prettiest girl at the school, but she keeps herself at a distance from people as her past haunts her nightly. The trouble is helping Olivia puts Will's job at risk and could threaten Olivia's scholarship if anything inappropriate takes place between these two.

***"I want to solve this for her. I want her to become the person she's capable of being."***

Will has a ~~bitchy~~ girlfriend, he works on his family's farm, and his coaching job at the college all keep him

very busy. His plate is full but none of these things are things that he actually chose for himself. All his choices stem from trying to please his deceased father. His attraction and connection to Olivia is insane but he holds back at practically every turn.

***“Olivia, I’m not allowed to like it. I’m your coach. And that’s all I’m ever going to be.”***

Will and his family are there for Olivia which is something she has never had and slowly her repressed past comes to light, her performances on the field take off, and she falls completely for her coach.

***“I don’t know what this is to him, but to me, it’s something far beyond running or lust or even friendship. When did he become so important? I know all too well that it’s not safe to care about anything this much.”***

This story is well paced and written though the bit of drama towards the end was a bit on the meh side for me, the story does end well for me. Will’s family and other supporting characters added to the enjoyment and to the Olivia’s journey, all of which made this story a very good read.

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**Danielle ❤️? Pretty Mess Reading ❤️? says**

**\*\*\*\*4 STARS**

So let's start by saying that this book is so different from many romance novels, which is awesome. I love a good non-cliche book. (I still love a good cliche book too).

I mean, I'm speechless, which is rare.

I felt for Olivia, she has been through so much. I just wanted to give her a cuddle.

And the chemistry....Yassssss....

Once Will opens his eyes and actually *sees* Olivia for who she is and stops judging he can't deny how amazing she is.

Both Will and Olivia are broken souls and they find the love and comfort they need within each other. Do you want to know what it's like to find your soulmate? Read this freaking book and you will see. I totally recommend this book.

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**Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says**

??????\*So much has changed regarding my feelings\*??????

### Re-read: 04.01.2018

This is my first M/F book in *ages*. Why I decided to re-read this one? Well, I remember adoring it *a lot*, and I thought that the best way to get back to M/F is to read something I already loved. Did it work? Well, I'm uncertain. The book is absolutely adorable, yet heartbreaking. But it was still **not as... good as I remember it**. I have become *way* more picky and reserved when it comes to books, so... It was still alright, and I enjoyed it, but it wasn't great anymore for me :(

*Funny how everyone looks down on me for what I did, but they don't look down on themselves for being so fucking delighted to hear about it.*

### Quick basic facts:

**Genre:** - (New Adult) Contemporary Romance.

**Series:** - Standalone.

**Love triangle?** - (view spoiler)

**Cheating?** - (view spoiler)

**HEA?** - (view spoiler)

**Favorite character?** - Olivia 'Finn' Finnegan.

**Would I read more by this author/or of series?** - Sure.

**Would I recommend this book/series?** - Yes.

**Will I read this again in the future?** - Probably not now.

**New Rating** - 3.5 stars.

### First read review:

**Review posted: 06.05.2016 (edited: 10.05.2016)**

*Even in a group of abnormal people, I'm the freak.*

I adored it. I really, really adored it! It was awesome, amazing, and at the same time horrible and heartbreaking. **Elizabeth O'Roark** definitely knows how to break us readers hearts. Should really be illegal. And the characters!! The characters was fantastic! I love **Olivia 'Finn' Finnegan** (20, turns 21 in the end), I love her college coach for the track team, **Will Langstrom** (24), I love them together, I love them arguing, I love them laughing, I love them just being. I L O V E T H E M. And My heart really, really bled for Olivia. That poor, strong girl. Amazing woman, really.

*She's the kind of girl who causes trouble merely by existing, and then makes sure to cause more.*

*And the last thing I need right now is more trouble.*

Why not full five stars, you might wonder? Well, the beginning is actually to blame. I had a hard time connecting with Olivia in the start, because she seemed like a cold-ass-bitch and she seemed really cocky, however, once you get to know her...damn, you'll love her! You can totally understand why she acts/acted that way, and if your heart doesn't break for her? Well, then you, dear, do not have a heart.

*I want to solve this for her. I want her to become the person she's capable of being.*

Oh, and there was hate-love relationship + teacher/coach-student relationship and those put together = fantastic. I'm pretty sure I'll re-read this in the future. Hell, I even want more of Olivia and Will.

*"Olivia, I'm not allowed to like it. I'm your coach. And that's all I'm ever going to be."*

**Rate: 4/4.5 \*heartbreaking, yet amazing\* stars.**

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**Nazanin says**

**3.5 Stars**

"Waking Olivia" is a slow-paced romance and by slow, I meant snail slow. The MCs have their first proper kiss after 65% of the story! Yep that slow but it's well-written and has a good portion of angst. The story begins with MCs disliking each other, I liked both MCs but Olivia a bit more. I liked how Will helped Olivia, how he soothed her and how made Olivia feel safe. But I didn't like this side of him that "I can't have you so no one else can have you too"! And this battling that Will had with himself over Olivia was really exhausting! Told in dual POV, 1st person. It's a standalone novel. Overall, it was a good read and I enjoyed it, hope you like it as well!

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**Talia (Red Hot Ink) says**

2.75 stars

I wish I could give this book more, because it's clear that the author put a lot of effort in it. I'm saying this because the dynamics are complex, we have well-developed side characters and the story isn't cliché. But... it just didn't do it for me.

But first I'll list some **things I liked**:

**1-** Olivia's background. It starts as a mystery and it stays one for a long while. I liked how we got to unveil it piece by piece.

**2-** The running world. It's refreshing after all these books about football and baseball. Plus, it's the h, not the H, the real star in the sport.

**3-** Brendan: he's one funny character and I smiled every time I came across his name.

**4-** The climbing: same as for the running, it was something new and exciting. We don't get much of it, though.

**5-** The fact that Will is Olivia's coach. I'm not into forbidden romances usually. They have to be magistrally crafted and have something unique, because otherwise I find their drama too tiring, but I was really thrilled

about the idea of a young coach and a star athlete. Too bad it didn't go beyond the initial thrill.

### **Things I didn't like:**

**1-** Olivia. Now, it's not that I hated her 100%. Sometimes, her bitchiness was fun in its caustic way, but she's just so not relatable. Olivia is this highly temperamental girl with a bone to pick against the world. I disliked how childish she could be toward Will. She's competitive and I appreciated that, but it was exhausting knowing that every time someone taunted her about anything, even the smallest things, she would flip out.

**2-** Will (when he's an asshole, which is most of the time). I get it, he's trying to save his farm, support his family, yada, yada. But he pushes Olivia away too many times and most of them, he doesn't do it gracefully, but hurting her. Not intentionally, mind you, but it made for lots of drama.

**3-** The balance. They get together at like 4/5 of the books. Prior to that, they're either arguing, pretending the other does not exist, hurting each other and only occasionally being sweet to the other. I could definitely feel the attraction there, but I would have never paired them together because the only thing I felt going for them was lust. But then they get together and I thought: it's late, but it could still save everything. And... no. Other issues piled up and I especially hated how Olivia's demons once again caused her to stop communicating with Will. And do we really want to discuss how cheated on I felt when after hundreds of pages of having my feelings thrown one way and the other, their happy times are fast-forwarded and only mentioned in passing? And don't even get me started on the epilogue: it was short, really short, and not only that, it also didn't make me feel good about their relationship at all. (view spoiler)

**4-** Jessica. Hello stereotyped bitch of an ex-girlfriend. But wait, what? Oh, you're saying she's not an ex? Well, you might as well be right. Because that's true. For more than half of the book, Will is dating this other girl. So if OW (and a non-graphic, but still there, sex scene) is one of your no-nos, then this book is not for you.

All in all, it reminded me a bit of "With every heartbeat", by Linda Kage, with the difference that Kage is a genius with the power to create amazing, unforgettable characters. What they had in common is that the H is with another woman most of the book and that for that reason, but not only that, he pushes the h away.

Now, I know this review is mostly bitter, but I'm sure that people who appreciate angsty dynamics, forbidden loves and assholes more than I do will love it. Personally, it got me too enraged with the characters and not satisfied enough with how things turned out for it to be enjoyable.

Where to find me:

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**NiCoLeTa E. says**

\*\*\*5 "Unreplaceable" stars\*\*\*

*Well, this story was AMAZING!!!*

If you like hate-love stories, or student-teacher stories, or books with athletes on college this is one book that don't want to miss!!!

It had everything inside...

*A dark past, a tortured soul, a sassy fiesty heroine, an amazing, stubborn hero and a really touching plot...*

I will always keep this story close to my heart!!!!

It made me feel... almost everything!!!

Olivia had a rough time with her academic future...

She was a star on track but lately she had messed everything up and she was fighting to keep her scholarship...

After a nasty incident, she had transferred in another college and she just wanted to pass those two rest of her years in piece...

She had so many problems of her own to deal, she didn't need others in the equation...

She just have to be good on the track and to keep her scholarship...

But the nightmares and their results doesn't leave her in peace.....

And not only that, but her new, hot coach is hating her guts...

*"There's so much that could go wrong, and there was plenty that went wrong even when I did know where I was. And it's all probably for nothing: I came here solely to be coached by McEwan, thinking he might turn it around for me, and instead I'm being coached by some cocky asshole who probably didn't even run high school track.*

*I made a mistake taking a bat to Mark Bell, and I made a mistake coming here. Maybe staying will be the next big regret. In fact, I'm almost sure it will be."*

Will was forced to leave his dreams behind when his father passed away...

Now he is trying to save their farm, he is working a second job as a coach on college's women track team and he is trying to pay the tuition for his brother's academic years...

His life is already on a constant run and pressure and the appearance of the new girl on the team doesn't help!!! Anyone can see from far away that she is trouble...

And her record is speaking loud and clear...

So, even though that she is a beauty, she just have to behave or she will have to leave the team...

*"It was not a job I wanted, and now that I've seen her it's really not a job I want. That girl isn't just trouble of the not-a-team-player, not-a-reliable-runner variety. She's trouble of the devious, manipulative, too-fucking-hot-for-her-own good variety. Sashaying into Peter's office like a runway model, all long-legged and tan with big green eyes and a knowing smile. She's the kind of girl who causes trouble merely by existing, and then makes sure to cause more.*

*And the last thing I need right now is more trouble."*

As you can understand, Will and Olivia had a mutual hatred toward each other...

All the time, they were pushing each other's buttons, and not in a pleasant way...

Until the day that Will is starting to realize that Olivia had serious problems that are keeping her behind of becoming who she really should be...

So, even though that she is a trouble, Will is deciding to help her even though that this might destroy him....

And that decision is bringing them closer and closer...

*"It's the moment I realize how badly I wanted to find nothing. That I want her out of my line of sight. I want to continue believing she is willfully destroying her running career rather than having it destroyed by something she can't control.*

*I don't want to feel sorry for her.*

*I don't want to feel anything for her.*

*Maybe the problem is that I already do. I already care about her outcome, and it feels dangerous for no reason I can pinpoint."* {Will}

*"I'd prefer that he'd seen me drunk. The running episodes are a mystery to me. I'm scared of who I am in those nightmares, and I'm scared of who I am when I'm running away from them."* {Olivia}

What will happen with those two???

Will they aloud to themselves to carry away from the boiling feelings inside of them???

Or will they do the right thing and stay away from each other???

But could this be easy for two hearts that beating in the same rhythm???

*"The need for her was sharp, urgent, painful, unlike anything I'd ever felt. At that moment, there was nothing in the entire damn world I wanted more than her. And it felt like there was nothing else I would ever want. It was insane and I'm taking it for the warning it was.*

*I need to stay away from her."* {Will}

*"In that one area of my life, I want a guy who isn't scared to take charge. Who's a little bossy and knows exactly what he wants. Someone like ... no, I'm not even going to think it!"*

Well, i adore both Olivia and Will....

Olivia was sassy and very feisty, but so lonely... She didn't tolerate bullshits and she was taking life as it was... even though that it sucked!!!

She had a rough past that forced her to do ugly things, things that she didn't even remember and that was so sad...

My heart was aching for her, but god, she was a fighter!!!

She was proud and self-sufficient and she could do anything...

Will made her a big impression from the first moment, but he was such an asshole toward her and that was bothering her...

And then, he became the only person that she could trust and everything changed between them...

*"“I would do anything to fix this for you,” he says quietly, “and it kills me that I can’t. Tell me what to do.”*

*“You already make everything better,” I tell him. “And you’re the only one who ever has.”*

*He stills at the words. His breath, his pulse seem to stop entirely. I look up at him and his eyes meet mine. I don’t know what this is to him, but to me, it’s something far beyond running or lust or even friendship.*

***When did he become so important? I know all too well that it's not safe to care about anything this much."***

Will had his own hard moments... Very different from Olivia's but god, that man had been carrying a big burden upon his shoulders... All the time he was struggling with himself and the things that he wanted and the things that he had to do...

And usually the mind was the winner, even his heart was leading him in other places...

And something like that was happening with Olivia also...

He fell in love with Olivia, but the risk was too big... He just had to stay away from her, but it was impossible...

*So what will be the cost that he had to pay???*

*Will he keep Olivia and lose everything that he was fighting for???*

*Or will he lose the love of his life to keep everything on bay???*

***"I must have been out of my mind.***

***She does that to me. She does that to everyone as far as I can tell, but it's only me I'm worried about. It's not just that I'd lose my job. It's that it's wrong. She trusts me. She's counting on me to help her with this, make her the runner she is capable of being, and there I was not just imagining kissing her but getting ready to actually do it."***

Well, Olivia and Will together were fitting so good!!!

They were having an intense relationship on all the levels....

As student and teacher, as friends, as a couple and i loved every single moment that i spent on their company... even if they were fighting, or if they annoyed each other or if they were loving each other... I liked the way that their relationship begun to unfold...

***"But if I could cry, I'd cry right now. I'd cry and I'd beg him to see me the way I want him to see me. To admit that all these things, every minute we spend together, are the highlight of his day, his month, his year, his everything, the way they are for me. Please admit it, Will. Please."*** {Olivia}

***"No one knows her fears like I do. No one knows how fragile she really is, how sweet. They don't know that she cries in her sleep and that she curls her whole body up against me as if she'd like to crawl inside. But I know these things. And for all the fighting we've done, there aren't two people in this room as made for each other as the two of us. My world is constructed entirely of artificial rules about what I owe people—my father, my family, the school. But somehow it excludes the only thing that matters to me. Her."*** {Will}

Finally, I would like to say that i adored Will's mother.... She was such a lovely and caring person!!!

I also liked very much Will's brother.... I liked the way that he was thinking!!! Bahahaha

And I liked Erin... God, this girl didn't take no for answer!!!! And that was adorable!!!

***"After all this time, she's still under the impression that I saved her."***

***"You did save her Will," my mother replies. "And she saved you."***

I honestly don't know what else to say to you beyond that this story was so wonderful that you should definitely read it in some point...

I can't tell more... I already said too much!!!

**\*\*\*ARC generously provided via NetGalley for the exchange of an honest review\*\*\***

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◆ Anna's ?a?????g\$ ◆ says

**4.5 stars**

I picked up this book on a whim. I was recovering from a trauma caused by the cliffy ending of another amazing book...

...and then I stumbled upon this book on GR. I skimmed the blurb and some of the shelves and found the following keywords:

**\*forbidden love** (teacher-student romance)

**\*a sports theme**

**\*enemies to lovers romance**

**\*slow burn romance**

**\*a college setting**

**\*a strong heroine**

...and I said “what the hell”. And boy am I glad I trusted my instincts!

Because the writing is great and the chemistry is off the charts. And though I initially wanted to give it 4 stars (because I did have some minor issues with it), I’m 5-starring it because I fell in love with both of the characters and I absolutely loved the atmosphere of the book.

I highly recommend it to all college sports romance lovers.

### **Overall rating: 4.5 stars**

*Writing style:* 4 stars

*Story:* 4 stars

*Flow of the story:* 4 stars

*Character development:* 5 stars

*Hero:* 4 stars

*Heroine:* 4 stars

*Secondary characters:* 5 stars

*Tone of the book:* 5 stars

*Emotion evoking:* 4 stars

*Originality:* 4 stars

*Enjoyment:* 5 stars

*Effect on me:* 4 stars

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### **Katerina says**

***“I don't want to feel sorry for her. I don't want to feel anything for her. Maybe the problem is that I already do.”***

### **This is a hard review to write.**

Waking Olivia was a **good** book, there is no doubt about it. If I'd read it a year ago, my rating would probably be higher. Hell, if Olivia didn't do certain things towards the end, it would probably be higher. But the thing is, my tolerance for stupid decisions is very low, and both Olivia and Will drove me out of my freaking skull.

***"No one has ever made an effort for me. Until now."***

A girl hunted by her past, a boy deprived of choices and forced to live a life he never wanted, and a set of rules that keeps them apart. Will is Olivia's coach, and he desperately needs this job to jeopardize it for this beautiful and broken girl he can't get out of his head. Every force in the universe conspires to keep them apart. Staying away from Olivia, that would be the right course of action. Helping her is a necessity. But waking Olivia from her nightmares, showing kindness and caring for her and loving her, it would be lethal.

Waking Olivia is a **heartbreaking story**. It's a story about two people who hated each other at first, but they slowly began to realize how deeply connected they were. And that's what I liked the most about this book, besides the **lust** and the **passion**, Elizabeth O'Roark established a **strong connection, profound emotions** and managed to warm my heart. There was angst and bitterness, resentment and disappointment, pain and sorrow, but there was also hope. And sexual tension. And love, in many forms.

***"We want you there, all of us. You filled a hole we didn't even know we had and now you're gone and it's all any of us can see."***

The writing was soulful, the glimpses at Olivia's past terrifying, her fear a being of its own. I can understand why Olivia could be such a **bitch**, considering everything she'd been through, and I can't fault her for that. But I do blame her, for many things. The I'm-leaving-you-to-protect-you pattern is so hypocritical that I want to scream, in any book. No, it is not noble, it's stupid and the results are always disastrous. Humankind is gifted with an extraordinary ability named **speak**. You can talk about the problem, find a solution **with** the person you're trying to save instead of making a decision for him/her and hurting him/her.

Throughout the story, there was a series of **dumb decisions** and **misunderstandings** that annoyed me to no end. Olivia could be very irresponsible, acting like a petulant child, and then she would drown in self-loathing. Will, well, all his inner monologues were like this

*"I want her"*

*"It's wrong"*

*"But I want her"*

*"But it's wrong"*

and so on. It may not be obvious but I did love him. When he wasn't a sexy asshole, he was sweet, and caring, and still sexy. He felt trapped and tried belatedly to appease his father, but this obsession almost cost him everything. If only he'd get rid of his girlfriend sooner, *if only if only if only...*

Please mind that all of the above are my personal opinion and have to do with my current tolerance capacity, a **"not you it's me"** case. It is probable that you will love this book, like most of my Goodreads friends. Here are Nicoleta's and Elise's wonderful reviews!

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**\*ARC generously provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\***

☆? Angie ?☆ says

I'll be honest... this book exhausted me.

**So much running!**

She's running...

He's running...

(And can we just pause here to fully take in the crop-top Ian Ziering is sporting in this flashback to my youth.)

The whole team is running...

Hell, even I started running...

(For clarification... I'd be Lisa Kudrow's character in this scenario.)

Who am I kidding... I was NOT running...

Because...

But, as exhausted as I was with all the running I was reading about (and not actually doing). I really liked this book. It's got so many of my favorite story elements like enemies-to-lovers, a taboo romance, tough as nails heroine with a hidden tortured past, asshole hero with a protective and possessive streak, plus it's a slow burn. Um... yes, yes, yes, please! The characters were well fleshed out and I connected with them easily. I really enjoyed the writing. I found it to be relatable and had an easy flow to it. What I didn't care for was the girlfriend drama that started to dominate certain aspects of this book. I think the taboo student/coach relationship was probably enough of an issue that the girlfriend drama was an unnecessary addition to the pot. Nevertheless, I will definitely be checking out more from this author.

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**Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says**

**4 Sleep running Stars**

## **Mild Spoilers**

*"Then why are you here?" "I'm here because it appears possible that I was wrong." "That's big of you," she snarls. "The way you're conceding it's possible that I'm not lying." She turns towards the door. "Thanks for stopping by. Come back if you'd like to tell me you think it's also possible that I don't deal drugs or poison children, and in the meantime, go fuck yourself."-Will and Olivia*

Hot coach/ student action Hell Yeah I'm all over that shit! Waking Olivia is my first taste of Elizabeth O'Roark's writing and I really loved it. This book gave me every dirty little thing I love in taboo, forbidden, angsty, student/ coach read and more. Olivia is awesome. She is so snarky and hard. Olivia's had a horrible life. Her past is haunting her causing her to sleep run, and ruining her chance to make it big as a college track star. Will is so sexy. He has that whole broody, angry, alpha, protective thing going for him. When he learns that Liv is sleep running he wants to be the one who saves her. Him helping her work through her sleep problems has them spending a lot of time together and has their already strong attraction growing. Lines get crossed, Olivia is the forbidden fruit that's just too tempting. With him trying his best to be ethical, and add in a bitchy girlfriend and you have the perfect angst storm.

*"Your mom is a nice woman," I tell Will in the car. "She's the best," he agrees. "How'd you turn out to be such an asshole?" I grin. He rolls his eyes, but I can tell he wants to smile. "No one thinks that but you." "You sure about that?" He laughs. "Not entirely."-Olivia and Will*

*"I'm fine." "Well, I'm not. We have lots of time to do this the right way." "Oh my God," I groan. "You're not going to do, like, candles and rose petals and shit, right? While you recite poetry, maybe play some slow jams on your guitar?" "I'm pretty sure there's some middle ground between being sensitive ponytail guy and the guy who fucks a girl as she's exiting the hospital."-Olivia and Will*

I felt the author did a great job of showing us who Will and Olivia really were. There was really good relationship and character development. I felt the chemistry between Olivia and Will almost from the start. There are two reasons I gave this book 4 stars instead of 5. 1) While I really liked Will and I understand his dilemma. I didn't like the fact that he had a girlfriend for a little over half the book. I wanted him to break up with Jessica sooner. 2) There was just too much push/pull. His need to do what he felt was right went on for far too long making him push Olivia away just a tad too much for my likings. I was really glad that when Will and Olivia did get together that Olivia's problems didn't just disappear. She still had to get help and I thought that was an important message. Love heals but it's ok to still need professional help. Will's mom Dorothy and brother Brendan were awesome side characters. They added something special to the story. I loved the ending it was just so sweet. Waking Olivia was a great read and I would recommend it to anyone who likes angsty, taboo, naughty, forbidden love!

*"We've now had sex in the shower and on a table," he says. "I think it's time we got really crazy and tried this thing called a bed." "I've heard of those," I reply, following him to the room. "They sound dangerous." He turns toward me with a grin that could only be described as predatory. "You have no idea."-Will and Olivia*

### **Natalie The Biblioholic says**

What can I say? There was so much to love about this book. Olivia was a young woman tormented by a past she can't remember and Will was the man determined to help her. This story evoked so many emotions and was written so beautifully that I couldn't put it down once I started. I was hooked from the first chapter. Elizabeth O'Roark is a new author to me but she's definitely gained one more fan.

I've never read a book on this subject before and like Will, I had to Google it to find out whether or not Olivia's condition and symptoms were real. Although it doesn't appear to be common, (view spoiler). This author did a brilliant job of raising awareness for what those who suffer this affliction must endure.

I loved loved loved the chemistry between Olivia and Will. It was insanely sexy and even though there was no sex until about the 78% mark, the steam factor between these two was enough to tide me over until I got there.

Though their relationship was a tad taboo (she's a runner and he's her coach), the author allowed their conflicted feelings to shine through which in turn allowed their relationship to slowly evolve. I enjoyed every minute of it. They went from bitter resentment to grudging respect to compassion and sympathy to friendship and then finally taking the biggest step and embracing their HEA. Through it all I couldn't help but identify the depth of love they had for each other. Especially Will. He showed an amazing level of honour, integrity and maturity throughout the story that I couldn't help but admire.

Enjoy! xo

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### **Ira says**

Between 4.5 to 5 stars.

But full 5 stars for Olivia, I totally love the girl!

I down the stars a little bit because I wanted to shake Will for few times!

Not exactly the same, but remember Kissing Tolstoy by Penny Reid? Yup what I found lacking in that book, I found it here with much better story and characters.

Olivia is an athlete, a runner.

She supposed to be a very good runner, but there's no consistency in her run. One time her record can be in a par with Olympic athletes, the other time she just flop and awful!

She also have the super model look which often causing riots between boys and a temper which match her looks! ?

The first time I read her POV, I thought this girl need an Anger Management Course but then slowly, bit by bit we got more of her real situation and you know, she actually need a massive therapy! The girl have an illness which she covered really well and no one found about it.

When Will, the hero and her college coach notice Olivia's inconsistency run, he forced her to tell him the truth and when she told him, like Will, I thought that's just a making up excuses but then like Will, I google

it and Olivia's illness is very real and scary..

Did you read the title? That's literally it!

Then we got more of what is happening in her life and all very sad and tragic.

Well, I think I need to stop here:)

Just read the book, don't read too many reviews because part of the excitement was how the story unfolds.

This is a slow romance, and kind of forbidden one.

Will had a girlfriend, and he was five years older than Olivia.

He was a nice guy with lots of responsibilities on his shoulders, poor guy!

There is no cheating but if you just wanted to read a nice and sweet story, this is can be a hard read for you but everything in this book is necessary and I really recommended this book to everyone who loves strong heroine without being dumb and had soaked knickers every time she saw the hero!! LOL ???

Yup! just read the book! ?

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